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New chair of editorial society focuses on strategic goals

Sarah Price is taking the helm as chair of the Society for Editors and Proofreaders as the society prepares for its 21st birthday next year. She asked for a clear strategic review at the council meeting in October.

‘Like every other business at the moment, the publishing industry needs greater efficiency. The SfEP can make a real contribution in developing best practice,’ says Sarah.

‘We consolidated operations during our late adolescence. Now we have matured, the next challenge is deciding the best strategy so we can work more closely with publishers and businesses.’

This year, the SfEP has gathered corporate associate views and information about freelance training needs. ‘We want a closer understanding of our corporate associates,’ Sarah explains, ‘and there is an emerging need for a wider range of electronic skills.’

Other new appointments to the council will strengthen the strategic planning process.

Sarah explains, ‘I now have a long-awaited PR director and a strategic financial director on board, and the new regional development director will be focusing on training for distributed freelancers. Their thoughts are being welcomed by our more established council directors.’

She continues, ‘Our new professional development director will be building our portfolio of qualifications after our recent addition of the Licentiate in Editorial Skills with the City and Guilds. Proof of editorial competency is essential for client confidence.’

Sarah Price comes to the SfEP chair after fulfilling the role of finance director for the last year and that of training director for the previous three.

She concludes, ‘Everyone wants a top-quality read. Our members always have this in mind. The challenge now is to take a strategic path to guide the development of more efficient editorial practices.’

ENDS

293 words

Notes for editors

- (1) The Society for Editors and Proofreaders celebrates its 21st birthday in November 2009.
- (2) SfEP membership comprises freelance and in-house editors and proofreaders and corporate publishers.
- (3) More information about the Licentiate in Editorial Skills is available at www.sfep.org.uk/pub/quals/cglic_info.asp.
- (4) SfEP media releases are available at www.sfep.org.uk/pub/news/news.asp?id=0.

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