

Actively Involving Editorial Board Members in All Aspects of the Review Process

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The editorial of Vol. 6 No.2 insisted on the international advisory board members and the editorial board members of EJSSLS to actively discharge their responsibilities. The editorial emphasized the importance of reviewing the international advisory board. With regards to the latter, it reads: “all editorial board members of the journal (deputy editors and the editor-in-chief) must discharge their responsibilities...” (p.2). This editorial of Vol. 9 No.2 singles out the latter and suggests they enhance the contribution of what is expected from them in the review process. But this does not mean they are totally passive; a few of them are involved in some aspect of the review process to some extent. If all of them are fully involved in all aspects of the review process, the speed of the review process, the number of issues published per volume, the number of manuscripts published in an issue, and the national and international image of the journal improve. One of the reasons for the limited participation of the majority of them could be a lack of enough information about their responsibilities listed in the policy of the journal. The other reason is the absence of money incentives. Hence, with regards to the former reason, this editorial reminds them to evaluate themselves to the extent to which they are aware and have discharged some of the following responsibilities listed in the policy (Guidelines) of the journal and act accordingly.

1. The Editor [editorial board member] has to assist both the Senior Editor [associate editor-in-chief] and the Editor-in-Chief in guaranteeing the quality of content found in the journal and communicating its vision for the journal to authors, Editorial Board members, readers, and publisher. Associate Editors [editorial board members] should be mindful of the policies of the Journal and publisher, Author Guidelines, Editor Guidelines, and Reviewer Guidelines.
2. The Editor should guide the authors, editors, and reviewers with the guidelines.
3. She/he encourages submission of high-quality articles in the Journal and assists Senior Editor [and editor-in-chief] in monitoring the content quality.
4. She/he participates in conducting annual meetings and other meetings.

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5. She/he monitors the manuscripts for writing style, language, and presentation according to the Journal's policy and instructions.
6. She/he should ensure an effective peer review process and timely publication.
7. She/he should ensure the integrity of the Journal content and the quality of the published articles.
8. She/he should ensure that the manuscript is neither plagiarized nor published elsewhere.
9. She/he suggests the publisher with new policies for the development of the Journal.
10. She/he should suggest eminent reviewers during the peer review process.
11. She/he should carry out any task assigned to him by the editors- in -Chief.

Hence, to discharge effectively and actively these responsibilities, as of volume 10 issue 1, the editorial board members will be assigned to be involved actively in the different aspects of the review process—pre and post– preliminary review process where the latter entails suggesting potential reviewers, sending and collecting manuscripts to and from reviewers, and other responsibilities listed above.

With regards to the reason related to incentives, according to the policy (Guidelines) of the journal, the editorial board members get the following benefits (see 1, 2, and 4):

1. The Journal shall be published bearing the names of the Advisory Board members, Editorial Board members, and support staff.
2. A copy of every issue of the Journal will be distributed to the Advisory Board members, Editorial Board members, support staff, and the assessors of the articles which appeared in the issue free of charge.
3. Two copies of the issue of the Journal will be given free of charge to the authors in which their articles appeared.
4. Owns recognition letter.

Though these benefits are appreciable, they are not sufficient, as the informal discussions made with the editorial board members uncover. They demand incentives in terms of money or workload. Therefore, to actively involve the board members in all aspects of the review process so that the quality of the journal improves, this editorial insists on the College/University practically addressing the same.

The editor

Reference

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