The selection process for the next editor-in-chief of JOM has been finalized and is described below. For general information purpose, the duties of the editor-in-chief are also detailed. Due to the need for expediency, the process has been proceeding while the issue in which this editorial appears has been in press and thus may be near, or at, completion by the time this editorial appears.

The next Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Operations Management will span the five-year period from 2002-2007. The task is an extremely important and difficult one. In the role of editor-in-chief, the candidate must be able to evaluate all types of empirical research methodologies, be familiar with various topic areas in operations, and be able to discern levels and types of contributions including comments, notes, invited papers, regular papers, and special issues. The candidate must be willing to devote a substantial amount of time and effort toward the success of the journal, including publicizing the journal and dealing with disappointed authors. The task requires, at minimum, about the same amount of time as teaching one course, or perhaps ten hours a week. However, it goes on all year long; during holidays, over the summer, day in and day out. The busiest periods are after breaks such as August, September, and October after the summer, and January and February after the December holidays. Thus, the editor’s teaching load should certainly not exceed two courses over the academic year, or three courses per calendar year, and preferably even less.

Moreover, it will require not only personal commitment and effort but also the commitment and support of the institution, as indicated by the required approval of a senior official of your institution. One of the major problems JOM has experienced in the past has been the loss of institutional support of the editor-in-chief because of a change of Deans. Although Elsevier pays the sponsoring institution a substantial sum every year to help defray editorial expenses, the institution has to provide additional support to the editor-in-chief beyond these sums. This would include a reduced teaching load, professional administrative help amounting again to about ten hour a week, and additional help from a secretary or student assistant of about 5–10 hours a week.

The deadline for Editor-in-Chief nominations has been set as January 31, 2001. As nominations arrive, Elsevier will evaluate them and select final candidates who will be sent a request for proposal. The deadline for proposals in February 28, 2001. When all proposals have been received, Elsevier will send them for evaluation to a set of associate editors who have been jointly selected by the current editor-in-chief and Elsevier. These evaluations will be due on or before March 15. Based on these evaluations, Elsevier, with the advice of the current editor-in-chief, will select a final editor-in-chief. The transition will take approximately a year, resulting in both editors’ names on the masthead until the current editor’s backlogged papers have been cleared out of the pipeline.

The primary duties and responsibilities of the position are described below.

1. Review incoming manuscripts and judge their appropriateness for JOM. For those deemed potentially publishable, send out copies (either hard copy or electronic) to reviewers and monitor
returns to keep response times as short as possible. A decision at this stage is then either and acceptance (rarely), request for revision (RFR), or rejection. When a revision comes in, send it to an appropriate associate editor and again closely monitor the response time. The same sets of decisions apply to the revised manuscript. Evaluations are to be made as well of the work of the reviewers and associate editors in terms of the quality of their reviews and their timeliness. Further revisions may go back to an associate editor or be handled by the editor-in-chief. Maintain an electronic database of papers and their status, as well as the reviewer and associate editor evaluations.

2. Maintain an electronic database of reviewers, associate editors, and an editorial advisory board. Software programs such as Edicon, The Editor’s Assistant, and PaperPath are appropriate database programs for this task as well as for the handling of papers. In addition, a web site must be maintained to provide real-time review status for authors and others.

3. Interface with Elsevier Science as necessary for editorial duties and for processing accepted manuscripts for publication. Prepare an annual editorial report for presentation to Elsevier as well as publication in JOM.

4. Solicit papers for and publicize the journal. This will entail reviewing the papers presented at meetings for possible candidates to encourage as submissions, talking to colleagues about individual papers or special issues of JOM on some worthwhile topic, speaking at doctoral and new faculty symposia, and making general presentations about JOM at other professional meetings.

5. Maintain the Awards Program with APICS E&R Foundation and Elsevier. This entails identifying a Best Paper, two Finalist Paper, three Reviewer Excellence awards, and the Editor-of-the-Year award (among the associate editors).

Jack Meredith
(Editor-in-Chief)