From Gabe’s application for an editorial position at Cell and Cell Reports (in response to a question about why he was interested in editorial work and what he thought he would like most and least about it)

“The opportunity to engage with a wide range of exciting research in a collaborative environment that would employ all of my skills attracts me to work as an editor. I am rooted in Boston and feel that work at Cell Press would allow me to develop my career in Boston and may be a better option than seeking a tenure-track research position. Although I love the discovery aspect of research, I find focusing on the same topics week after week difficult . . . I would also enjoy traveling to meetings and interfacing more broadly with the research community. I also suspect there is a better correlation between effort and results in editorial work compared to research . . . I have a background in the liberal arts, and I think editorial work would let me use my interest in language more than research. Finally, I dream of being able to drink coffee at my desk!

I suspect that the most unpleasant aspect of work as an editor would be the responsibility of making decisions on work the authors may have invested years in and where the successful publication of the work may have great impact on the careers of the authors. This knowledge would encourage me to take this responsibility seriously and be sure that each decision be as well justified as possible. I wonder whether researchers, when encountering editors at meetings, might try to mine them for information on competitors’ work. That would certainly be disagreeable, but I would take seriously the duty to protect confidential information.”