

Institute doings

AIP By-Laws Amended

SEVERAL significant changes in the Constitution and Rules governing the American Institute of Physics were adopted in January upon being formally approved by the Member Societies of the Institute. A review of the By-Laws was commenced in late 1956 by a special committee headed by H. D. Smyth and including G. J. Dienes, I. C. Gardner, P. M. Morse, and H. K. Schilling, who were appointed by the Member Societies at the invitation of the Institute's Executive Committee. Last year, the Executive Committee appointed an AIP committee consisting of J. W. Beams (chairman), A. V. Astin, R. A. Sawyer, and H. K. Schilling to draft a set of amendments to the Constitution and Rules in keeping with the formal recommendations of the Smyth Committee. A final draft submitted by the Beams Committee was subsequently approved last fall by the Executive Committee and the Governing Board of the Institute and was then transmitted to the Member Societies with the recommendation that it be adopted. All five Societies approved the revisions. Summarized briefly, the new By-Law changes provide for:

(1) The establishment of a new category of Associate Member Societies of the AIP to offer a place in the Institute organization for national societies which are devoted to the advancement of science and are primarily concerned with scientific areas closely related to physics or to the applications of physics;

(2) The complete elimination of all *individual* membership categories in the Institute itself;

(3) The introduction of a new procedure for selecting Governing Board directors-at-large whereby the directors-at-large, instead of being elected by individual members of the Institute, will henceforth be elected by the members of the Governing Board; and

(4) The election, rather than the nomination, of AIP Governing Board directors by the Member Societies and Associate Member Societies.

Under the changed By-Laws, societies interested in fields of science bordering on physics and wishing to establish a close working relationship with the Institute may achieve Associate Member status under the same rules governing the addition of new Member Societies to the Institute: namely, they must be nominated by the AIP Governing Board and be elected by the affirmative vote of at least three-fourths of the Member Societies. An Associate Member Society will

have one member on the Governing Board but no representation on the Executive Committee. In addition, a statement was added to the Constitution in recognition of the service contracts now existing between the Institute and the Member Societies and providing for similar contracts with other member organizations.

As indicated above, individual members of AIP member organizations will no longer be members of the Institute. The classification of individual AIP associate members has also been discontinued. To define the relationship of individual physicists to the Institute, a section has been added to the Constitution which states that "Individual members of Member Societies, Associate Member Societies, Affiliated Societies, and Student Sections, although not members of the Institute, shall be entitled to such rights, privileges, and services offered by the Institute as the Governing Board may from time to time direct. Reciprocally, the Institute may approach individual members of its member organizations for assistance in carrying out approved programs of the Institute."

Placement Register

TABULATIONS of data from the Institute's Placement Register at the 1958 Joint Meeting of the American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers (January 29–February 1) suggest that the demand for the services of physicists has continued to drop from the 1956 peak. The number of physicists registered (433) was about 30% higher than in 1957, while the number of available positions listed this year was about one-third of the number listed in 1957. Fewer organizations listed jobs or had personnel representatives present at the Placement Service's setup in the Hotel New Yorker this year, and the number of interviews arranged between registrants and prospective employers (1556) was less than half of last year's total of 3319. More than half of the registrants listed themselves as employed, with most of the remainder being graduate students. The proportion of bachelors has more than doubled since 1956, while the percentage with PhDs is a third less. No perceptible change has occurred in over-all employment preferences, which are still weighted heavily in the direction of academic and industrial positions. The following data comes from Placement Service records.

	1956	1957	1958
Total Number of Registrants	308	332	433
Total Number of Employers	269	193	169
Open Positions Listed: *			
Industrial	1096 ⁺¹⁸⁸	520 ⁺⁸⁸	94 ⁺²⁵
Government	367 ⁺⁶⁶	171 ⁺¹⁸	86 ⁺
Academic & Institutional	292 ⁺⁶⁴	229 ⁺¹⁸	108 ⁺¹⁸
Total	1755 ⁺³⁰⁸	920 ⁺¹¹⁸	288 ⁺⁴³

* Subscripts refer to employers listing no specific number of available positions but implying two or more openings.