

Fellow membership status to end?

The APS Council has accepted a report of the Fellowship Appeals Committee that recommends abolishing fellowship as a class of membership of the Society.

George Vineyard (Brookhaven National Laboratory) is chairman of this committee that was charged to review the concept of fellowship status and the conditions for election to fellowship. The full text of the Committee's report appears in the April issue of the *APS Bulletin*.

In addition to summarizing arguments for and against retaining the fellowship classification, the Committee noted that the criteria and procedures varied widely between various Divisions of the Society and that efforts to bring about greater uniformity have been unsuccessful. In conclusion, the Committee recommended abolishing the distinction. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee, headed by Elizabeth U. Baranger (University of Pittsburgh), has been directed to prepare appropriate Constitutional amendments for this purpose.

Members who feel that there are substantial arguments, either in support of or against such actions (in addition to those



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given in the report), are asked to write to the Office of the Executive Secretary, APS, 335 East 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Committee on women reports in Chicago

Caroline Herzenberg (Argonne National Laboratory), who has been appointed head of the Committee on the Status of Women in Physics during 1977, discussed the current projects of the Committee during an open meeting held as a session of the APS annual meeting in Chicago.

One project, a study of salary and employment statistics for women physicists between 1973 and 1975, is nearing completion. Another, the new career booklet "Women in Physics," is now ready for publication. The Committee also expects to begin issuing a newsletter for women physicists and women graduate students in physics this year.

The current issue of the *Directory of Women Graduate Students and Post Doctoral Fellows in Physics* (which is revised every two years) is now available for \$2 per copy from the APS, 335 East 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Other members of the Committee are Jill Bonner (Brookhaven National Lab-

oratory), Eugenie Mielczarek (George Mason University), Dinah L. Moché (Queensborough Community College), Lynn O. Wilson (Bell Laboratories), Judith R. Franz (Indiana University), Margaret E. Law (Harvard University) and Nancy O'Fallon (Argonne).

APS initiates studies on tenure and manpower

Brian Schwartz (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) has been named chairman of the Committee on Professional Concerns for 1977. In its annual report to Council (see the *APS Bulletin* for May), the Committee noted that it has commissioned the American Institute of Physics Manpower Statistics Division to do a follow-up study of junior faculty members at selected universities who had not obtained tenure over the past 15 years. This work will serve as a pilot study for more extensive investigations planned by the APS Panel on Physics Manpower. The report on the follow-up

study should be available in August.

The Employment Information Officer Program, in which a member of a participating physics department serves as a resource person for manpower and employment information, has proved successful—representatives of some Federally funded R & D laboratories have also joined the program. Briefings for the EIO's have been and will continue to be held at the annual and general meetings of the Society.

Martin Blume (Brookhaven National Laboratory), Joseph Budnick (University of Connecticut) and Schwartz have been appointed by APS President George E. Pake (Xerox Corp) to serve three-year terms on the Committee.

Society responds to 'affirmation of freedom'

Signed copies of the "Affirmation of Freedom of Inquiry and Expression" have been returned by 5780 members of The American Physical Society. The Affirmation is a resolution adopted by members of the National Academy of Sciences last year (see the *APS Bulletin*, July/August 1976). Copies of the statement had been sent to all Society members with the 1977 election ballots.

The signed statements, along with letters from Society members who either supported the statement or declined to sign it, were forwarded to W. Murray Todd, executive director of the Academy. Todd, in his letter that acknowledged receipt of the statements replied:

"As you doubtless know, current surveys of freedom and human rights around the globe reveal a decline in the number of people who live in relative civil, economic and political freedom. Whether one finds the wording of this particular affirmation important or trivial, it is a reminder that 'eternal vigilance is the price of liberty' and that repression of any element of our human community has an effect on the freedom of all other elements.

"Scholars who seek knowledge and ways to apply it for human betterment make up a transnational community the very existence of which depends on the free exchange of ideas, data, criticism and cooperative good will. It is our hope that the affirmation of principles encompassed by the affirmation contribute to the constant refreshment of individual dedication to this community." □