

Survey of universities finds few women on senior staff

The underrepresentation of women physicists on the faculties of major universities is shown clearly in the recent "Survey Compiled for the APS Committee on the Status of Women in Physics" by Laura Eisenstein (University of Illinois) and Elizabeth Baranger (University of Pittsburgh). This survey lists the numbers of women and men on faculties of departments offering a PhD in physics. It was compiled using the AIP "1980-1981 Director of Physics and Astronomy Staff Members".

The survey includes only those faculty members with the rank of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor who are listed as full-time or part-time in physics. Excluded are lecturers, research professors, professor emeriti, and so forth. Persons listed as full-time in areas other than physics or part-time in two areas other than physics have also been excluded.

The results are that "in the 171 departments surveyed, there are 4176 faculty who fit the above description. Of these, 79 are women." The table shown lists the 46 physics departments granting PhDs that had at least one woman as Professor or Associate Professor when the survey was compiled. The remaining 125 departments had no woman on their senior physics faculty.

The complete report is available from the APS Committee on the Status of Women in Physics, 335 East 45th Street, New York, NY 10017.

The APS responds

The survey prepared for the APS Committee on the Status of Women in Physics highlights the serious lack of women on the physics faculties of PhD-granting institutions. In a letter that Arthur L. Schawlow, then APS President, sent in October 1981 to the University Presidents of each of the 171 departments that grant PhDs in physics, he expressed the concern of the APS Council about the "underrepresentation of women in the profession of physics" and especially "the lack of women among the senior physics faculty members of PhD-granting institutions."

Schawlow's letter emphasized that the primary initiative to improve this situation must come from the academic



Ralph O. Simmons, University of Illinois, will chair the new APS Panel on Faculty Positions for Women Physicists.

community, but offered APS assistance to help identify potential women candidates for senior faculty positions in physics. This assistance would be provided by the newly formed APS Panel on Faculty Positions for Women Physicists consisting of Ralph O. Simmons (Chairman), Univ. of Illinois; Elizabeth U. Baranger, Univ. of Pittsburgh; Herman Feshbach, M.I.T.; Judy R. Franz, Indiana Univ.; James A. Krumhansl, Cornell Univ.; Neal F. Lane, Rice Univ.; Mary L. Shoaf, Princeton Univ.; Sandra Slivinsky, General Electric Company; and Joseph A. Burton, American Physical Society.

Responses from the university community are now arriving and the work of the new panel is underway. Ralph Simmons, as panel chairman, encourages university physics departments to inform the panel of anticipated openings in their senior physics faculty, and also invites inquiries and suggestions from qualified women physicists who may be interested. Such information or suggestions for the panel may be sent to any panel member or to: Panel on Faculty Positions for Women Physicists, c/o J. A. Burton, The American Physical Society, 335 East 45th St., New York, NY 10017, (212) 682-7341.

Women as senior physics faculty

University	Total	Women
Auburn University	16	1
Brooklyn College	24	1
Brown University	34	1
Bryn Mawr College	3	1
California-Irvine	21	1
California-Los Angeles	42	1
California-Riverside	18	2
California-San Diego	37	1
Chicago, University of	36	1
Cincinnati, University of	23	1
City College of CUNY	52	1
Clemson University	24	1
Connecticut, University of	26	1
Denver, University of	14	1
Florida State University	27	1
George Washington University	14	1
Georgetown University	11	1
Illinois-Chicago Circle	26	1
Illinois-Urbana	61	2
Indiana University	41	1
Johns Hopkins University	21	1
Kentucky, University of	15	1
Maryland, University of	62	1
Massachusetts Inst. of Technology	83	4
Massachusetts, University of	33	1
Minnesota, University of	38	1
Missouri-Rolla	25	2
Montana State University	14	1
North Carolina State University	25	1
Northeastern University	28	1
Oklahoma, University of	16	1
Pennsylvania, University of	36	1
Pittsburgh, University of	39	2
Polytechnic Institute of New York	16	1
Queens College of CUNY	20	1
Rhode Island, University of	15	1
Rutgers University	33	2
Southern California, University of	17	1
SUNY-Albany	23	1
SUNY-Stony Brook	49	1
Tennessee, University of	39	1
Texas-Austin	52	1
Tufts University	9	1
Utah State University	15	1
Washington, University of	42	1
Wisconsin-Madison	46	1
Total Senior Physics Faculty for above 46 Departments	1361	54
Total for 125 Departments with no women on the Senior Physics Faculty	2304	0
Total Senior Physics Faculty for 171 Departments	3665	54
Total Assistant Professors for 171 Departments	511	25
Total Physics Faculty for 171 Departments	4176	79