

lished the position and given it to Waldegrave—"an old Etonian who read classics at Oxford before (you guessed it) winning a prize fellowship at All Souls."

The general reaction from Britain's science establishment has been rather more hopeful. The Royal Society hailed the new arrangements as an opportunity to "resolve many of the shortcomings that existed previously," in particular, inadequate coordination of publicly funded research, lack of effective science leadership at the Cabinet level, unsatisfactory science representation in international contexts—especially the European Community—and problematic methods of handling Britain's large international appropriations, such as its contributions to CERN and the European Space Agency.

The Royal Society has underway a major inquiry into the state of British science, led by the president of the Royal Society, Michael Atiyah. The Royal Society expects to issue the results of its investigation toward the end of the summer. The establishment of Cabinet-level science representation pretty clearly preempts what was to be one of the society's major recommendations. Just as clearly, however, the society still plans to press what it sees as other major priorities, notably the matter of international subscriptions—that is, problems caused the rest of British science by large contributions to organizations like CERN.

The society also is calling, along with other voices in British science, for a reassessment of the science advisory system. There seems to be general agreement that the Advisory Board for the Research Councils, which advised the education ministry about how money should be allocated among the five research councils, is weak relative to the individual councils. But the Royal Society seems to lean toward strengthening central mechanisms for science coordination, while others—*Nature* magazine, for example—think the ABRC should simply be abolished.

Independently of the new Cabinet-level science arrangements, significant reorganization has taken place under the rubric of one of the five councils, the Science and Engineering Research Council. Astronomy is now combined with nuclear and particle physics in a new physics, space and astronomy board, so that most big-science projects now will compete within the framework of a single board. Condensed matter physics and materials science are handled by the science and materials board, which

also is responsible for mathematics, chemistry, biology and science-based archaeology.

The restructuring of the councils appears to represent a significant streamlining and could help alleviate Britain's chronic conflicts between domestic and international—and between big and little—science. Also to be taken into account, Atiyah explained during a conversation at the Royal Society earlier this year, are problems arising from the recent abolition of the distinction between universities and polytechnics.

The polytechnics were intended to have primarily a pedagogic role, he said, but now, like any other university, they are increasingly conducting research. The effect is that a more or less fixed budget for university research is being more broadly distributed. "So the management of this transition is very important," he said.

—WILLIAM SWEET

AIP SURVEY FINDS 7% RISE IN PHYSICS PHDS IN 1990-91

For the past 30 years, the American Institute of Physics has monitored trends in physics enrollment and graduation in the US through its annual Survey of Enrollments and Degrees.

The latest survey, which presents enrollment figures for 1991-92 and graduation figures for 1990-91 as well as ten-year trends, found a surprising 7% jump in the number of physics PhD recipients compared to the previous year, while the number of master's degrees dropped by an equal percentage. The number of bachelor's degree recipients, a quantity that has remained fairly steady since the mid-1980s, was 5145 in 1990-91.

Enrollment in introductory physics courses grew by 6% in 1991-92, with 150 000 students taking calculus-based physics, 120 000 taking algebra-based courses and 75 000 taking non-mathematical physics.

Although the previous year's survey recorded a 10% rise in the number of first-year physics graduate students who are US citizens, this year's survey found an increase of less than 1% for this group. The total graduate student enrollment was up by 3.3%, to 14 534. Enrollments at the undergraduate level were little changed from the previous year: There were 6435 physics majors in their junior year, 6126 in their senior year, and 1138 in their fifth undergraduate year.

The influx of foreign students into US graduate programs has been widely discussed in previous surveys and elsewhere during the past decade. This year's survey report, written by Susanne D. Ellis and Patrick Mulvey of AIP's Education and Employment Statistics Division, notes that while foreign students primarily seek doctoral degrees, a significant proportion of them are now obliged to apply to schools that offer only master's degrees and then they try to transfer after one or two years. Accordingly, from 1982 to 1991, the proportion of foreign students grew from 33% to 42% at doctoral-granting schools and from 24% to 37% at masters-granting schools.

In addition to data on students, the survey also keeps track of the number of US schools offering graduate and undergraduate physics degree programs. In 1991-92 there were 173 institutions with PhD programs, 83 with master's degree (but no PhD) programs and 491 with only undergraduate programs.

Copies of the survey of enrollments and degrees, which also covers astronomy, can be obtained from AIP, Division of Education and Employment Statistics, 335 East 45 Street, New York NY 10017.

APS AND EPS ADOPT APPROACH TO EAST EUROPEAN, FSU AID

At a meeting in Budapest 25-27 May, representatives of the European Physical Society and the American Physical Society agreed on a joint approach to aiding physics in Eastern Europe and in the states of the former Soviet Union. The main immediate point of action is that APS will provide, with support from the Soros Foundation, eight sets of all APS publications for distribution to the EPS secretariat in Budapest and seven participating countries in East Central Europe (Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Poland and Romania), for three years starting with this year's issues; and EPS will seek support from the European Community to procure publications for institutions in the region, so that they have a complete current inventory of journals and other research resources. APS will publish a survey of library needs (for back journal issues) that EPS conducted in East Central Europe.

The EPS library survey and a number of other projects were initiated at a meeting held in May 1990 in