

Diversity & Excellence

Leadership Workshop for SEM Department Chairs

July 8-9, 2004

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Workshop on Faculty Diversity

Adapted from presentation given by Dr. Marjorie Olmstead on May 14, 2004

- National Data on Faculty Composition
 - Donna Nelson, University of Oklahoma
- Studies of the "Playing Field"
 - Implicit assumptions are there
- Personal Comments
 - The reality of small numbers
- > Advice for Chairs
 - Small things can make big improvements



Faculty Diversity Study

- > Donna Nelson, U. Oklahoma Chemistry
- > 14 Fields -- 10 UW-ADVANCE fields
- ➤ Survey 50 top departments
 - Ranked by research expenditures in 1999-2000
 - Biased toward large depts supporting students
- > Faculty composition by race and gender
- > Compare to Ph.D. Data from NSF



Example Data: Physics Faculty

http://cheminfo.chem.ou.edu/faculty/djn/diversity/top50.html

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50 Departments: 1,988 Faculty

132 Women (6.6%); 263 Minorities (13%); 31 Women of Color (1.5%)

Full Professor: 1207/61 WM/WF; 6/0 BM/BF; 19/3 HM/HF; 124/11 AM/AF; 1/0 NAM/NAF

Assoc. Professor: 207/21 WM/WF; 2/0 BM/BF; 6/0 HM/HF; 35/6 AM/AF; 0/0 NAM/NAF

Asst. Professor: 190/19 WM/WF; 4/0 BM/BF; 5/5 HM/HF; 40/6 AM/AF; 0/0 NAM/NAF

Percent of grand total 83.85 12.85 10.35 80.35 0.305 0.105 02.05 0.005 0.115 0.305 0.105 0

Seference: "The Nelson Diversity Surveys" Nelson, D. L. Norman, OK, 2002; http://chemistinchem.or.edu/locality/ipy/diversity/up/80.htm



Example Data: Physics Faculty

http://cheminfo.chem.ou.edu/faculty/djn/diversity/top50.html

Women of Color Hidden in Statistics

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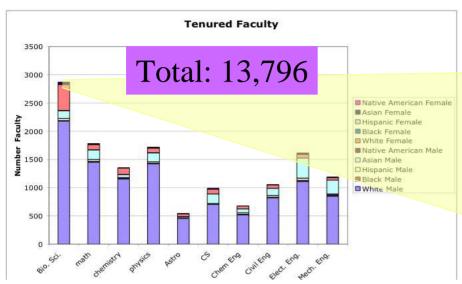
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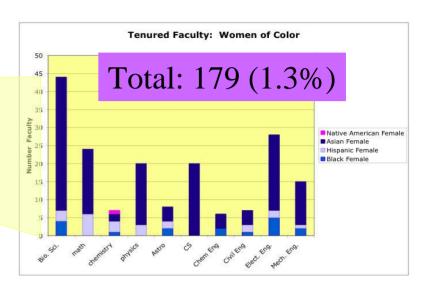
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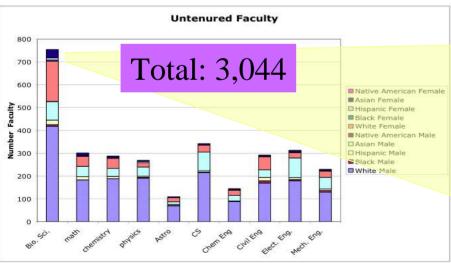
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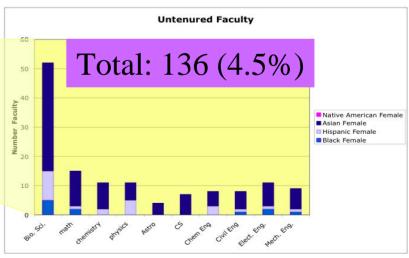


10 Fields, 500 Departments



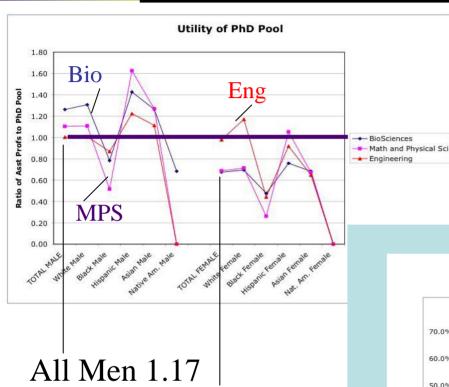






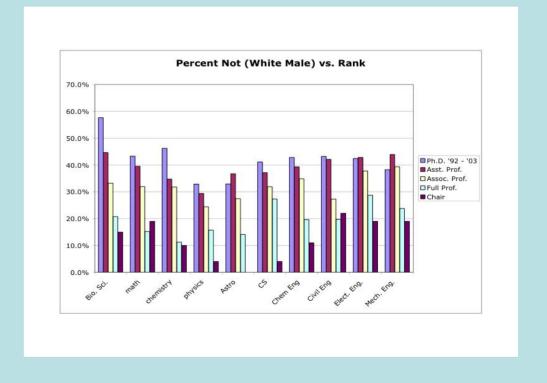


Representation Declines with Rank



All Women 0.63

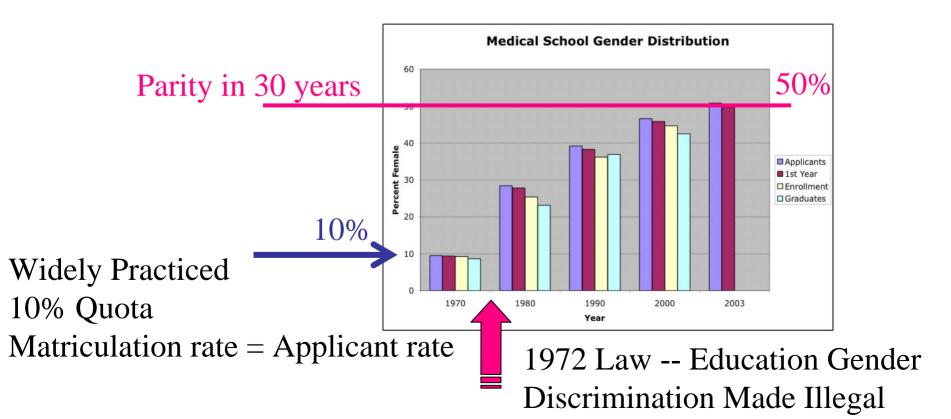
- Women nearly HALF as likely to become professors
- Few Blacks, No Native Americans
- Foreign Asians and Hispanics increase ratio: US born still underrepresented on faculty





Why so Few?

- > MYTH: "It's THEIR fault -- women just don't apply."
- REALITY: "My grad school experience was so awful I just want to get out of there."
- > Example of Change: Medical Schools after Title IX



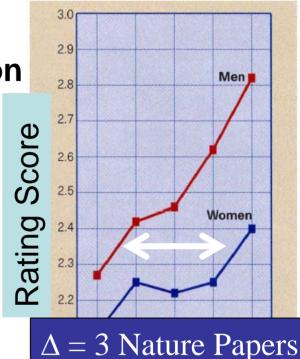


Tilted Playing Field

- Large body of research shows:
 Implicit Assumptions Impact Evaluation
- Gender Bias and Research Papers
 - Paludi and Bauer (Sex Roles, 1983)

Reviewer (1-5, 1 top)	John T. McKay	Joan T. McKay	J. T. McKay
Male	1.9	3.0	2.7
Female	2.3	3.0	2.6

- Gender Bias and Post-Doc Applications
 - Wenerås and Wold (Nature, 1997)
- > Gender Bias and Performance Evaluation
 - Orchestra tryouts behind curtain
 - Stereotype threat on exam performance



 $\Delta = 3$ Nature Papers

Figure 1 The me Impact given to male (red squares) applicants by the MRC reviewers as a function of their scientific productivity, measured as total impact. One impact point equals one paper published in a journal with an impact factor of 1. (See text for further explanation.)

(Implicit) Discrimination

- >Lower expectations
- ➤ Uneven evaluation
- ➤ Narrow view of excellence
- > Exclusion from informal networks
- >Other people feel uncomfortable
- > Accumulation of Disadvantage

$$\left(\frac{0.49}{0.51}\right)^{10} = \frac{2}{3}; \quad \left(\frac{0.48}{0.52}\right)^{8} = \frac{1}{2}$$



Personal Observations

- > Small numbers mean everybody counts
 - UW Physics nearly lost 60% of women in one quarter
 - Physics PhDs -- 10 years*50 departments: 8,261 total
 - 2 Native American Women
 - -21 Black Women
 - —31 Hispanic American Women
- Each person must consciously confront their implicit assumptions
 - Grew up in 99 % white suburb
 - Adult before I knew professional, educated minorities
- > Scientific and educational enterprise requires trust
 - Different cultural expectations must be dealt with head on



Good Chairs Make a Difference

- ➤ Take ownership of the "problem" to create a public, inclusive climate for students and faculty
- Consciously and publicly counter implicit assumptions and accumulated disadvantage
- Set transparent and inclusive criteria and processes for hiring, promotion, salary and resources.
- Give women and minorities assignments to gain leadership skills (both scientific and administrative)
- ➤ Have all faculty actively mentor and recruit minority students to the profession. One more/year is significant.
- ➤ Compare attitudes of 1st and 5th year grad students -- do they still want to be academics? Is there a gender and/or racial difference in the response? Find out WHY.