CRA Taulbee Survey

Stu Zweben
Prof Emer, The Ohio State University
Chair, CRA Surveys Committee
Taulbee Data Collected

- US CS, US CE, US I, Canadian academic units
- Current year enrollment (Ph.D., MS, BS)
- Past year’s degree production (Ph.D., MS, BS)
- Most recent doctoral graduate employment
- Faculty and their salaries (by rank and ac unit type)
- Grad student stipends (by type of appt)
- Past year’s sponsored research totals
- Gender and ethnicity for degrees and faculty, and for doctoral enrollment
- Space, teaching loads, type of research sponsorship (every 3 years)
Taulbee Reporting

- Faculty salaries (late Dec – early Jan)
- Full report (late Mar – early Apr); published in CRN and on CRA web site in May
- Enrollment and degree report (late Mar – early Apr); published on CRA web site for media interest
- Comparisons with previous year’s data
- Some longer-term trends (pipeline, industry v academic employment, doctoral and bachelors production, new UG majors, nonresident aliens as fraction of Ph.D. enrollment)
- Occasional “Taulbee trends” articles for other longer-term trend reporting
- U.S. CS, U.S. CE, U.S. I and Canadian separation for most data
Revised U.S. CS Groupings

- Pre-2011 – stratification by NRC rankings that were published in 1995
  - Known to be out-dated
  - New NRC “rankings” of little value to CRA
  - No alternative rankings of interest to CRA
- Extensive discussion among Surveys Committee and CRA leadership
- New strata based on public-private, T-T faculty size and, for salaries, size of university’s locale
  - Overlapping of strata based on faculty size

Snowbird 2012
New graphics

- Box and whisker diagrams to give more distributional information when stratifying by tenure-track faculty size
Plans

- Ability to generate your own peer groups for analysis
  - Using ASEE salary peer grouping as a model
    - Minimum peer group size
    - Minimum number of data points provided by each department in peer group
    - Constraints on ability to appear in multiple peer groups
  - Only available to survey participants

- Security and privacy concerns
  - Continued commitment to not revealing individual responder information
  - Combined effect of CRA peer groups and public salary information
  - Ability to opt out of peer group participation
  - Ability to select multiple peer groups

- Cost Issues (to CRA and to users of the service)
Questions for the Audience

- Reactions to the new report stratifications and graphics
- Reactions to the prospect of selecting individual peer groups
- Importance of good response rates for validity and continued media interest
  - Is it hard to complete the survey?
  - Is there data we don’t really need to collect?
  - What incentives can help improve response rates?
- Is there other data we should gather?