A Taulbee Survey For The Rest Of Us: The TauRUs Survey

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Origins of TauRUs:

- How well does Taulbee data represent non-Ph.D. programs?
- Based on NCES data more than 80% of undergraduate CS (and IS) degrees were awarded at non-Taulbee responding institutions.
- Other Quality of Life issues.
- Initial study undertaken in 2009-2010 with support from ACM-SIGCSE.
Year 1 Goal:
Low burden & high response rate.

  - National/Regional Liberals Arts
  - Regional Universities
  - Ignored national univ. w/out Ph.D. programs

- Dept. chairperson directly emailed survey token. (Limesurvey)
- CS only & U.S.A. only
Year 1 Participation Statistics

- 254 invitations sent out
  - 117 fully completed (46%)
- 84 Undergraduate only + 33 Masters
- 70 Private (57 + 13)
- 47 Public (27 + 20)
Year 1 Data Collected:

- Grouping: public/private, Ugrad/Masters, location, school size (student population)
- Faculty size, composition and salary (gender, ethnicity, and Ph.D. status)
- Search success rates (past 3 yrs.)
- Degree production (gender and ethnicity)
- Quality of Life:
  - Teaching load, Scholarship expectations, Internal funding support, lab support
TauRUs: Year 2

- J. Tims & S. Williams began an independent initiative
- Goal: To replicate Taulbee as close as possible
- Included CS, CE, IS and IT programs
- Survey conducted in 2010-2011
- Supported by ACM-SIGCSE and CRA-E
Year 2 Methodology

- IPEDS Database: 2500 programs located at 1223 schools
- Snail mail sent to “Dean/Department Chair” at institutions’ primary address
- Survey itself was Web based
  - Admittedly the survey was long
Year 2 Participation Statistics

- 1223 invitations sent out
  - 65 fully completed (5.3%)
  - 141 programs:
    - (120 Undergrad + 21 Masters)
- 47 Private (Ugrad/Masters breakdown unknown)
- 18 Public (Ugrad/Masters breakdown unknown)
Year 2 Data Collected

- Grouping: public/private, Ugrad/Masters, location, school size (student population), program type (CS, CE, IS, IT)
- Degree production (gender and ethnicity)
- Ph.D. pipeline and Ugrad research statistics
- Faculty size, composition and salary (gender, ethnicity)
- Faculty growth (actual and projected) and departure statistics
Key Findings

- Only 62% of Ugrad only faculty hold Ph.D. in CS
- The smaller the school, the greater % of women faculty; opposite is true for cultural minorities.
- Some evidence suggests that women seek CS degrees in greater % at Ugrad schools; opposite is true for cultural minorities.
- Salaries
TauRUs: Current Status

- Year 1 & 2 survey results published in ACM Inroads
- In March 2012, ACM stepped forward to sponsor and run future (annual?) iterations
- Year 3 survey (and beyond?) to look similar to Year 2 version
Questions for the Audience

- Frequency for future TauRUs surveys?
- How closely should TauRUs replicate the Taulbee survey?
- What other data should TauRUs be gathering?