

SUMMARY OF CAP PHYSICS DEPARTMENT SURVEY – 2016

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This year we had 64% of our member departments participate in the survey. The results of the 2016 Department Survey are summarized in Table 1 and Figs. 1 and 2. Table 1 reports the number of departments responding and the average number of faculty per department. It also reports total numbers of BSc, MSc and PhD graduates, and the total number of physics faculty.

A few changes were made to the survey this year. The first change was to help clarify the number of BSc physics graduates. This year we asked for the number of BSc physics graduates in an Honours or equivalent program and the number of BSc physics graduates in a Majors or equivalent program. The total reported number of graduating BSc physics students was 708, with 472 and 236 receiving an Honours and Majors degree, respectively. This number is well down from the 988 graduates reported last year. This year there were 226 MSc and 142 PhD physics graduates.

Figure 1 shows the number of courses taught, the BSc graduates and grad student enrolment as a function of faculty size. The average number of single-semester courses taught per faculty is 3. The average number of graduate students per faculty is also 3. The number of students in majors program varies widely across the departments.

SUMMARY

The Canadian Association of Physicists (CAP) collects data about the Canadian academic physics community through an annual on-line survey of Canadian physics departments. The information collected in all years is stored in a CAP database that is accessible to all department members [1]. Each year we publish a summary of the annual data in *Physics in Canada* [2-4]. As part of the survey, information about the departments' graduate programs is updated for CAP's on-line directory of Canadian physics graduate programs found on our web site (www.cap.ca).

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TABLE 1
SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF CAP PHYSICS
DEPARTMENT SURVEY – 2016.

Number of Departments Reporting	38 (64%)
Total Number of Faculty	693
Average Number of Faculty	18
Smallest Number of Faculty	4
Largest Number of Faculty	61
Total Number of Research Faculty	602 (87%)
Total Number of Female Faculty	109 (16%)
Total Number of New Faculty	37
Total Number of PDFs	341
Total # of BSc Graduates / Year	708
Total # of MSc Graduates / Year	226
Total # of PhD Graduates / Year	143

For the first time, this year's survey asked for numbers of female physics students at all levels as well as female pdf's. In Fig. 2, the female students at each level and female faculty are shown as a function of the faculty size. Over the three years of the survey, the percentage of female faculty members has remained at just 16%. The percentage of graduates that were female was 24, 15 and 23 for an Honours BSc, MSc and PhD degree, respectively. 20% of pdf's in 2016 were women.

I do want to thank all the departments that took the time to fill out the survey and I would like to encourage all the departments to take part in the coming years. I would also like to express my appreciation to the CAP staff who supported development and analysis of the survey.

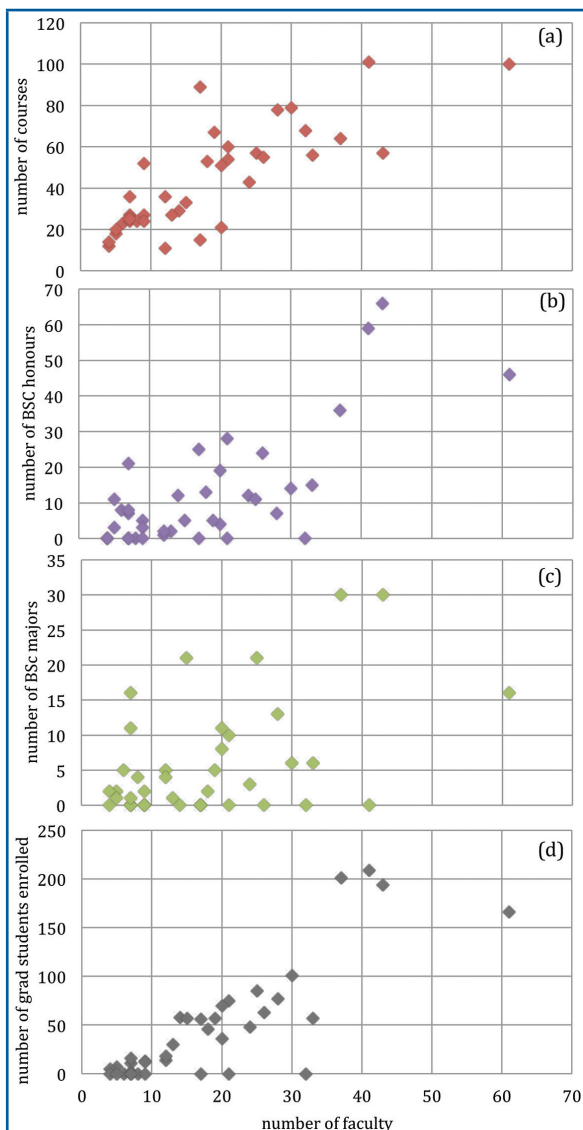


Fig. 1 (a) Number of course sections (one semester courses or equivalent) taught; (b) Number of BSc Honours graduates; (c) Number of BSc Majors graduates; (d) Number of grad students enrolled; each graph given as a function of number of faculty members.

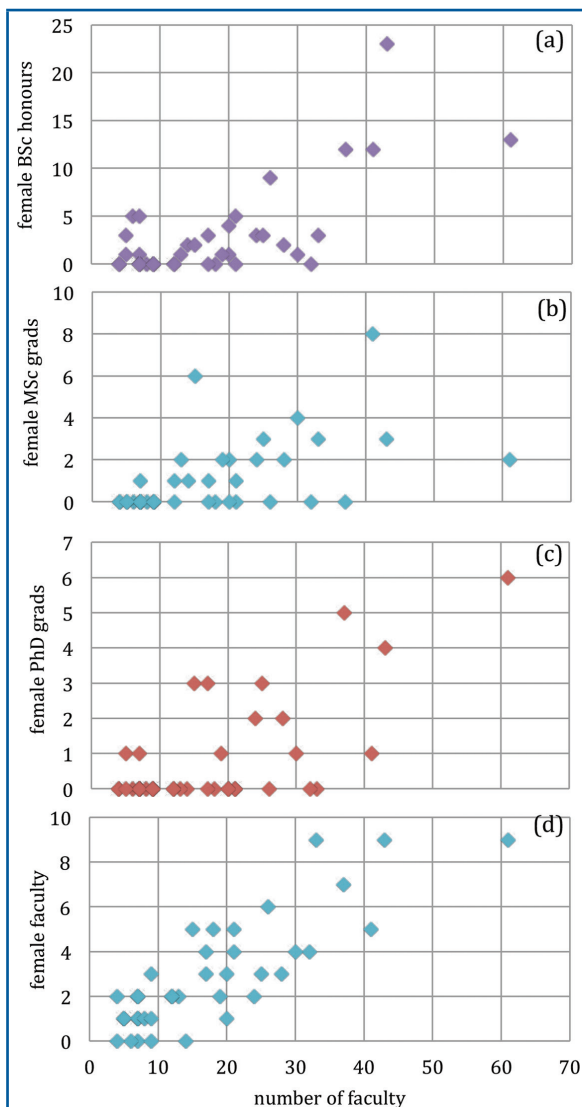


Fig. 2 (a) Number of female Honours BSc grads; (b) Number of female MSc grads; (c) Number of female PhD grads; (d) Number of female faculty; each graph given as a function of number of faculty members.

REFERENCES

1. Departments can access the Survey through the Member Services Login page (<https://www.cap.ca/services/>) using their department id and password. For help with this, please contact the CAP Office: capmgr@uottawa.ca.
2. B.J. Frisken, *Physics in Canada*, **70**, 198 (2014).
3. B.J. Frisken, *Physics in Canada*, **71**, 214 (2015).
4. D. Strickland, *Physics in Canada*, **72**, 173 (2016).