

THE STATE OF THE PLANETARY SCIENCE COMMUNITY: RESULTS FROM THE 2020 DPS SURVEY. Amanda R. Hendrix¹, Julie Rathbun¹, the DPS Committee and the DPS Professional Culture and Climate Subcommittee. ¹Planetary Science Institute, Tucson, AZ (arh@psi.edu).

Introduction: Understanding the changing demographics and needs of the planetary science community is an important part of effectively serving the community. As such, the American Astronomical Society (AAS) Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS) conducts surveys of its membership from time to time. Surveys were conducted in 1989, 1995, 2005, and 2010 (<https://dps.aas.org/reports>).

The DPS was founded in 1968 by a group of members of the AAS as a sub-organization. It is now the largest special interest Division of the AAS, with more than 1400 members. Traditionally, DPS members and DPS meeting attendees have been primarily planetary astronomers. In the 1989 DPS membership survey, ~70% of respondents identified themselves as such. By 2005, that number had dropped to less than 30%. Furthermore, only 5% of 1995 respondents identified as a planetary geologist, while by 2005 that number had risen to 28%. These changing demographics are not surprising for such a highly interdisciplinary field.

Because of the field's interdisciplinary nature, Planetary Scientists belong to multiple organizations and attend meetings organized by a variety of sources. In 2011, a survey of the entire planetary science workforce contacted members of DPS and the American Geophysical Union (AGU) planetary science division as well as attendees of the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference (LPSC) [1]. They found that 6% of respondents belonged to all three groups and just over 70% were members of DPS. Results of this survey has been used in many studies of planetary science community [see e.g. 2-3].

The 2020 DPS survey will differ from previous surveys. In order to enable comparisons to the 2011 planetary workforce survey and provide input into the next planetary decadal survey, we will survey more than just DPS members and invite the entire community to fill out the survey.

Goals: The purpose of the 2020 DPS survey is to provide an update on the characterization of the planetary community. The DPS Committee wishes to understand career satisfaction and demographics of the community, as well as any concerns about funding and job security, and the NASA R&A program, from which much of our funding derives. These data are vital to the DPS Committee as they represent our community to NASA, Congress, the media and the general public which supports the field of planetary science. Furthermore, the DPS Committee wishes to learn how our leadership can better serve the community, and what roles the DPS can play in helping membership and in annual meeting organization. We will

share the results of the survey, with comparisons to previous surveys, in order to enable input into any workforce white papers being submitted to the next planetary decadal survey. See figures 1 and 2 for comparison of types of employment between 1989 and 2011.

Survey Methodology: The 2020 DPS survey questions will be based on a combination of 1) the 2010 DPS survey questions, 2) the 2018 AAS membership survey questions, and 3) the 2011 planetary workforce survey [1]. We will work with social scientists to vet the questions and rely on the AAS staff to help with administering the survey forms. We plan to send the survey to as many people in the planetary community as possible, including DPS members.

Questions are organized in sections to broadly address the following issues:

1. To identify the personal demographics (age, gender, professional level, etc.) of the DPS membership and how they have changed relative to past surveys.
2. To determine the distribution of membership employment (Govt. Agencies, Observatories, Universities, etc.) and sources of funding (NSF, NASA, Private, foreign, etc.).
3. To examine the trends in the type of research being done in planetary science, including the institutional distribution of groups, the number of grants required to maintain a research program, and the grants being written each year.
4. To gauge the level of satisfaction with the field of planetary science as a career, including current NASA funding distribution and proposal notification policies.
5. To obtain membership feedback on the performance and role of the DPS in sponsoring meetings, providing professional development resources, promoting education, advocating for increased funding for planetary science, and advocating a science program consistent with the decadal priorities of the community.

References: [1] White et. al., 2011 (<http://lasp.colorado.edu/home/mop/files/2015/08/Report.pdf>). [2] Rathbun, J.A., 2017, *Nat. Ast.*, **1**, id 0148 [3] Schindhelm, R., et al., 2020, *LPSC*, this volume.

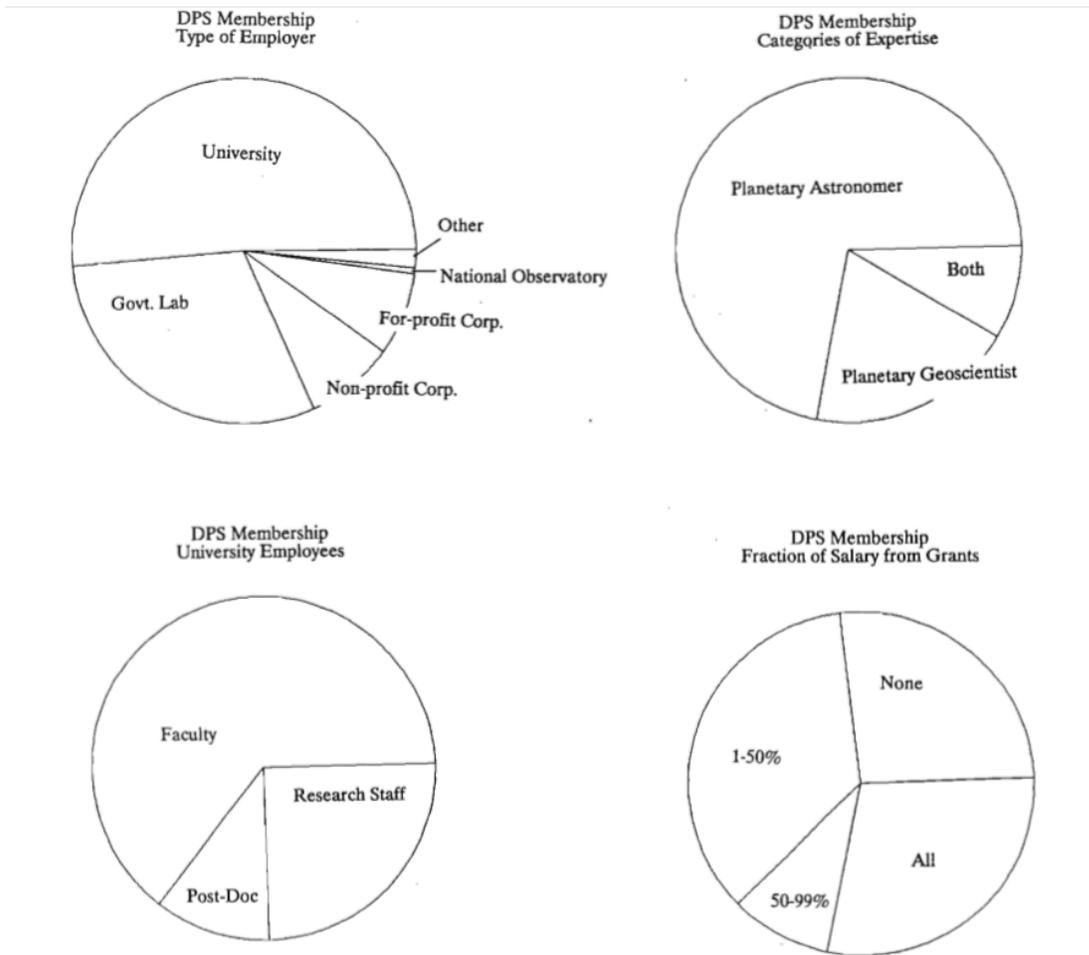


Figure 1: Some results from the 1989 DPS members survey. Note the types of employers in the upper left.

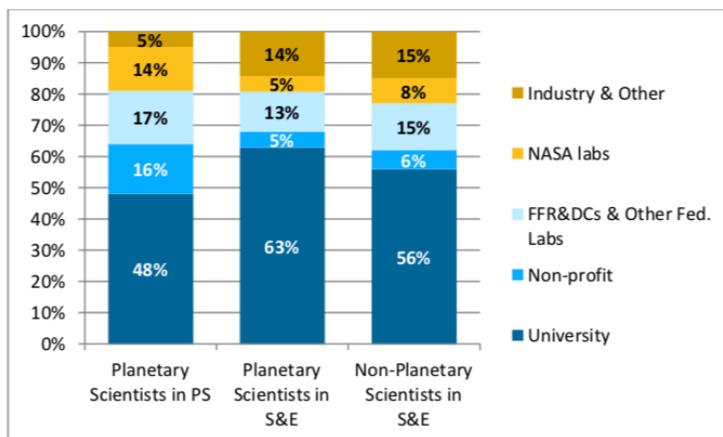


Figure 2: Types of employment for planetary scientists, from [1], for comparison for figure 1.