Trends in Teaching Loads

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Institutional Setting

1. Most Departments Reside in Colleges of Agriculture.

2. Declining per Capita / per Student State Support.

3. Shrinking Membership in Professional Associations
Institutional Setting:

1. Departments in Colleges of Ag.

Ag. vis-à-vis Other Colleges

• Disparities in Teaching Loads, Numbers of Majors, SCH, & Degrees Conferred.

• Notion of “Splits”.
Institutional Setting:

2. Declining State Support

State Fiscal Support for Operating Expenses of Higher Education per $1,000 of Personal Income

Source: www.postsecondary.org
Institutional Setting:

3. Shrinking Membership

Annual AAEA Membership

Source: AAEA
Stylized Facts

• Declining State Budgets

• Faculty Attrition $\Rightarrow$ Smaller Depts.

• Stable or $\uparrow$ Undergrad Enrollments

$\Rightarrow$ Without Curriculum Adjustment, Mounting Pressure to Increase Teaching Loads

$\Rightarrow$ Research / Teaching Trade-off
Survey Instrument

- Min, Median, Max Loads & Splits
  - 12/09: 20 Responses
  - 08/11: 16 Responses.
- Comment on Teaching Loads & Splits.
Measurement Issues

- **AY/FY Contracts; Tenure-Track vs. Teaching Only**
- **Semesters / Quarters**
- **Class Size**
- **Undergrad / Grad**
- **Advising / Diss. Committees**
- **Summer School, Distance Ed.**
- **Teaching Institutions Only Excluded**
December 2009

Teaching FTE

3 Unit Courses / Semester

0.0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6

0 1.0 2.0 3.0 4.0
December 2009

\[ y = 0 + 6.09 \text{ FTE} \]
December 2009

\[ y = 0 + 6.09 \text{ FTE} \]

Teaching FTE vs. 3 Unit Courses / Semester

\[ y = 0 + 6.09 \text{ FTE} \]
August 2011

3 Unit Courses / Semester

y = 0 + 6.46 FTE

Teaching FTE
Trends in Teaching Loads?

Caveats

• Very Small Samples
• Not a Panel
• Measurement Error
• Selectivity Bias
Teaching FTE

3 Unit Courses / Semester

y = 0 + 6.09 FTE

December 2009
August 2011

\[ y = 0 + 6.46 \text{ FTE} \]
Some Tendencies

- Full-Time Teaching Faculty, Non-Tenure Track.
- Teaching May be Justification for Faculty Positions.
- Enrollments High Within Colleges but Low Relative to Other Colleges.
- Heads/Chairs Trying to Reduce Loads.
- Deans & Other Administrators Trying to Increase Loads.
Thank You!

Questions?

Comments?

Thanks to Julie Caswell, Ken Foster, and all the heads and chairs who responded to the survey.