2018 CFAS Demographic Survey

Executive Summary

To better serve CFAS representatives with programming, products, and services, the CFAS Administrative Board developed a survey that was sent to all CFAS representatives in the spring of 2018 to gather detailed demographic data on the council’s active participants. The preliminary results of the survey were presented at the 2018 CFAS Spring Meeting in Chicago.

The response rate was quite high – well over 50% of 196 total respondents. The goal is to administer the survey regularly to new reps annually in order to maintain an ongoing snapshot of the demographics of the CFAS representative community. While we have a member database, it lacks certain key information that helps to provide a clear portrait of who, exactly, makes up CFAS.

The majority of respondents to the survey were primarily appointed to CFAS by medical schools, where they tended to be full professors or associate professors. 13% of respondents identified themselves as assistant professors or “other.” Nearly half (47%) of respondents were on a tenure track. Perhaps as a reflection of their status as senior-level educators in their institutions, the vast majority of respondents were located on the primary campuses of their home institutions. Only 12 respondents were located on regional campuses.

The majority of CFAS reps listed their age range as being 40-50 years old (36% of respondents). The next most common age ranges were 50-60 (29% of respondents) and 60-70 (20% of respondents), indicating that even among junior representatives, CFAS represents those in the earliest stages of their academic careers.

On the diversity front, when compared to 2015 AAMC data on faculty in medical schools across the country, CFAS’ racial and ethnic diversity mostly mirrors the national average, with the exception of a lower number of Asian respondents compared to white respondents. Although the majority of respondents were male, it was a very slim majority, with 48% of respondents identifying as female.

The most common administrative role listed by respondents was “department chair” (26%), followed by “other” (25%). About 15% of CFAS reps indicated that they have an associate or assistant dean’s role, and about 6% said they had an associate or assistant department chair role. Most respondents (33%) listed “Education” as their primary contribution to their home institution, followed by “Administration” (26%), and “Clinical” (23%).

In terms of topical interests, the most important areas to respondents were “faculty as educators,” followed by “well-being and resilience,” and “basic science issues.”

The data collected will be used to tailor meeting programming and CFAS initiatives to meet the specific needs of the various constituencies that comprise the membership of the council. The survey data will also be used to help guide the council’s efforts to enhance internal diversity. Survey data also will be used to help identify CFAS reps who may wish to participate in committees or special projects for the council.
Data collected from the survey will be housed in a secure server at the AAMC. If you have any questions about the data, how it is stored, or how it can be used, please contact Eric Weissman at the AAMC.