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Faculty Voter Registration: Rectifying the Omission of Two Florida Universities

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[LINK TO ABSTRACT](#)

In the previous issue of this journal (September 2016) we published “Faculty Voter Registration in Economics, History, Journalism, Law, and Psychology” (Langbert, Quain, and Klein 2016), which focuses on the ratio of registered Democrats to registered Republicans among faculty at 40 top universities. Sean T. Stevens, in preparing a blog post (Stevens 2016) for Heterodox Academy, scrutinized our article and caught a problem, and then on 3 October 2016 kindly sent us a query about it. Sean had noticed that in footnote 5 (p. 424) we list University of Florida and University of Miami as among those universities that, though ranked high enough by *U.S. News and World Report* to be included in our investigation,³ were not included because they sit in states not covered by [Aristotle](#) (the database used for the study). But Sean saw that in footnote 4 (p. 423), which listed the states not included in Aristotle, Florida is *not* listed. Florida is in fact covered by Aristotle, so those two Florida universities should have been included in our investigation. We had mistakenly gotten it into our heads that Florida was one of the states not covered by Aristotle, prepared our list of schools to investigate, and never realized our error until Sean brought it to our attention.

To rectify our coverage error, we now present an investigation of the two universities that were mistakenly left out of our analysis. Although our subscription

1. Brooklyn College, City University of New York, Brooklyn, NY 11210.

2. George Mason University, Fairfax, VA 22030.

3. The *U.S. News and World Report* 2016 ranking is not available online as of this writing, so we have scanned the print version (*U.S. News and World Report* 2016, 74–76) and uploaded images showing the ranking [here](#).

to Aristotle had expired, Aristotle generously restored to us temporary access to rectify the problem. We are grateful to Sean for catching our error and bringing it to our attention, and to Aristotle for generously allowing us additional access.⁴

The findings for the two omitted Florida universities, the University of Miami and the University of Florida, are consistent with the findings in our initial sample of 40 institutions. With the present addendum, our revised investigation now covers 42 top universities. In the new grand set, the either-registered-Democrat-or-registered-Republican faculty from the newly added universities constitutes 6.1 percent of that of faculty of all 42 schools. As it turns out, the overall Democrat to Republican ratio (or, D:R ratio) changes so little that it is the same to the first decimal point, 11.5:1. Three of the five disciplinary ratios change slightly. In this paper we provide addenda and redo some of the central displays. We use an “A” to label the new tables and figures, following the numbering of the original article’s tables and figures. We present tables labeled A1, A2, and A3, and figures labeled A2 and A7.

Table A1 is the addendum to the original Table 1. Notice at the bottom that the overall D:R ratio remains the same as it had been, 11.5:1.⁵ Table A2 replaces the original Table 2.

TABLE A1. Number of faculty and voter registration by institution

<i>U.S. News</i> rank	Institution	Sample size	Not Reg. ^a	Not Affil. ^b	Dem.	Rep.	D:R ratio	Minor- party
44	U. of Miami	171	38	23	97	11	8.8:1	2
50	U. of Florida	215	46	22	137	9	15.2:1	1
	Florida total	386	84	45	234	20	11.7:1	3
	Total from original Table 1	7,243	2,120	1,145	3,623	314	11.5:1	41
	Total, revised	7,629	2,204	1,190	3,857	334	11.5:1	44

Notes: (a) Not Registered includes noncitizens, individuals who cannot be reasonably identified because of similarities of names and other identifying information, individuals who have moved, and individuals who are not registered. (b) Not Affiliated includes individuals who are registered but not officially associated with a party.

4. Incidentally, the day after Sean’s bringing the coverage error to our attention, we alerted readers to it [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

5. Seeing that the three minor party registrants found in Florida were to the Independent Party of Florida (described [here](#)), which we will treat as a left-oriented party, in this note we revise a statement made on page 426 of our original paper. The number of left minor-party registrants in the Psychology department of the University of Miami exceeds the number of Republicans (two versus one), and in the History departments of both schools the number of Republicans and the number of minor-party registrants are both zero, so now we say: In 74 departments (or, 41 percent) of the 180 departments investigated, the number of left minor-party registrants equals or exceeds the number of Republican registrants.

FACULTY VOTER REGISTRATION: CORRIGENDUM

TABLE A2. Not Registered and Not Affiliated rates by discipline

	N on look-up list	Democratic	Republican	D:R ratio	Minor-party	Not Affiliated	Not Registered
Economics	1,530	459 (30.0%)	103 (6.7%)	4.5:1	7 (0.4%)	291 (19.0%)	670 (43.8%)
History	1,917	1,088 (56.8%)	31 (1.6%)	35.1:1	11 (0.6%)	253 (13.2%)	534 (27.9%)
Journalism/ Communications	514	238 (46.3%)	13 (2.5%)	18.3:1	5 (1.0%)	96 (18.7%)	162 (31.5%)
Law	1,962	1,159 (59.1%)	134 (6.8%)	8.6:1	7 (0.3%)	268 (13.7%)	394 (20.1%)
Psychology	1,706	913 (53.5%)	53 (3.1%)	17.2:1	14 (0.8%)	282 (16.5%)	444 (26.0%)
Total	7,629	3,857 (50.6%)	334 (4.4%)	11.5:1	44 (0.6%)	1,190 (15.6%)	2,204 (28.9%)

Table A3 is the addendum to the original Table 3. Both of the Florida schools have all five disciplinary departments, so 10 departments are now added, making 180. From the bottom rows of Table A3, notice that the D:R ratio remains unchanged for both Economics and Law, goes up slightly for History, and goes down slightly for Journalism/Communications and Psychology.

TABLE A3. D:R ratios by institution and field (raw counts in parentheses)

	Economics	History	Journalism/ Comms.	Law	Psychology	Total	N of depts. w/ zero Rs
U. of Miami	0:3	16:0	10:1	7.2:1 (43:6)	28:1	8.8:1 (97:11)	1 of 5
U. of Florida	10:1	35:0	8:1	13:1 (52:4)	10.7:1 (32:3)	15.2:1 (137:9)	1 of 5
Original total (by individual)	4.5:1 (449:99)	33.5:1 (1,037:31)	20:1 (220:11)	8.6:1 (1,064:124)	17.4:1 (853:49)	11.5:1 (3,623:314)	66 of 170
New total (by individual)	4.5:1 (459:103)	35.1:1 (1,088:31)	18.3:1 (238:13)	8.6:1 (1,159:134)	17.2:1 (913:53)	11.5:1 (3,857:334)	68 of 180

The economics department of the University of Miami adds a wrinkle because it has zero Democrats and three Republicans. In addition to the four departments found previously—Pepperdine Economics, Pepperdine History, Pepperdine Law, and Ohio State Economics—we add University of Miami Economics: In five of the 180 departments investigated, or 2.8 percent, do Republicans outnumber Democrats.

Figure A2 is simply a handy display and replaces the original Figure 2. Figure A7 adds Florida as a region and replaces the original Figure 7.

Figure A2. D:R ratios in five fields

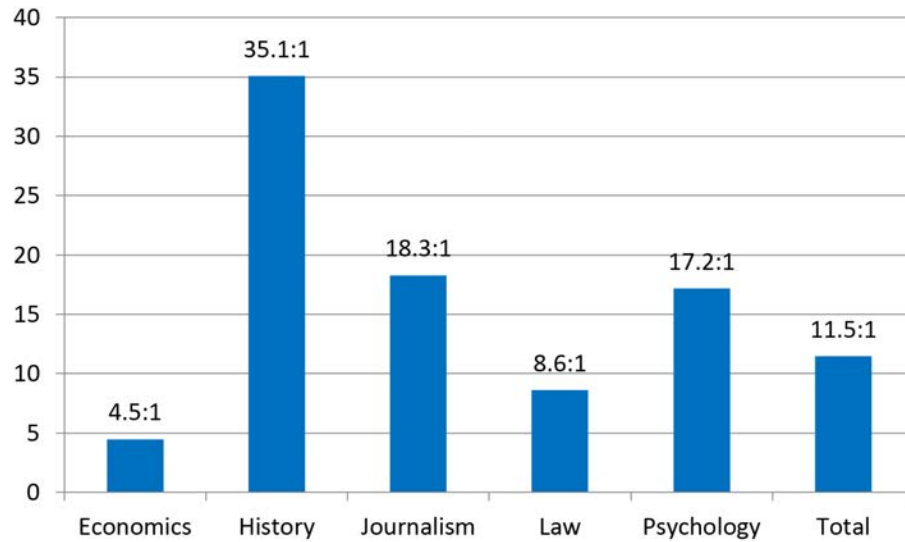
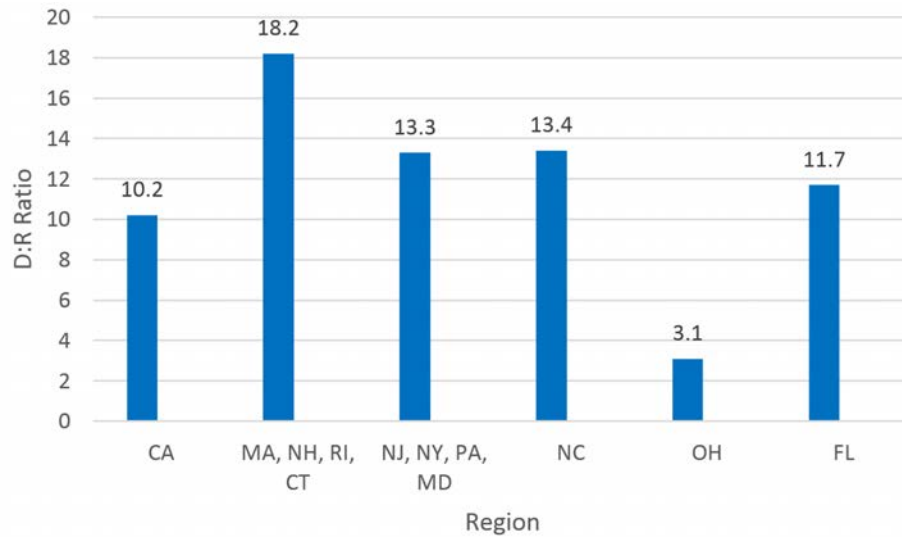


Figure A7. D:R ratios for six groups of states



Other results in the original paper—regarding D:R ratios in relation to gender, professor title and age, and prestige of the school—have not been redone. We presume that they would change little. Again, in the new grand set, Florida’s either-D-or-R faculty constitutes only 6.1 percent of that of faculty of all 42 schools.

References

- Langbert, Mitchell, Anthony J. Quain, and Daniel B. Klein.** 2016. Faculty Voter Registration in Economics, History, Journalism, Law, and Psychology. *Econ Journal Watch* 13(3): 422–451. [Link](#)
- Stevens, Sean T.** 2016. Langbert, Quain, & Klein: Faculty Voter Registration in Economics, History, Journalism, Law, and Psychology. *Heterodox Academy Blog* (Heterodox Academy, New York), December 14. [Link](#)
- U.S. News & World Report.** 2016. *Best Colleges: 2016 Edition*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. News & World Report L.P.

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