

Christopher Bilder

From: Caitlin Cloud
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 3:31 PM
To: Christopher Bilder
Subject: Budget Feedback Form Comments

Hi Chris,

I submitted the following via the Fall 2025 Budget Reduction Feedback Form and wanted to send you a copy. I tried to keep it relatively brief and reflective of my own experience so it might actually be read - but if there is more I can do in support of the department, I am happy to do so.

As a PhD student in another department, I am disheartened by the committee's recommendation to eliminate the Department of Statistics and I urge the committee to reconsider. The department plays an integral role in graduate-level education across disciplines. Elimination of the department means limiting enrollment options for students seeking to learn from statistics experts, while placing undue strain on the faculty who teach related coursework in applied disciplines. Further, the Department of Statistics actively supports the research interests of the university as a whole through direct instruction, extension, outreach, and consulting. For me, personally, the resources and support offered by the department have been indispensable as I work toward becoming an independent researcher in my field who is sufficiently versed in statistical analysis methods to conduct high-quality investigations. My work would not be as analytically rigorous without the guidance and teaching provided by the department, and I am certain this is true for other graduate students and faculty alike. UNL's research activity, ability to attain grant funding via a variety of mechanisms, graduate student recruitment, and graduate level education standards will be dramatically impacted if the committee chooses to eliminate the Department of Statistics.

Here's hoping they will thoughtfully consider the feedback they receive.

Caitlin

Caitlin Cloud, MA, CCC-SLP | she/her/hers

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I'm sending this email now as it is a time that works for me. Feel free to read or reply at a time that works for you. Please do not feel any pressure to respond outside of your normal working hours.