
Re: Budget Reduction: Protecting a Key Academic Strength: Dept of Statistics

From Tiffany Heng-Moss <thengmoss2@unl.edu>

Date Wed 9/17/2025 9:08 PM

To Mariana SaenzAyala <msayala@georgiasouthern.edu>

Cc Karen Griffin <kgriffin2@unl.edu>; Bhaskar Bhattacharya <bbhattacharya8@unl.edu>

Thank you for reaching out about the Department of Statistics. We appreciate you sharing your thoughts and concerns regarding the proposed elimination of the department.

Please remember that the public release of these reductions is just one step of the budget reduction process. At this point these are *recommendations only*—not final decisions.

The university has a formal process for reviewing and considering recommendations for program eliminations as a result of a significant budget reduction. This activity is led by the Academic Planning Committee, which will conduct hearings on the proposed reductions in October before making their recommendation to the Chancellor. That hearing process will provide an opportunity to hear from supporters like you. Details about this process are available at budgetprocess.unl.edu. You can submit feedback to the APC through the committee's online comment system, available here: [Fall 2025 Budget Reduction Information | Academic Planning Committee | Nebraska](#).

Thank you again for contacting us and for your support of Statistics at UNL.

Tiffany Heng-Moss, Ph.D.

Interim NU Vice President and Interim IANR Vice Chancellor

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"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." John Quincy Adams

From: Mariana SaenzAyala <msayala@georgiasouthern.edu>

Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 10:24 AM

To: Tiffany Heng-Moss <thengmoss2@unl.edu>

Subject: Budget Reduction: Protecting a Key Academic Strength: Dept of Statistics

Caution: Non-NU Email

Dear Interim Vice Chancellor Heng-Moss:

I am writing to share my perspective on the importance of the discipline of statistics, its critical role in workforce development, and the lasting impact the Department of Statistics has had on my professional path.

Statistics has been a cornerstone of my academic and professional growth. Pursuing a joint Ph.D. in Economics and Statistics gave me a deeper analytical foundation and sharper research skills than economics alone could provide. Because of this combined training, I entered the job market with a distinct advantage. Employers across sectors increasingly value candidates who can apply statistical reasoning to complex economic and policy questions, and this dual expertise opened opportunities that would not have been available otherwise.

Today, I serve as an external faculty member in a statistical consulting unit, even though my primary appointment is in a different college. This role allows me to collaborate across disciplines, demonstrating how statistical skills complement and enhance work in economics, business, the social sciences, and beyond.

From my experience, students who strengthen their analytical abilities through statistics are better prepared for the evolving workforce. The discipline fosters critical thinking, data literacy, and problem-solving—skills that are essential in research, industry, and government. When paired with fields like economics, these abilities create graduates who are adaptable and highly sought after.

Closing the Department of Statistics would be devastating to the university and to its ability to prepare students for data-driven careers. **I strongly urge you to reconsider any decision to eliminate this vital department, as its loss would weaken both the university's academic excellence and the career prospects of its students.**

I am deeply grateful to the Department of Statistics for its training, mentorship, and support. The program not only enriched my research capabilities but also broadened my career horizons, showing me how statistics empowers meaningful, evidence-based work.

Sincerely,

Mariana Saenz, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

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