
Re: Request to Reconsider the Elimination of Department of Statistics

From Paul Hermanto <paulus.hermanto@huskers.unl.edu>

Date Thu 9/18/2025 9:17 AM

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

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

Thank you for listening to our concerns. I really appreciate the opportunity for us to speak up and defend our department.

Regards,

Paulus Hermanto

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

Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2025 10:07:46 AM

To: Paul Hermanto <paulus.hermanto@huskers.unl.edu>

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

Subject: Re: Request to Reconsider the Elimination of Department of Statistics

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.
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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: Paul Hermanto <paulus.hermanto@huskers.unl.edu>
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 8:54 AM
To: Chancellor Bennett <chancellorbennett@unl.edu>, Tiffany Heng-Moss <thengmoss2@unl.edu>, Karen Griffin <kgriffin2@unl.edu>, Karen Griffin <kgriffin2@unl.edu>
Subject: Request to Reconsider the Elimination of Department of Statistics

Good Morning,

My name is Paulus Hermanto, I graduated with a Master's Degree in Statistics from UNL back in 2024. I wanted to write to all of you, distinguished members of the Academic Planning Committee, to kindly ask if you would reconsider the plan to eliminate the Department of Statistics. While I understand the budget shortfall could be helped by eliminating this department, I encourage you to re-think of what the Statistics Department is and what we do at the Department.

UNL is an R1 research land-grant university, which makes the presence of a standalone Department of Statistics even more essential (https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_research_universities_in_the_United_States). Our Department helps the research of many faculty and students. We help them produce top-quality research by using the right tools and methods of analysis. From research or study designs to the analysis stage, our door was always open to assist others needing help. These helps come in many forms: by teaching students and researchers about R and SAS, setting up consulting help for researchers from other departments, correcting the study designs of researchers so that research money is not wasted on bad or junk data. Without the Department of statistics, it is not only our people and/or our research that will suffer; but other departments' research (especially those that do not have a statistics experts deployed, as the plan would suggest) that will take a toll, as well as

UNL's standing as an R1 research.

We are also educating students to interpret data appropriately, make data-driven decisions and how to critically think and analyze real life problems using quantitative reasoning. These are skills that are needed for students at UNL which can mainly accomplished only by taking a statistics course. We are doing this for students' sake, to enable our future generation to be better-informed and for them to make better decisions for our future. When statistics is restrained to only a small number of expertise in niche fields, how do we expect the future generation to understand data, make decisions, and not buy into false information?

While I am sure that every other department on the chopping block is also defending their department relentlessly and is arguing as hard as we are, I hope you consider that the Statistics Department stands out among all the other departments on your list. The statistics department is the only department that fosters tools, research, and analysis, that will address emerging challenges in a data-rich world. Not to mention, the ever-growing fields like AI and Machine Learning that require a fundamental knowledge of Statistics and Data Science. Our department deserves better and we hope you recognize that.

Thank you for your time!

Paulus Hermanto