From: Ryan Lalicker <rlalicker2@huskers.unl.edu>
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 10:13 AM
To: Tiffany Heng-Moss <thengmoss2@unl.edu>
Cc: Ryan Lalicker <ryan.lalicker@gmail.com>
Subject: Statistics Department

Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss,

I am reaching out about the proposed elimination of the Department of Statistics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. As a recent graduate of UNL with a Masters of Science in Statistics, I cannot stress how strongly I disagree with this decision. I am not from Nebraska originally and did not consider moving here prior to receiving an offer from the statistics department. However, once I got to Lincoln I not only learned a lot but fell in love with the area. I was thrilled when I got a job as a data analyst in Omaha. My employers told me that I was hired specifically because of my experience in the statistics department.

While my time at UNL helped prepare me for my current field, I believe I would have been well-equipped to work in a variety of fields. One reason for this was my time working for the SC3L Help Desk, where my colleagues and I assisted with many different projects from other students and faculty. Nearly half of these projects were related to agriculture, and many involved models too complex to teach students in the introductory statistics courses that many graduate programs provide. I am in disbelief that a school that calls itself the Cornhuskers thinks it is a good idea to cut a program that will negatively impact agricultural research in this state.

I have never been surrounded by as many smart, caring, and hard-working people as I was in the Department of Statistics. Nearly all of these people, similar to myself, come from out of state, with many coming from out of the country. All of these people gave up their old lives to come be a part of UNL, the city of Lincoln, and the state of Nebraska. Without another program like ours in the state, they and future potential students will take their great talents elsewhere and contribute to the "brain drain" happening in Nebraska. I previously mentioned how much I love the area, but if this decision is finalized, I am concerned about the long-term outlook of the state and my future here.

I sincerely hope you and other university leaders reject this proposal. While I understand the university's financial situation, eliminating the Department of Statistics would hurt researchers in other fields at UNL, the agricultural industry which this state is dependent on, and would send a message that UNL is moving backwards and away from the coveted membership in the AAU while their Big Ten peers leave them behind academically.

Respectfully,

Ryan Lalicker

Class of 2025

University of Nebraska–Lincoln

M.S. in Statistics