College of Engineering & Physical Sciences
Faculty Request Proposal – Assistant Professor in Statistics
Rank #2 request

1. **Department:** Mathematics and Statistics

2. Proposed faculty rank: Assistant Professor in Statistics

3. a. Proposed maximum salary: $106,000
3. b. OSU Faculty Salary Survey salaries at the requested rank for these categories:

$111,135	National
$119,024	Tenure-Track/Tenured
$112,081	Doctoral Universities – Very High Research
$122,139	Region 1

4. OSU Faculty Salary Survey CIP code and associated discipline:
CIP code: 27.0500, Statistics

5. Proposed job description:
Teaching: 37.5% Research: 52.5% Service: 10%

6. Retirement/resignation history: List faculty lost to retirement or resignation over the past four years, along with rank. Provide brief explanations if desired.

- 2026:
  - Nathan Clements (Senior Lecturer) has communicated with the department head about his departure before December.
  - Craig Douglas (SER Professor of Math in High Performance Computing) has communicated with the department head about his retirement before December. The department has voted to nominate him for the emeritus status.
- 2024:
  - J. Flore (Assistant Lecturer) left for a position in Florida.
  - P. Zhong (Assistant Professor of Math in Analysis) left for a tenure-track position in Texas.
  - W. Webber (Senior Lecturer) retired.
  - D. Stanescu (Associate Professor in Math in High Performance Computing) retired.
- 2023:
  - Ken Gerow (Professor of Statistics) retired
- 2022:
  - A. Picorrelli (Associate Professor of Statistics) departed
- 2021:
  - H. Bessaih (Professor of Math in Analysis) left for a tenured position at FIU.
  - E. Quade (Associate Lecturer) left for an IT position at UW.
  - R. Rajapakshage (Data Science Postdoc funded on distance revenue). A one-year-only lecturer filling in for an omitted permanent search.

7. Hiring history: List faculty hired or gained by line transfer during the last four years, along with rank. Include joint hires, e.g., SoC, SER. Provide brief explanations if desired.

- 2026:
  - Luke Edholm (Assistant Professor of Math in Analysis): offer made
- 2025:
  - H. Aravinda (Assistant Lecturer)
  - K. Kyodianties (Assistant Lecturer)
  - K. Mamis (Assistant Professor in Applied Math)
- 2024:
  - P. Burton (Assistant Professor of Math in Analysis)
  - I. Holms Fay (Assistant Professor of Math in Analysis)
  - K. McClure (Assistant Professor of Statistics)
- 2023:
  - D. Taylor (Assistant Professor): 40% Math, 60% School of Computing. Teaching one course per year.
  - M. Tellier (Assistant Professor of Statistics)
- 2022:
  - C. Wiseman (Assistant Lecturer)

8. Estimated startup for this position: $190,000

9. Special considerations: List any special arrangements or issues for funding the position.

N/A

Justification (1 page). Describe programmatic needs met by the position, the contributions of the position to the CEPS strategic plan, relevance to the state, and contributions to the accreditation of department programs (if applicable). Also include 5-year enrollment and student credit hour trends, and the percentage of students taught outside of your unit. Commentary on how the position would be complementary to other college departments may also be useful.

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
SCH	19,528	18,136	17,124	17,789	22,500
Majors	158	132	124	118	124

Summary:

This is our # 2 faculty request for AY26-27. The addition of a tenure-track Statistics faculty member at the University of Wyoming is a strategic investment that will: 1. Stabilize teaching and research in an overburdened department, 2. Strengthen R1 competitiveness through enhanced grant activity and interdisciplinary collaboration, 3. Support Wyoming's economic diversification by training data scientists for growing tech industries, and 4. Elevate engineering and computational programs by ensuring rigorous statistical support for ABET-accredited curricula and cutting-edge research. Currently, there are only 4 tenure-track statistics faculty. This position is essential for UW's future—without it, the university risks falling behind peer institutions, compromising research productivity, and missing critical workforce development opportunities.

Stabilizes Teaching & Research in an Overburdened Department

Problems: 1. The department supports 2 statistics degree programs + ~1,000 annual students in intro stats, with unsustainable 3/2 or 2/2 teaching loads for R1 faculty. 2. Heavy reliance on adjuncts and graduate student instructors erodes instructional quality. 3. Research output has declined by 58% (2015–2022) due to teaching overloads and faculty attrition.
A new hire will: 1. Reduce teaching loads to 2/1, aligning with peer R1 standards.
2. Stabilize course offerings in statistical learning, big data, and applied statistics.
3. Restore research productivity by freeing faculty for grants/publications.
Risks of Inaction: 1. Continued brain drain of overworked faculty. 2. Further decline in rankings.

Strengthens UW's R1 Competitiveness & Interdisciplinary Research
Problems: 1. UW lags behind peers (e.g., CSU has 4× more stats faculty). 2. Limited statistical expertise hampers grant competitiveness (NSF/NIH/DOE require robust data analysis).
3. Faculty are forced to turn away graduate committees due to capacity constraints.
A statistician will: 1. Boost interdisciplinary grants (past collaborations generated $9M+ in funding). 2. Support PhD training in data science, climate modeling, energy systems, and bioinformatics—key areas for R1 growth. 3. Help establish a statistical consulting service for CEPS researchers.
Risks of Inaction: 1. Lost opportunities for high-impact collaborations. 2. Weakened graduate programs due to lack of mentorship.

Supports Wyoming's Economic Diversification & Workforce
Problems: 1. Wyoming ranks among the worst states for data talent despite 100% job placement for UW stats graduates. 2. Tech initiatives (WIP, School of Computing) lack sufficient statistical training pipelines. 3. Industries like energy, healthcare, and agriculture desperately need local data scientists.
Solution: A new hire will: 1. Expand industry-aligned courses (e.g., AI for energy, biostatistics for healthcare). 2. Partner with Wyoming Game & Fish, Western Ecosystems Tech, and startups. 3. Attract federal/state grants for applied research (e.g., wind farm optimization, precision ag). Risks of Inaction: 1. Tech diversification stalls due to talent shortages. 2. Graduates continue leaving Wyoming for better opportunities.

Elevates Engineering & Computational Programs
Problems: 1. ABET requires statistics in 6/7 UW engineering programs, but faculty lack dedicated support. 2. Emerging fields (AI, biomedicine, climate science) demand advanced statistical methods.
Solution: A hire will: 1. Secure ABET compliance by ensuring rigorous stats training. 2. Develop courses in reliability engineering, experimental design, and ML.
Risks of Inaction: 1. ABET accreditation vulnerabilities. 2. Engineering grads lack Industry skills.

We add that the CEPS 2030 plan included the request for additional stat faculty to meet our minimum needs.