ORIGINAL

The UAF Faculty Senate passed the following at Meeting #168, Sept. 13, 2010:

MOTION:

The UAF Faculty Senate moves to approve the elimination of the B.S. degree in Statistics.

EFFECTIVE: Fall 2011

RATIONALE: See the program proposal #99-UPCh. on file in the Governance Office, 314 Signers' Hall.

13 Sep 2010

President, UAF Faculty Senate Date

APPROVAL: _____ DATE: _____
Chancellor's Office

DISAPPROVED: _____ DATE: _____
Chancellor's Office

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A proposal to eliminate the B.S. program in Statistics has been submitted because of low enrollments. Changes proposed to makes statistics an option in the mathematics major have been approved. Statistics courses are largely service courses for other departments, so little impact is anticipated.

Elimination of Statistics B.S. Program

Over the past five years the number of students enrolled in the Statistics B.S. program been very small (fewer than 5) and the number of students graduating from the program has never been more than 2 or 3 in a year.

The B.S. program in Mathematics has a statistics option and we have submitted revisions to this program/option to accommodate students interested in statistics. The Statistics baccalaureate program was built upon existing service courses; the existing statistics option in the Mathematics B.S. program will continue to be offered using these courses. Enrollment in statistics courses remains strong at both the undergraduate and graduate level because these courses provide a service to other

departments or the Statistics M.S. program. Thus, we anticipate little impact on other programs, the personnel directly involved with the program, or the budget of the department. This change will allow the statistics faculty to dedicate a bit more of their effort to the much stronger M.S. program in Statistics which helps provide Biometricians for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Department of Interior, Wildlife Division. Currently 3 baccalaureate students are majored in Statistics. The M.S. program has 8 students enrolled. Undergraduate course enrollments in Statistics courses for Spring and Fall semesters 2008 - 2009 are given below (dashes indicate course not taught that semester).

	Spring 2008	Fall 2008	Spring 2009	Fall 2009
STAT F200	105	85	100	71
STAT F300	21	--	26	25
STAT F401	32	41	32	16
STAT F402	--	15	--	22
STAT F461	17	--	--	--

Students currently in the Statistics B.S. program will be allowed to complete their programs under the catalogs they are eligible to use or move to the old or newly proposed statistics option in the Mathematics program. Only one course change is being implemented that may impact such students; STAT 480, Senior Project, will be eliminated and replaced with STAT 454 Statistical Consulting Seminar in the newly proposed statistics option in the Mathematics program. Students wanting to complete a Senior Project rather than take STAT 454 will be given that option. We will keep the Senior Project in the catalog for the next 3 years to accommodate such students. There is no other statistics program available within the UA System so internal transfers are not an issue.

Background Information

The original instructional program request for the B.S. Degree in statistics is unavailable. The following description of the program and its goals is taken from the UAF course catalogue.

Statistics is a collection of methods and theories for making decisions or estimating unknown quantities from incomplete information. Statistical techniques are useful, for example, in estimation plant, animal and mineral abundances; forecasting social, political and economic trends; planning field plot experiments in agriculture; performing clinical trials in medical research; and maintaining quality control in industry. Employment opportunities are excellent for statisticians in many of these areas of application.

The curriculum for the B.S. degree program in statistics was developed using guidelines proposed by the American Statistical Association and provides graduates with a strong mathematics, computation and statistics background and integrates this with an area of application. The program allows considerable flexibility in the choice of the area of application by requiring a major in any area offered by UAF.

Although enrollment in undergraduate statistics courses is typically high, the number of students declaring the statistics major has remained low. There are currently three students seeking the B.S. degree in statistics. Over the past five years the number of students enrolled in the Statistics

B.S. program been very small (fewer than 5) and the number of students graduating from the program has never been more than 2 or 3 in a year.

The B.S. Degree in Statistics has no space requirements, nor any special personnel or support service costs.