Proposal to Washington State University Faculty Senate
Center for Interdisciplinary Statistical Education and Research (CISER)

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

The research community at Washington State University has a pressing need for improved access to statistical expertise. A perfect storm has been brewing at WSU, with research scientists and graduate students having insufficient statistical training at a time of heightened need, while there are a limited number of statistics faculty capable of providing assistance. WSU faculty with statistical skills are scattered across multiple academic units, limiting visibility, coordination, and professional growth. The Center for Interdisciplinary Statistical Education and Research (CISER) is being proposed by Professor Nairanjana Dasgupta (Mathematics and Statistics), Associate Professor Dave Brown (Crop and Soil Sciences), and Professor Marc Evans (Mathematics and Statistics) to address these growing issues. The proposed center would build and maintain a vibrant statistics community, create new interdisciplinary research opportunities, provide a variety of opportunities for statistical education beyond standard course offerings, and enhance the image of WSU as it strives to grow as an R1 university. None of these goals are fully attainable without center status granted by the Faculty Senate. (Please note: The term "Consortium" will be used throughout this proposal to indicate current and ongoing activities that will lead up to center status for CISER.)

As proposed, CISER will contribute to university research, service and education. The primary service goal of CISER will be to build a broad statistical community at WSU, comprised of faculty and graduate students holding or pursuing graduate degrees in statistics as well as researchers from diverse disciplines with an interest in statistical methods. Drawing from this statistical community, CISER will facilitate greater involvement of researchers having statistical expertise on competitive proposals, funded projects, and peer-reviewed publications. Finally, CISER will contribute to the education of graduate students and faculty through focused short courses and through individual engaged learning work with CISER statisticians. The funds for the Consortium's limited activities are currently controlled through the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. If CISER becomes a center, those funds would be controlled by CISER, removing impacts on personnel and resources allocated to the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

The proposed center would provide a number of benefits to students, faculty, and WSU at large.

Faculty benefits include:

- Expanded opportunities for interdisciplinary, collaborative research through CISER-facilitated grant proposals and publications;
- Improved understanding of statistical techniques through regular interaction among Affiliated Faculty, CISER statisticians, and invited speakers;
- Compensation for delivering short courses related to a faculty's areas of statistical expertise;
- Professional development opportunities supported by discretionary CISER funds.

Student benefits include:

- Access to professional statisticians for research-relevant statistical learning;
- Short courses for targeted training in specific statistical techniques and software;
- Professional development for graduate students employed by CISER.

University wide benefits include:

- Improved graduate student training in statistics;
- More competitive grant proposals;
- Increased extramural research funds;
- More and higher quality publications in peer reviewed journals;
- Optimum utilization of existing statistical expertise at WSU;
- Institution-wide review of course offerings in statistics.

A primary goal of the proposed center will be the building of a broad statistics community at WSU, providing a home for all faculty interested in furthering their statistical expertise and engagement. All CISER activities and interactions will be recorded, compiled, and tracked in order to optimize CISER's benefits to the University, CISER members, and CISER itself.

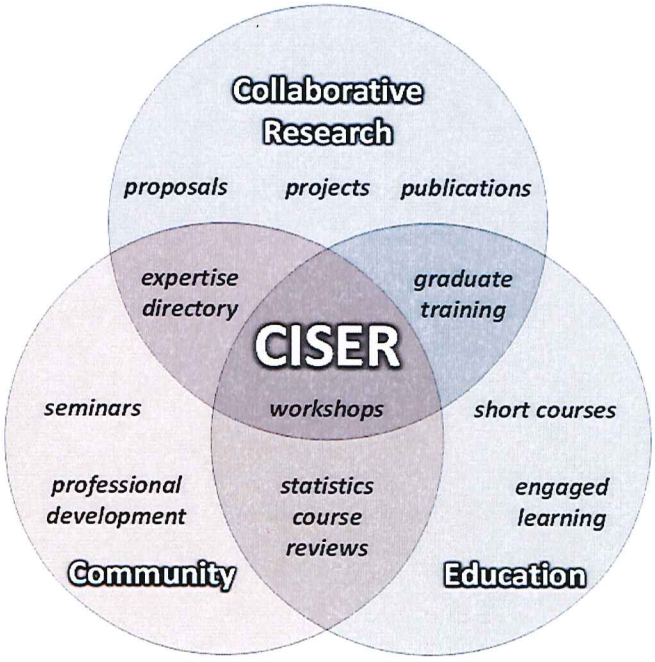
INFRASTRUCTURE

Mission, Purpose, and Goals

The proposed center's mission is to expand education and research involving proper statistical methodology, build a strong and vibrant statistical community, and ensure that statistical knowledge across all of WSU's locations and departments can be utilized effectively and efficiently. CISER's goal will be to implement the benefits outlined in the following graph.

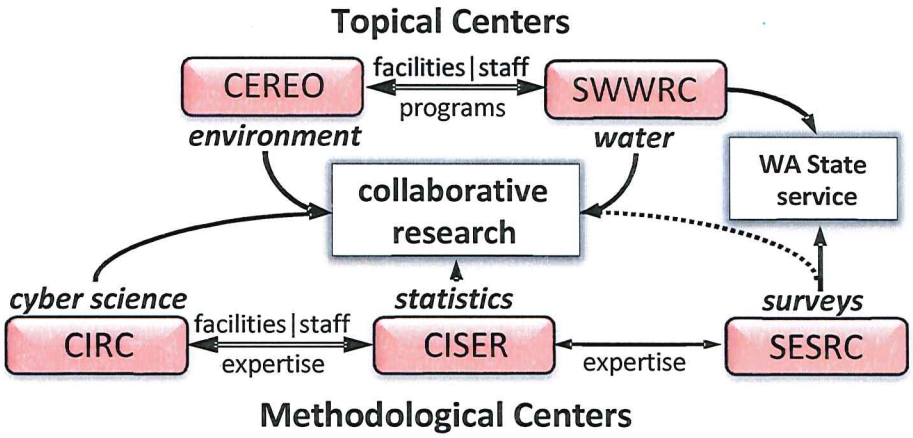
COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

The proposed research activities are explicitly modeled after the Center for Environmental Research, Education, and Outreach (CEREO). CISER will not lead most collaborative grant proposals and peer-reviewed papers, instead CISER faculty and staff would collaborate to improve the quality of any proposals and papers. Over 50 faculty members across multiple campuses, colleges, and departments have indicated their interest in joining CISER as Affiliated Faculty and are interested in working with CISER (see appendix A). The Consortium is in the process of building an online database of Affiliated Faculty with their areas of statistical and non-statistical expertise.



CISER will use this database to connect researchers with CISER Affiliated Faculty, thus facilitating collaborative and interdisciplinary research. CISER staff will monitor all collaborative agreements to ensure that statistical research contributions are recognized through co-PI status, funding, and co-authorship. Involvement of CISER staff and Affiliated Faculty in papers and extramural grant proposals that require substantial statistical expertise would be encouraged, tracked, and quantified.

CISER also anticipates opportunities for interactions with other centers and units through CISER's efforts to increase collaborative research. The State of Washington Water Research Center (SWWRC), the Social & Economic Sciences Research Center (SESRC), CEREO, and CISER can all work together for mutual benefit and the furtherance of research goals at WSU. CISER can also work closely with the proposed Center for Institutional Research Computing (CIRC) and share resources in order to maximize efficient use of University facilities, equipment, and technical staff.



EDUCATION

Subscribed faculty and graduate students will have the opportunity to improve their understanding of statistical methods by working closely with CISER statisticians on problems related to their research. CISER statisticians will work with graduate students enrolled in STAT 590 (Statistical Consulting Practicum) and expose them to real world statistical problems as a means to advance their education and training as professional statisticians. Lastly, CISER staff and Affiliated Faculty members will offer fee-based short courses in statistical areas of high interest and need.

COMMUNITY

In order to facilitate a broad and vibrant statistics community, CISER will maintain a website to highlight important statistical activities, events, and accomplishments. It will also host a seminar series for the larger WSU statistics community and sponsor workshops to advance community expertise and stimulate collaboration within WSU and external professional societies. CISER staff will work to enhance the community by reaching out to faculty through new employee orientation events and talks delivered to diverse academic units.

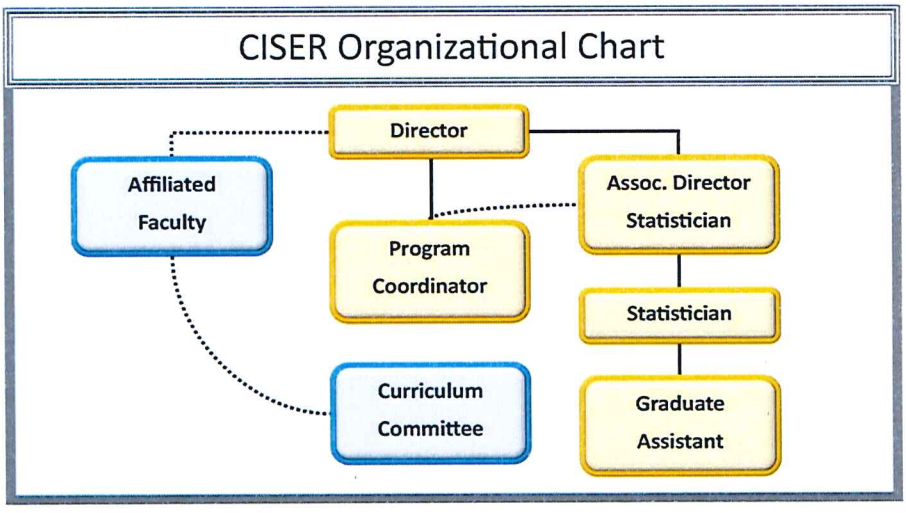
The Consortium recently held an open forum for all parties interested in helping to shape CISER's future. Over 50 staff and faculty attended and provided important feedback. Many of their ideas and concerns have helped shape this proposal. CISER will continue to elicit feedback from the greater WSU community and use this information to build a better research community at WSU.

Review and Assessment

As a center focused on statistics, it is imperative that CISER collect and maintain data on CISER related activities. CISER will keep precise and complete records on all activities to ensure that CISER continues to advance its goals along all three areas of focus. As a center, CISER will survey participating graduate students to evaluate graduate training needs and impacts. Time spent on statistical tutoring and assistance will be tracked to ensure CISER is meeting its educational goals. A database of interactions among Affiliated Faculty and CISER staff as they relate to research and grant opportunities facilitated by CISER will be maintained to ensure CISER reaches its research goals. To that end, the proposed center will also track all publications authored with CISER's assistance. Periodic surveys sent out to Affiliated Faculty members as well as any individuals who have participated in any community building activities will ensure that CISER meets its goal of enhancing the statistical community.

Administration & Membership

At full implementation, CISER would include a Director, Associate Director/Statistician, Statistician, Statistical Graduate Assistants, Affiliated Faculty, and a Program Coordinator. The following diagram outlines the planned structure of CISER when fully staffed.



DIRECTOR

The Director will be a WSU faculty member, preferably tenured in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. The Director will be responsible for overall CISER leadership, promotion of interdisciplinary statistical education and research at WSU, recruitment of Affiliated Faculty, staff hiring, and expansion of the WSU research profile through greater use of available statistical expertise.

The Director of CISER will initially be chosen by the Deans of CAHNRS and CAS. Reassessment on the Director position will be performed by a committee made up of the Deans of CAHNRS and CAS along with a select group of Affiliated Faculty chosen with input from all Affiliated Faculty. The Director will be reassessed every 4 years or as need arises. The Director will be an individual who has a firm grasp of statistical methods and a strong skillset in group administration.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR/STATISTICIAN

The Associate Director/Statistician will be Clinical Faculty (MS or PhD in Statistics). The Associate Director will be responsible for training graduate students, assisting with routine statistical research problems, and mentoring any Graduate Assistants. The Associate Director will assume primary responsibility for day-to-day center and work load management.

STATISTICIAN

The Statistician will be Clinical Faculty (MS or PhD in Statistics). The statistician will be responsible for assisting graduate students and faculty on routine statistical problems and mentoring Graduate Assistants.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The Program Coordinator will be responsible for scheduling appointments, maintaining CISER financial accounting, building and maintaining a database of CISER supported research and interactions, assisting with the preparation and submission of proposals, and assisting with the planning and execution of CISER run meetings.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

CISER will hire statistically trained Graduate Assistants (preferably having completed coursework for an MS or PhD in Statistics) to work with graduate students from disciplines outside of statistics.

AFFILIATED FACULTY

Affiliated Faculty membership is open to any individual with an interest in interdisciplinary, collaborative research that involves statistical methods and/or analysis. This will ensure a broad collection of faculty members with varied interests and areas of expertise. CISER currently maintains an online list of Affiliated Faculty's expertise, which will be used to refer WSU researchers to appropriate Affiliated Faculty.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

The Curriculum Committee will be comprised of the CISER Director (chair) and three Affiliated Faculty elected for 3-year terms by all Affiliated Faculty. The curriculum committee, with input from other Affiliated Faculty, will regularly review existing statistics-focused WSU courses in any academic unit for rigor and institutional redundancy. The Curriculum Committee will facilitate the development and

review of new statistics-focused courses, promoting institutional consistency and synergies in statistics course offerings. Approved courses along with a syllabus, prerequisites, and key topics covered will be listed on the CISER website to help students find relevant statistics courses that meet their needs. Faculty who teach CISER approved statistics courses will automatically be designated as Affiliated Faculty and will be expected to contribute to statistics curriculum and course reviews.

Current Faculty Members

The formation of CISER is directly supported by the following core faculty members:
(Vitae for these members are included)
Nairanjana Dasgupta: Mathematics and Statistics, CAS, Pullman
Dave Brown: Crop and Soil Sciences, CAHNRS, Pullman
Marc Evans: Mathematics and Statistics, CAS, Pullman

Over 50 WSU faculty have expressed a desire to join CISER as Affiliated Faculty. This list is growing, and spans 21 departments from 9 different colleges across 4 of WSU's locations.
A list of CISER Affiliated Faculty can be found in Appendix A.

Location

While the proposed center would be primarily located on the Pullman campus, it is clear that the need for CISER extends to faculty and graduate students located at all campuses (Pullman, Spokane, Tri-Cities, Everett, and Vancouver) and the Research & Extension centers. The following steps will be taken to engage faculty and graduate students located across the entire WSU system:

- All academics units, regardless of faculty member location, can subscribe for membership in CISER. Faculty and graduate students not located in Pullman can participate in engaged learning activities via online collaboration tools.
- Faculty with statistical expertise who are not located in Pullman will be encouraged to become Affiliated Faculty, and will be able to participate in community building events and research collaborations through tools like WECN and GoToMeeting, as well as through CISER-funded travel.
- With additional investment from urban campuses (Spokane, Tri-Cities, Everett, and Vancouver) CISER can place statisticians at those campuses for in-person engagement.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

Core Support

Core support for the center would be provided by a joint effort from the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) and the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS). Certain Consortium related staff will transition into the proposed center after approval. Core annual support will be used to establish permanent budget line funding for staff positions that transition to the center. Transitioned positions include the Program Coordinator and the Associate Director/Statistician, who will expand their current duties to include the expanded center mission statement. If the center is not approved, those staff will continue to work on CISER under its Consortium mission statement and continue to serve the needs of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Core support is also being used for startup costs. More detailed budgetary information can be found in Appendix B.

WSU Core Support for CISER – Annual Costs

Item	$ Annual
Phase I - CISER Baseline (CAHNRS-CAS)	
Director, Associate Director/Statistician & 0.5 Program Coordinator	133,592
Phase II – Expanded Center (dependent upon funding)	
Statistician (12 month)	78,558
Total for Phase I and Phase II:	**212,150**

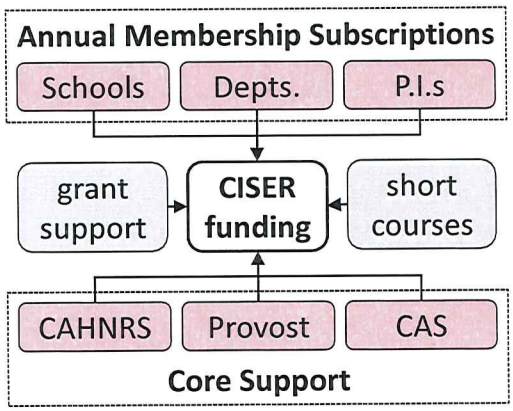
The Consortium currently has office space in Abelson 221 for the Program Coordinator and the Associate Director. It also has access to Abelson 213 as a dedicated meeting space. If accepted as a center, CISER will create learning stations in Abelson 213 that can be furnished with CISER computers. Any additional space needed for staff will be sought out as CISER progresses and expands to Phase II.

One time startup costs of $17,000 have already been committed by CAS and CAHNRS. Current consortium equipment and startup funds will be transferred to the control of the center once it is established. Current equipment includes one computer and printer, a phone, three desks/tables, and a number of chairs.

CISER's plan is to work closely with the proposed Center for Institutional Research Computing (CIRC), which would focus on development of a system-wide extramural program in high performance scientific modeling and cyber science. CISER and CIRC have many similarities which can lead to a potential synergistic relationship. We recommend the two centers share facilities, equipment, and key staff where possible in order to fulfill the goals of both organizations while minimizing impact on University funds.

Additional Funding

After establishment as a center, additional funding for the expansion phase would be generated by CISER through annual subscriptions from academic units, fee-based short courses, and extramural grants (direct and indirect costs). CISER generated funds will be used for graduate research assistant support and operating expenses.



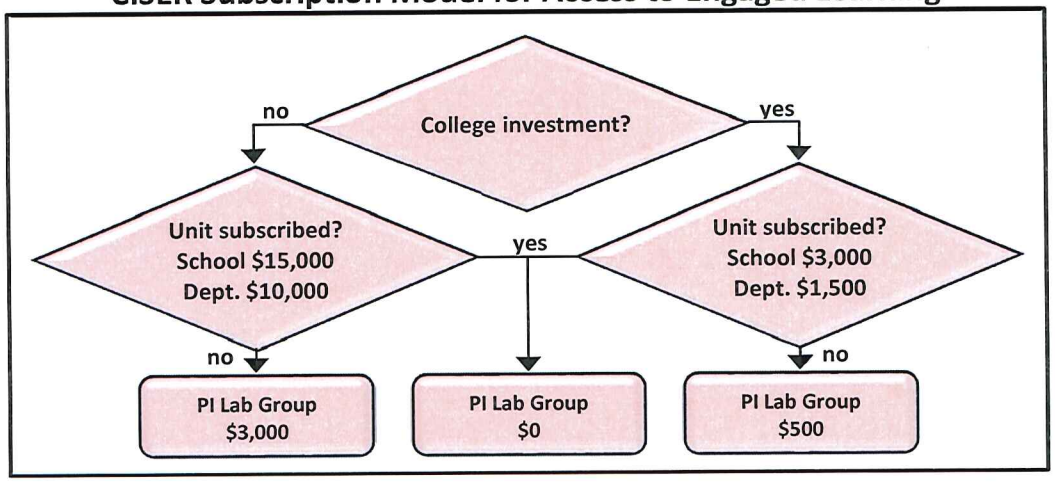
Goals for CISER-generated funds for GRA support and operating expenses.

Item	$ Annual
CAHNRS & CAS unit subscriptions	25,000
Other unit subscriptions	10,000
Grants – Indirect returns (7%)	15,000
Grants – Direct (staff & GRAs only)	100,000
Short courses	20,000
Total	**170,000**

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Following a model successfully employed at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the center will require an annual subscription fee for WSU academic units to gain unlimited access to CISER computing facilities, statisticians and Graduate Assistants. The annual fee structure will be negotiated depending upon the need and the size of a unit. As CAS and CAHNRS provide core funding, there will be a fee reduction for units in these colleges. Initially, annual fees will be set at the following levels:

CISER Subscription Model for Access to Engaged Learning



FEE-BASED SHORT COURSES

The proposed center's short courses will be priced based on length and complexity. Fees will be divided between CISER and the faculty member teaching the course.

EXTRAMURAL GRANTS

Center statistician time can be directly budgeted in extramural grants, with core salary support redirected to the Graduate Assistant hires. CISER hopes to lead on at least $300k/year of extramural grant funding, primarily through training and capacity building grants. Washington State University federal grant expenditures exceed $300 million per annum. At least one quarter of these projects could benefit from CISER expertise. Even if CISER contributed to only 1% of these projects, that would yield over $3 million per annum in extramural funding to CISER staff, graduate students, and faculty members with statistical expertise.

UNIVERSITY ENDORSEMENT

Evidence of Approval and Supporting Letters from the following members are included in the submission.

- Dean Andrefsky
- Dean DeWald
- Dean Mittelhammer
- VPR Keane
- Professor Brown
- Professor Dasgupta
- Professor Evans

APPENDIX A: Affiliated Faculty

As of 8/1/2015:

- Allison, Donald: Biological Sciences, CAS, Pullman
- Besser, Tom: Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology, VetMed, Pullman
- Brown, Dave: Crop and Soil Sciences, CAHNRS, Pullman
- Brunner, Jesse: Biological Sciences, CAS, Pullman
- Call, Doug: Global Animal Health, VetMed, Pullman
- Carter, Pat: Biological Sciences, CAS, Pullman
- Clowers, Brian: Chemistry, CAS, Pullman
- Cook, Diane: Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, VCEA, Pullman
- Cooper, Kevin: Mathematics, CAS, Pullman
- Crowder, Dave: Entomology, CAHNRS, Pullman
- Daratha, Kenn: Nursing, Nursing, Spokane
- Dasgupta, Nairanjana: Mathematics, CAS, Pullman
- Dimitrov, Alex: Mathematics, CAS, Vancouver
- Doppa, Jana: Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, VCEA, Pullman
- Evans, Marc: Mathematics, CAS, Pullman
- Fotopolous, Stergios: Finance and Management Sciences, Business, Pullman
- French, Brian: Educational Leadership, Sport Studies, and Educational/Counseling Psycology, Education, Pullman
- Gang, David: Institute of Biological Chemistry, CAHNRS, Pullman
- Genz, Alan: Mathematics, CAS, Pullman
- Givens, Jennifer: Sociology, CAS, Pullman
- Hampton, Stephanie: Environment, CAS, Pullman
- Holder, Larry (Lawrence): Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, VCEA, Pullman
- Jandhyala, Krishna: Mathematics, CAS, Pullman
- Joireman, Jeffrey: Marketing and International Business, Business, Pullman
- Kalyanaraman, Ananth: Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, VCEA, Pullman
- Kane, Stephanie: Institutional Research, IR, Pullman
- Krishnamoorthy, Bala: Mathematics, CAS, Vancouver
- Lapin, Sergey: Mathematics, CAS, Pullman
- Main, Dorrie: Horticulture, CAHNRS, Pullman
- McGuire, Shelley: Biological Sciences, CAS, Pullman
- McPherson, Sterling: Nursing, Nursing, Spokane
- Mittelhammer, Ron: Economic Sciences, CAHNRS, Pullman
- Munson, Chuck: Finance and Management Sciences, Business, Pullman
- New, Leslie: Mathematics, CAS, Vancouver
- Panchenko, Alex: Mathematics, CAS, Pullman
- Peixoto, Lucia: Medical Sciences, Spokane
- Pascual, Jave: Mathematics, CAS, Pullman

- σ Resat, Haluk: Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, VCEA, Pullman
- σ Roth McDuffie, Amy: Teaching and Learning, Education, Tri-Cities
- σ Sischo, Bill: Global Animal Health, VetMed, Pullman
- σ Sprott, Dave: Marketing, Business, Pullman
- σ Strigul, Nikolay: Mathematics, CAS, Vancouver
- σ Swanson, Mark: Environment, CAS, Pullman
- σ Taylor, Matt: Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, VCEA, Pullman
- σ Trevisan, Mike: Education, Education, Pullman
- σ Tsatsomeros, Mike: Mathematics, CAS, Pullman
- σ Van Dongen, Hans: Sleep and Performance Research Center, CMS, Spokane
- σ Wang, Xueying: Mathematics, CAS, Pullman
- σ Yoder, Jonathan: Economic Sciences, CAHNRS, Pullman
- σ Zhang, Zhiwu: Crop and Soil Sciences, CAHNRS, Pullman
- σ Broschat, Shira: Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, VCEA, Pullman
- σ Campbell, Kimberly: Crop and Soil Sciences, CAHNRS, Pullman
- σ Govindan, Byju: Biological Systems Engineering, CAHNRS, Pullman
- σ Dong, Hongbo: Mathematics, CAS, Pullman

APPENDIX B: Detailed Support Budgets

Phase I: CISER startup

SALARIES (FACULTY, A/P, CLASSIFIED STAFF, GRADUATE STUDENT)								
Name/Title	Monthly Salary	Annual Salary	Annual Salary Inflation	Months Per Yr.	FTE	Benefits Rate		Annual Expense
Director (Summer)	$ 10,000	$ 120,000	4.00%	1.00	100.0%	22.60%	Salary	10,000
							Benefits	2,260
Associate Director/Statistician	$ 5,833	$ 70,000	4.00%	12.00	100.%	28.38%	Salary	70,000
							Benefits	19,866
Program Coordinator	$ 3,333	$ 40,000	4.00%	12.00	50.0%	57.33%	Salary	20,000
							Benefits	11,466
							TOTAL SALARIES	100,000
							TOTAL BENEFITS	33,592

GOODS/SERVICES		
Community building events		3,000
Office equipment		2,000
Computers and software		8,000
	TOTAL GOODS/SERVICES	13,000

TRAVEL		
CISER promotion		2,000
Clinical faculty search		2,000
	TOTAL TRAVEL	4,000
	TOTAL FUNDING	150,592

Phase II: Expanded Center for full-campus participation

SALARIES (FACULTY, A/P, CLASSIFIED STAFF, GRADUATE STUDENT)								
Name/Title	Monthly Salary	Annual Salary	Annual Salary Inflation	Months Per Yr.	FTE	Benefits Rate		Annual Expense
Director (Summer)	$ 10,000	$ 120,000	4.00%	1.00	100.0%	22.60%	Salary	10,000
							Benefits	2,260
Associate Director /Statistician	$ 5,833	$ 70,000	4.00%	12.00	100.%	28.38%	Salary	70,000
							Benefits	19,866
Statistician	$ 5,000	$ 60,000	4.00%	12.00	100.%	28.38%	Salary	60,000
							Benefits	18,558
Program Coordinator	$ 3,333	$ 40,000	4.00%	12.00	50.0%	57.33%	Salary	20,000
							Benefits	11,466
							TOTAL SALARIES	160,000
							TOTAL BENEFITS	52,150
							TOTAL FUNDING	212,150

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate School

Memorandum

To: Whom It May Concern
From: William Andrefsky, Dean, Graduate School
Date: April 10, 2015
Subject: CISER at WSU

I have been asked to provide a letter of support for the development of the Center for Interdisciplinary Statistic Education and Research (CISER). I do so without hesitation as I believe that such an entity at this institution will benefit research, faculty funding, institutional capacity and most important to me, graduate student training and research enhancement.

CISER is planning to provide development opportunities to WSU faculty affiliated with this center. I believe this is important. However, CISER will also provide faculty with an expanded understanding of statistical techniques and greater opportunity for interdisciplinary scholarship. Graduate students stand to gain from this center through interaction with WSU affiliated faculty and visiting faculty who may provide short training workshops and courses. More importantly, graduate students can obtain individual mentorship for specific projects and research activities from faculty and peers affiliated with CISER.

I fully support the CISER initiative and feel such a center can only benefit this institution.

PO Box 641030, Pullman, WA 99164-1030
509-335-6424 • Fax: 509-335-1949 • gradsch.wsu.edu

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY | *Office of* Research

MEMORANDUM

TO: WSU Faculty Senate

FROM: Dr. Christopher Keane, Vice President for Research

DATE: July 30, 2015

SUBJECT: Proposed Center for Interdisciplinary Statistical Education and Research (CISER)

Dear Faculty Senate colleagues,

I am writing in support of the proposed Center for Interdisciplinary Statistical Education and Research (CISER) at Washington State University (WSU).

CISER will provide WSU with an excellent opportunity to bring together faculty with statistics knowledge in various disciplines. In bringing together faculty from across disciplines, the proposed center will encourage interdepartmental collaboration and increase the amount of interdisciplinary research opportunities. Such collaboration will lead to higher-quality publications in more prestigious journals, stronger grant proposals, and better research.

The goals of CISER have the potential to further WSU's research agenda. CISER will provide faculty members with more interdisciplinary opportunities, improved understanding of statistical techniques through interactions with affiliate faculty, CISER statisticians, and invited speakers, as well as give them CISER-supported professional development opportunities. Students will benefit from having access to highly skilled statisticians and short courses designed for targeted training in specific statistical techniques and software. CISER will provide a platform for Institution-wide coordination of course offerings in statistics, allowing for improvement in graduate student training in statistics.

In the interest of the above benefits that CISER would provide to WSU, I would like to express my strong and enthusiastic support for the establishment of the Center for Interdisciplinary Statistical Education and Research. Thank you.

PO Box 646525, Pullman, WA 99164-6525
509-335-1517 | Fax: 509-335-5515 | research@wsu.edu | officeofresearch.wsu.edu

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Crop and Soil Sciences

Memorandum

To: WSU Faculty Senate
From: David J. Brown (Associate Professor, Dept. of Crop and Soil Sciences)
Date: 7/23/2015
Subject: Proposed Center for Interdisciplinary Statistical Education and Research (CISER)

Dear Faculty Senate colleagues,

I am writing in support of the proposed Center for Interdisciplinary Statistical Education and Research (CISER) at Washington State University.

At present, faculty with statistics expertise are scattered across multiple colleges and departments. There is no place for graduate students and faculty to go for statistical guidance needed for their research. And relative to most land grant universities, WSU has fallen behind in the use of advanced statistical methods in research.

While CISER can't solve all of the university's problems in this area, creating a center to act as a focal point for applied interdisciplinary statistics on campus will help the university make the most of existing statistical expertise. CISER will help build a stronger statistics community at WSU, contribute to better proposals and papers, and provide graduate students with much needed statistical training through short courses and engaged learning with professional statisticians.

The impact of CISER on our University will be positive and far reading. The proposed center will increase interaction across departments and colleges, promote better coordination in statistically oriented course offerings, and facilitate more collaborative research.
I was one of three faculty who developed the initial proposal for CISER, working in consultation with Dean's Mittelhammer and DeWald. I'm committed to maintaining an active involvement in CISER going forward, serving on CISER committees, collaborating on proposals facilitated by CISER, and assisting the director and CISER statisticians when needed.

I wish to convey to the Faculty Senate my enthusiastic support for the establishment of the Center for Interdisciplinary Statistical Education and Research.

David J. Brown

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WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

College of
Arts and Sciences

MEMORANDUM

TO: WSU Faculty Senate

FROM: Daryll B. DeWald, Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

DATE: July 27, 2015

SUBJECT: Proposed Center for Interdisciplinary Statistical Education and Research

Dear Faculty Senate colleagues:

I am writing in support of the proposed Center for Interdisciplinary Statistical Education and Research (CISER) at Washington State University.

CISER represents an exciting opportunity to improve access to statistics knowledge, raise the level of statistical rigor in research and publications, and create a vibrant statistics community. CISER's goals are well aligned with WSU's and its emphasis on inclusiveness will ensure that its benefits can be accessed by all faculty and students, regardless of department or location.

The proposed center will help to concentrate expertise currently dispersed throughout the WSU system and help foster new interdisciplinary research opportunities. Grant proposals, publications, and research can all be enhanced with improved access to the statistical expertise that CISER will provide. Statistical support will also be provided via engaged learning to our graduate students in order to fill knowledge gaps and help them produce higher quality research.

The impact of CISER on our University will be positive and meaningful. The proposed center will increase interaction across departments and colleges enabling new relationships, resulting in more collaborative research.

In light of the above benefits, I wish to convey to the Faculty Senate my emphatic support for the establishment of the Center for Interdisciplinary Statistical Education and Research.

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WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Mathematics

May 14, 2015

Faculty Senate
P.O. Box 1038
Washington State University
Pullman, WA 99164-1038

Members of the Faculty Senate:

I, Marc Evans, strongly support the creation of the Center for Interdisciplinary Statistical Education and Research (CISER) at Washington State University. For the past six years, there has been no organized statistical assistance at WSU. This has led to a reduction in graduate research, and hence, research in general at WSU. CISER will fill several gaps in statistics education and interdisciplinary research. These gaps will be filled by offering personalized graduate research education and by coordinating statistical expertise with researchers from across the WSU system. I whole-heartedly support the creation of CISER and ask the WSU Faculty Senate to do the same.

Marc Evans,

Marc Evans

Professor of Statistics
Department of Mathematics

PO Box 643113, Pullman, WA 99164-3113
509-335-3926 • Fax: 509-335-1188 • www.math.wsu.edu

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Mathematics

Memorandum

To: WSU Faculty Senate
From: Nairanjana Dasgupta Nairanjana Dasgupta
Date: July 21 2015
Subject: Proposed Center for Interdisciplinary Statistical Education and Research (CISER)

Dear Faculty Senate colleagues,

I am writing in support of the proposed Center for Interdisciplinary Statistical Education and Research (CISER) at Washington State University.

CISER represents an exciting opportunity to improve access to statistics knowledge, raise the level of statistical rigor in research and publications, and create a vibrant statistics community. CISER's goals are well aligned with WSU's and its emphasis on inclusiveness will ensure that its benefits can be accessed by all faculty and students, regardless of department or location.

The proposed center will help to concentrate expertise currently dispersed throughout the WSU system and help foster new interdisciplinary research opportunities. Grant proposals, publications and research can all be enhanced with improved access to the statistical expertise that CISER will provide. Statistical support will also be provided via engaged learning to our graduate students in order to fill knowledge gaps and help them produce higher quality research.

The impact of CISER on our University will be positive and meaningful. The proposed center will increase interaction across departments and colleges, enabling new relationships and resulting in more collaborative research.

In light of the above benefits, I wish to convey to the Faculty Senate my emphatic support for the establishment of the Center for Interdisciplinary Statistical Education and Research. I really believe that this will be an excellent way to encourage interdisciplinary research and community building at WSU.

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WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences
Office of the Dean

MEMORANDUM

TO: WSU Faculty Senate

FROM: Ron C. Mittelhammer
Dean, CAHNRS

DATE: April 30, 2015

SUBJECT: Faculty Senate Review of Consortium (proposed Center) for Interdisciplinary Statistical Education and Research (CISER)

CISER will play an important role in achieving the mission of the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS), the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), and in fact all colleges whose faculty and students utilize modern statistical techniques in their research endeavors. The Consortium's primary goals are to support access to statistical expertise that enhances statistical education at WSU, train graduate students in the appropriate use of statistical methods, enhance the quality of statistical analyses in WSU publications, facilitate statistical collaborations on external grant proposals, and facilitate interdisciplinary, collaborative statistical research.

CISER will be uniquely positioned to draw upon the expertise of leading faculty from various disciplines to implement an institution-wide coordination matching statistical expertise with research needs, helping to coordinate statistical course offerings across a wide array of departments and schools at WSU, and stimulate interaction, learning and professional growth in applied statistics to fulfill its goal of improving the statistical expertise at WSU, also supporting a goal of becoming more of an AAU-like research institution. To achieve this goal, CISER strives to:

- Hire appropriate knowledgeable statisticians
- Build a statistics community of faculty throughout WSU
- Educate by offering engaged statistical learning
- Research engagement modeled after the highly successful CEREO unit
- Engage urban campuses, research and Extension (R&E) Centers
- Start as a consortium, develop into a center, and expand as funding increases

CISER will collaborate and complement existing methodological and topical centers at WSU by providing shared expertise, support staff and facilities. We see it benefiting our college and the university more generally by providing joint seminars, workshops, and social and networking activities along with generating extramural funding.

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As part of the College's and university prioritization process, and as a result of efforts to continually modify our programs to meet university needs, it is expected that CISER will expand in scope to support a wide array of scientists in achieving a better understanding of statistical methods; provide applied statistical research support; give central coordination to statistically oriented faculty and courses across a range of WSU units; and assist graduate students and faculty in locating the statistical expertise they require to advance their training and research. This engagement will also provide the auxiliary benefit of enhancing competitiveness in grant proposals and ultimately increase extramural research funds.

I have fully supported CISER from the development stage through its initial manifestation and will continue to be available to assist in any way necessary to make this a successful future Center. I enthusiastically support the interdisciplinary statistical efforts that CISER will bring to CAHNRS, CAS, and the university, and recommend approval of CISER by the Faculty Senate.