

Hi Becky

Below are my responses to the questions you posed in your recent email

1. The proposal is dated Feb., 2010. Has anything changed since this was drafted?

Response-Nothing has changed substantively since the proposal was written. U of I is in the process of hiring an additional faculty member and one former member of the Dept. of Statistics at WSU that had a half time appointment in the Department has had his appointment changed to full time in the Math Department.

2. On page 14, there is a note that experts will be contacted for feedback. Has that been received now?

Response-We did not send the proposal out for external review. The experts that are referred to on pages 13-14 are from WSU and UI and were not asked to review the proposal but only asked informally if they would be willing to participate in the INCQRA part of the proposal.

3. Is there a mechanism to protect undergraduate courses? Specifically, since there are service courses offered to students across campus, will these continue to be offered given that increasing focus will be on the graduate programs? Will the same number of undergraduates continue to be served.

Response-We do not anticipate that this proposal will affect the level of statistical service course teaching at either university. We will continue to provide courses to the same numbers of students on each campus.

4. Will undergraduates be traveling back and forth between WSU and UI to take classes and is there concern about that?

Response-We do anticipate that as comparable undergraduate courses become cross listed between the two universities, a limited number of students will take advantage of opportunities at one or the other of the universities to take courses that better fit their time schedules. However, we anticipate that this number will be very small and that those students can use the bus for travel.

5. What does the Math Department think of the proposal?

Response-This proposal came about as part of a recommendation from a College of Sciences (COS) committee that was formed to make recommendations as to what should be done with Math and Statistics in COS. The committee was composed primarily of faculty from the Math and Statistics Departments and was chaired by Matt McCluskey from Physics. All members of the COS committee were aware of the proposal and voiced no opposition, only support. Because this proposal does not directly affect the Math Department, to the best of my knowledge the rest of the math faculty do not feel strongly one way or the other about it.

6. Given that a new Dean of Sciences will be coming in January, might it be good to wait for his feedback?

Response-The new dean was asked several times during the interview process if he was aware of this proposal and he indicated that he was. He was also asked by several faculty if he supported the proposal and his response was that "any proposal that allows a department to

improve itself would have his support". He viewed this proposal as a means of improving the statistics departments at both WSU and UI.