

## Statistics Department 2008-09 Recommendations for Expenditures from College-Based Fee Revenue

The Statistics Department's College-Based Fee Committee consists of Hunter Glanz, Emily Tietjen, Sergio Vaca, Casey Word, Ulric Lund, Robert Smidt, and Heather Smith. Heather Smith is the chair of the committee. The committee also received consulting from Tom Randall and the Statistics Department's Technology Committee.

We propose the following expenditures of revenue resulting from student fees for the 2008-09 academic year.

### **Proposals**

#### ***Direct student benefits:***

1. Student-faculty summer research (\$10,000 total; \$2,000 per project, for 5 projects)
2. Student reimbursement for the SAS certification exam (\$1,800 total, \$90 per student, for 20 students)
3. Student membership in ASA (\$200, \$10 per student, for 20 students)
4. Student travel to professional meetings and career fairs (\$2,000)
5. STAT CLUB expenses (\$500)
6. Miscellaneous summer research and senior project expenses (\$500)

**Requested funds: \$15,000**

#### ***Purchases:***

7. STAT LAB: seven new computer hard drives (\$7,000)
8. STAT LAB computer maintenance needs (\$1,000)
9. Library purchase of one copy of each upper division course textbook (\$1,000)
10. Other library purchases (\$500)
11. Memory for current faculty computers (\$1,000)

**Requested funds: \$10,500**

#### ***Other:***

12. Speakers' series (\$1,800 total, \$300 per speaker, for 2 speakers/quarter)
13. Faculty travel for professional development (\$7,000)
14. Honorarium for STAT faculty for special topics workshops (\$600)

**Requested funds: \$9,400**

#### ***Courses:***

15. Course offerings

**Requested funds: \$17,100**

**Total requested funds: \$52,000**

# Explanations and Justifications

## ***Direct student benefits:***

1. Student-faculty summer research (\$10,000 total; \$2,000 per project, for 5 projects)

We have been developing a modest program of student-faculty summer research. We propose to support five students this summer. We believe that this program provides an extremely valuable learning experience for the students while at the same time supporting a faculty member's research and professional development. We envision five student/faculty pairs with each student working 100 hours at \$10/hour and each faculty member working over about 8 weeks for \$1,000.

2. Student reimbursement for the SAS certification exam (\$1,800 total, \$90 per student, for 20 students)

For the past three years we have offered an elective two-unit course that helps students prepare for taking a certification exam in the use of SAS statistical software. This is a very challenging exam, and students who have passed it are highly desirable to employers. Our course is extremely successful and highly valued by the students. We propose that statistics majors be able to apply for reimbursement of the \$90 fee required for taking the certification exam. Such reimbursement would be permitted once per student.

3. Student membership in ASA (\$200, \$10 per student, for 20 students)

ASA is the national organization for statisticians. Students can join ASA for \$10/year. With a membership a student is able to take advantage of many valuable services that directly benefit him/her (e.g., information about internships, receipt of the monthly STATS magazine, participation in section activities, attendance at annual meetings and job fairs, participation in poster sessions). We believe that student participation in these types of activities enhances their experience and also improves the academic atmosphere in the statistics department in general.

4. Student travel to professional meetings and career fairs (\$2,000)

We would like to continue to support our students in attending professional conferences, meetings, and career fairs. We believe that student participation in these types of activities enhances both their experience and also improves the academic atmosphere in the statistics department in general.

5. STAT CLUB expenses (\$500)

On occasion the STAT CLUB incurs minor expenses. We would like to support them in covering some of these expenses.

6. Miscellaneous summer research and senior project expenses (\$500)

We would like to support miscellaneous, minor expenses that arise related to students' summer research and senior projects.

## **Purchases**

### 7. The replacement of seven computer hard drives in the STAT LAB (\$7,000)

Statistics majors make daily use of the seven computers in our STAT LAB. According to Tom Randall and the Statistics Department's Technology Committee the computers are in need of replacement this year.

### 8. STAT LAB computer maintenance needs (\$1,000)

Throughout the year there is a need to perform computer maintenance in the STAT LAB. This can result in the need to purchase various computer equipment (hardware, peripherals, software).

### 9. Library purchase of one copy of each upper division course textbook (\$1,000)

Statistics majors make daily use of the STAT LAB and library. We would like to support the students by purchasing one copy of each upper division course textbook. By having access to these textbooks while working in the STAT LAB and in the library, students could more easily reference needed course materials.

### 10. Other library purchases (\$500)

We propose to continue to purchase reference materials, journals, and magazines for our department library that have direct relevance to students.

### 11. Memory for current faculty computers (\$1,000)

Many of the faculty computers could benefit from the addition of memory to help extend their useful life. This is especially true of the Lecturers' computers, since the FWP doesn't allow for these computers to be kept up to date.

## **Other**

### 12. Speakers' series (\$1,800 total, \$300 per speaker, for 2 speakers/quarter)

We propose to continue to support our modest speakers' series, which provides two opportunities per quarter for students to hear presentations and meet one-on-one with statisticians from industry and academia. Students benefit from hearing perspectives and experiences from professionals outside of the Cal Poly faculty, and we always make arrangements for our speakers to meet one-on-one with students to offer career advice and answer questions. The funding enables us to provide modest reimbursement of travel expenses to these speakers.

### 13. Faculty travel for professional development (\$7,000)

We propose to support our faculty in attending professional conferences and workshops, in order to stay current in their fields. We expect that the benefits of this professional activity will reveal themselves to students in the classroom and through senior project supervision. The amount budgeted will support about half of the cost of attending one conference for half of our faculty.

#### 14. Honorarium for STAT faculty for special topics workshops (\$600)

There are several special topics that students have expressed interest in learning about. Examples include: how to use a particular statistical computing program, the desire to understand a particular statistical method (not covered in our current curriculum), or how a particular application of statistics is commonly used in industry. To address some of these items, faculty have offered to develop and conduct short workshops on topics such as these. We would like to provide a mechanism to fulfill students' academic desire to learn additional topics and we would also like to provide a modest stipend to the faculty members that develop and conduct such workshops. Our idea would be that each year students would identify three special topics of interest to them. The faculty would identify who could best prepare and teach such workshops and then the workshops would be scheduled. The faculty honorarium for each workshop would be \$200.

### **Courses**

#### 15. Course offerings

As has been the case during the past several years, we propose that about one-third of our CBF funding be allocated to course offerings.