



Department of Statistics

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November 7, 2007

Raj,

I am including three supporting letters for the Stat 574 course with this letter. Two are from graduate programs; one is a copy of an e-mail from Amanda Rodewald (Associate Professor in Natural Resources) and the second is a copy of an e-mail from John Harder (Professor in the Department of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology). The third letter of support is from Chunsheng Ban who is director of the Actuarial Science Program and speaks to the importance of the course for undergraduates. Since the course is numbered at the 500 level it should draw both an undergraduate audience as well as a graduate audience composed of non-statistics students from around campus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Fligner', written in a cursive style.

Michael Fligner
Professor Emeritus
Department of Statistics

Hi Mike,

Thank you for letting me know about your proposed SAS course. I've had a chance to review the course syllabus for Statistics 574 – Introduction to SAS Software, and I believe that it will be a very useful course for many of our graduate students in the School of Environment and Natural Resources. I can say that all of the graduate students studying wildlife ecology and management (~20) use SAS software. Many of our MS students, in particular, struggle with learning the basics of SAS. I think that part of the usefulness of the course as you've proposed it, is the emphasis on data management and use of the standard procedures, rather than programming per se. I'm excited about the course and look forward to recommending my students to take it.

Best,

Amanda Rodewald

Amanda D. Rodewald, Ph.D.

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Mike,

Thanks for sending the syllabus for your proposed Statistics 574. I have taken the opportunity to talk with a few graduate students and faculty in EEOB about the course and have concluded that it would be a valuable offering for our students. It would be particularly useful for students (& their advisors!) who work with large data sets and need a working familiarity with SAS commands and understanding of printout. We also could use a good introduction to the graphing capabilities of SAS, which seems largely hidden from view.

So, yes. I would encourage you to offer the course. One caveat: This is a personal endorsement and should not be used for departmental concurrence in your New Course Request, as EEOB has no vested academic (instructional) interest in statistics. All the best with this initiative.

John

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November 5, 2007

Professor Michael A. Fligner
Department of Statistics
The Ohio State University
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Dear Professor Fligner:

I am writing to support the new course, Statistics 574, that your department is proposing.

Recently several companies that visited OSU to recruit our actuarial science students expressed a strong desire to hire students who had SAS programming knowledge in addition to their education in actuarial science. Many students have asked me for courses along this line. I have been referring these students to your current 674-675 sequence. However, the 674-675 sequence is designed for graduate students and I am not sure whether it is suitable for our undergraduate actuarial science students. The proposed Statistics 574 will be a better fit for our students and for the needs of the actuarial industry. I strongly support and appreciate the effort of your department in designing and proposing this course. I would like to see the course being offered as soon as possible.

If you have any question regarding this communication, please feel free to contact me via email at cban@math.ohio-state.edu.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chunsheng Ban".

Chunsheng Ban
Associate Professor of Mathematics
Director, Actuarial Science Program