To: Statistics 10-year Review Team  
From: Kam-Wah Tsui (Chair) and Brian S. Yandell (Associate Chair)  
Re: Introductory Remarks  
Date: 18 February 2010 

We find ourselves in a time of expanding demands and opportunities, with reduced faculty and resources. Competition for top faculty is fierce, and we have lost key people to other institutions offering much higher salaries and lower teaching loads. Both our total faculty FTEs and our number of joint faculty, a hallmark of UW-Madison, have decreased.

Our undergraduate and graduate programs are attracting more students than ever before. This growth is complemented by a strong job market in statistics and biostatistics at all levels, despite the economic uncertainty. In fact, we specialize in the science of uncertainty, and are viewed as leaders.

As the volume of data explodes across the arts and sciences, the demand for critical quantitative reasoning skills is high, spanning instruction, collaborative research and service. Our faculty are acknowledged leaders on campus, nationally and internationally. Our graduates have moved rapidly into leadership positions in academia, industry, and government.

However, our resources are stretched to the limit, and we struggle to teach our students the advanced courses they need, while meeting campus responsibilities with large service courses. Our extensive use of instructors for introductory courses is well documented. It is more difficult to see how we have had to reduce the number of advanced courses that train our students, as well as students in many other programs.

We attach a set of “Talking Points” that touch on the field of statistics and our department. In addition, the Review Team is welcome to examine the collection of documents about our history that can be found at [http://www.stat.wisc.edu/~yandell/stat/review](http://www.stat.wisc.edu/~yandell/stat/review) with login “statfac” and password “10-year”.