

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS SEMINAR

THE METRICS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

12:30PM

CITY CAMPUS UNION, SWANSON AUDITORIUM

UNL's Executive Leadership Team (ELT) adopted a data-informed approach with the latest round of budget cuts. During the recent Academic Planning Committee hearings, Josh Davis (Vice Chancellor for Institutional Strategy and External Relations) read the following into the public record stating the approach as being

transparent and aligned with institutional priorities. The metrics selected for instructional and research performance are grounded in national best practices ... These metrics serve as quantitative anchors in a broader process that includes qualitative input from academic leadership.

Faculty in the UNL Department of Statistics have attempted to reproduce the analyses performed by the ELT's data analytics team. Using the partial data made available by the ELT, the faculty found numerous problems with the data, the metrics, and the analyses. The faculty have repeatedly made these concerns known to the ELT but to no avail.

The administration has indicated an intent to use these metrics for future evaluations of faculty and departments. Faculty and staff jobs and student degree programs depend on getting the metrics and corresponding analyses correct. Should these metrics be used now and in the future? The purpose of this seminar is to provide a forum for discussion: the data used in the metrics, the formulation of the metrics, and the analyses performed with the metrics. Faculty from the Department of Statistics will present their findings. The audience will have an opportunity to ask questions.

An invitation to participate was extended to the ELT's data analytics team. This invitation was declined because of their ongoing work with the budget cuts.



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