Davis Division Academic Senate

Request for Consultation Responses

Proposal to Establish the Mathematical Analytics & Operations Research

March 10, 2014

The College of Letters and Sciences, Mathematical and Physical Science Division is proposing establishment of the Mathematical Analytics and Operations Research Major. Comments are specifically requested to assist with informing Undergraduate Council's review of the major proposal. Undergraduate Council will consider comments received by the deadline during their review of the proposal.
The L&S Executive Committee has approved this before, and we still approve it.
The proposed major is a welcome addition to Math curriculum. It will attract a lot of students given the wave of business analytics in the Bay area (and worldwide), where students trained in OR methods is valued and scarce. The major also helps other initiatives; for example, if GSM considers offering Business Analytics degree/minor, then those students can enroll in this new major to learn about OR methods, allowing us to focus on business applications yet ensure solid training in the technical aspects. Another example is the new Data Science Institute that could potentially benefit from the synergistics goals. Finally, several soft advantages accrue to the campus --- overlaps in faculty research and seminar speakers --- due to the formation of this major.

Warm regards, Prasad.
Graduate Council

February 25, 2014 11:36 AM

No response at this time.
Planning & Budget

March 10, 2014 9:56 AM

CPB discussed the proposal to establish the Mathematical Analytics & Operations Research major. Overall, CPB supports the general major, but requests that the name be changed so that “operations research” is not included in the title. Use of the phrase denotes a particular type of required coursework. The major as proposed does not match the coursework normally seen in an OR program and is not comparable to similar programs, which are usually found in engineering, at other institutions. Additionally, CPB encourages the Department of Mathematics to think bigger and consider working with the College of Engineering to create a cross-college Operations Research major on campus.