Proposed Initiative:
Establish a statistics consulting center servicing departments within and external to the university.

Proposed by:
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What strategic goal does this initiative support?
Distinctive Academic Excellence; Innovation and Partnerships

Describe how the initiative supports the goal(s).
Currently, no formal structure for linking people with statistical expertise from the university with those in need of such assistance within or outside the university exists. A statistics center would help in providing this connection as well as regulating workloads, fee structures, etc. for those providing the service. The establishment of such a center should lead to partnerships within the region and, if done well, provide an opportunity for the university to display its academic excellence in the area of statistics.

Based on the definition of university-wide initiative, indicate how the proposed initiative has a university-wide impact.
The statistical consulting center would enlist the services of faculty as well as meritorious upper division students with appropriate expertise university-wide.

Please provide a set of benchmarks and/or indicators of success to support your initiative.
Caseload growth of at least 10% each year in first five years of operation. Increase from 5 to 10 cases in the first three years of operations with revenue neutrality at the end of three years.

What elements are involved in the initiative?
Sustainability, Inclusiveness, Human Capital, Facilities, Finance

Indicate how each element would be/would not be affected by the initiative.
• **Sustainability**: Strengthening connections with outside organizations could only affect positively the sustainability of the institution. One goal of many of our undergraduate programs is preparation for graduate or professional schools that often have specific demands concerning statistical expertise of students applying to the program. The existence of a statistics consulting center would assist UWRF in continuing to sustain or even to grow the number of students that are sent onto graduate programs.
• **Inclusiveness**: The center will be staffed by students and faculty with appropriate statistical backgrounds. A majority of the academic departments on the campus have an interest in statistics and it is anticipated that the center would recruit from the wide variety of majors.
• **Human Capital**: The statistics consulting center would allow the university to take full advantage of the statistical expertise of individuals on the campus. It would enhance the human capital of students by giving them an opportunity to apply statistical knowledge to meaningful practical applications. Depending on the scope of the program there may be the need staff a center director at a rate of .25 FTE per semester. It would also likely require some administrative support that could be at the department level.

• **Technology**: The statistics consulting center would require the institution to stay current with the technology needed to supply efficient and professional consulting.

• **Facilities**: It is possible that ultimately a central location for the consulting service would need to be established, but initially there is no reason why the service could not be supplied in a distributed fashion taking full advantage of existing facilities.

• **Finance**: There would be a minimal financial impact. Initial funding might be necessary to get things going, but this should be a program revenue operation with outside users being charged a fee dependent on the level of service needed. After 5 years the program should be revenue producing.

• **Other:**