ASACR 4

Office of the President
June 16, 2023

Members, Board of Trustees:

<u>ACADEMIC DEGREE RECOMMENDATION:
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES</u>

<u>Recommendation</u>: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Bachelor of Science degree in Statistics and Data Science, in the Department of Statistics within the College of Arts and Sciences, beginning in the 2023 Fall Semester.

<u>Background</u>: Data Scientist/Statistician is ranked as one of the best jobs by multiple career guidance websites based on criteria such as future growth, salary and work-life balance. Data scientists ranked third among 15 in a list of emerging jobs in the United States and hiring of individuals for such roles increased by 46 percent since 2019. An annual growth rate of new employment opportunities in the field is projected to be 37 percent. Much of this projected growth will result from businesses collecting an increasing amount of data from an ever-widening number of sources. In order to analyze and interpret this data, businesses and organizations will need to hire more people specifically trained in such analysis.

The program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate. The Provost of the university supports this recommendation. Pending approval by the Board of Trustees, the program will begin the review process of the Council on Postsecondary Education.

Action taken: ☑ Approved   ❏ Disapproved   ❏ Other _____