

# MATHEMATICS DIVISION 2018-2019

DRAFT AGENDA: Monday, October 15, 2:40 – 4:00 pm, MSB 214

Fall 2018 meetings  
8/23 1:00-4:00 pm  
9/17, 10/15, 11/19  
2:40 – 4:00 pm MSB 214

#### Division Chair

Bonnie Blustein, Ph.D.

#### Full Time Faculty

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Bonnie Blustein, Ph.D.  
Zachary Brown  
William Bucher  
Tanshee Cheng  
Henri Feiner  
Thomas Harjuno  
Jeremy Jankans, Ph.D.  
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Tanshee Cheng

**Academic Senate Rep**  
Thomas Harjuno (F18).

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(Vacant)

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1. Agenda review
2. Public comment
3. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approve **minutes of meeting September 2018.**
4. Chair report & discussion
  - a. AB 705 update
    - i. Discipline Day – new information (previously circulated via email)
    - ii. Curriculum (Tanshee): Math 227S and Math 241S; prereq updates
    - iii. Current status of placement process – not encouraging.
      - o Draft language for Curriculum Committee motion on automatic approval of prerequisite challenges in specified cases -ACTION
      - o Draft placement messages (from Angel Viramontes) - ACTION
      - o Draft resolution for Academic Senate re: social promotion and grade inflation - ACTION
  - b. Invitation to participate in NSF statistics Curriculum Collaboration project – discussion & ~~ACTION~~ Announcement
    - i. ~~Shall we send initial (non-binding) letter of intent?~~ He needed it by 10 am Monday. I sent it. See attached.
    - ii. Who (if anyone) is interested?
5. Math 122 Final Exam formula-sheet question (Zach and Jamie)
6. Calculator inventory – no update
7. Evaluation criteria project: no update
8. Low-cost/OER textbook project: no update BUT we need to make decisions for Spring soon
9. Academic Senate report – Thomas - Building program and shared governance issues
10. SLO report – Jeremy
11. Curriculum report – Tanshee (see above)
12. Facilities/WEC report - none
13. New business
14. Adjourn

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS:

1. Vacancies for District Academic Senate, Ed Policies & Standards Committee, maybe others

2. **Departmental Final Exam/SLO committees:**

(ALL SLOs for ALL math courses have to be assessed this semester. Instructors are free to create their own SLO assessment instrument, but for multi-section courses it would make people’s lives a little easier if a common assessment instrument is available)

- Math 105 \***Manushak**
- Math 110/112 \***Jamie**, Manushak
- Math 115 \* **Thomas**, Jeremy, Mohamad
- Math 122 \***Zach**, Jamie
- Math 123B \***Henri**, Tanshee
- Math 125/123C \***Vidya**, William
- Math 227 \***Bonnie**, Matt



3. **Tenure Committees:**

Tanshee Cheng: Bucher (division rep, committee chair); Blustein (division chair); Alwash (evaluee rep); Bahta is Academic Senate rep

Zach Brown: Bucher (division rep, committee chair); Blustein (division chair); Feiner (evaluee rep) – Zuk is Academic Senate rep

\* \* \* \* \*

Draft Curriculum Committee resolution:

“All student petitions for placement into Math 215, 227 or 245 (but NOT Math 236 or Math 241) in accordance with the AB 705 implementation plan are hereby granted, effective immediately and until such time as an appropriate placement model is integrated into the registration system.”

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**Draft Academic Senate resolution:**

*The values of West LA College include “each student and employee striving for excellence,” holding ourselves and others to the highest standards,” and the affirmation that “at West, everyone... is empowered by high expectations, respect and acknowledgement in all pursuits.”*

*In the light of the challenges created by AB 705 and the new funding formula, the Academic Senate of West Los Angeles College reaffirms its commitment to the integrity of our programs and fully expects that no faculty will experience any form of pressure to inflate grades, lower academic standards, or engage in social-promotion.*

*We request that President Limbaugh state publicly and unequivocally, as Vice-Chancellor Ryan Cormmer did at the Academic Senate Discipline Day in September, that his office will never condone grade inflation, social promotion, or the lowering of academic standards.*

*We ask Vice-Chancellor Cormmer to put his stated commitment into writing and circulate it to the presidents of all nine colleges with a request that they disseminate it to their senior staff.*

\* \* \* \* \*

**HERE IS THE DESCRIPTION ERIC SIMONEAU SENT:**

**BENEFITS OF PROPOSED COURSE:**

1. The course will be highly flexible for your instructors. Instructors will be able to easily add, delete, reorder, or modify any part of the curriculum to meet your instructors needs.
2. Educators are provided on-site paid training and support to roll out the curriculum at your college.
3. All resources are free for your educators and students.
4. Provides a modern data-centric curriculum with an integrated statistical computing component

**COURSE SPECIFICS:**

The grant would meld the work of four independent statistics education projects into one cohesive statistics curriculum. And it'd be free for all your educators and students. The 4 projects are:

1. STATS4TEM.org - a NSF funded online learning platform for introductory statistics
2. RStudio Cloud - a free online statistical computing platform built for statistics educators and their students
3. OpenIntro Textbook Project - a free and open introductory statistics textbook
4. STATPrep project - a NSF funded collection of data-centric learning resources for statistics educators at two-year colleges.

**COLLEGE COMMITMENT:**

- Provide classroom for professional development.

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**PROJECT COORDINATOR COMMITMENTS:**

- The project coordinator—a person selected from your school—will work with our project team to coordinate activities with your department, and to help our team better understand the specific needs of your department so that we can better work to meet those needs.
- Salary: \$3,000 per year.

**INSTRUCTOR COMMITMENTS:**

- 2 Days of on-site professional development (7 hours per day) to learn the new curriculum. (If requested, more days can easily be added. We can also do webinars for times that are convenient for your faculty.)
- Instructors will be paid \$400 per day.

**TIMELINE:**

- Grants are awarded in May or June.
- When will we roll out the grant?
  - Please note this is just a proposal and can be easily altered to meet the needs of your department.
  - Professional development—summer of 2020.
  - Go live in August 2020. If desired, we could roll out the course using a small cohort of instructors before opening it up to the whole department. But in the end, Instructors can choose which time is optimal for them to start.

**HOW CAN THIS PROJECT CAN HELP STRUGGLING STUDENTS?**

- STATS4STEM.ORG will be the primary learning platform and comes complete with a large collection of statistics assessment items. Each assessment item comes with helpful hints. These hints are for students to use when they are struggling with a specific problem. The hints break down the specific question step-by-step to demonstrate how the problem is solved.
- For students with weak math backgrounds, STATS4STEM.ORG will provide additional supports in the form of learning assignments, videos, and practice questions. These resources and/or assignments can then be assigned by instructors prior to any lessons. In addition, instructors will have access to learning reports to ensure that all students have acquired the prerequisite math skills prior to starting a specific lesson.

**HOW CAN THIS PROJECT HELP STUDENTS IMPROVE THEIR STUDY SKILLS?**

- STATS4STEM.ORG allows instructors to easily run a plethora of reports. For instance, instructors can run reports on individual assignments, individual students, or by class—allowing for targeted instruction.
- One other interesting avenue our project can explore is the creation of a module that can be assigned to show students how to better manage their time and study more effectively. This module could then be assigned to students who may find themselves struggling. It would be interesting to learn how much a module increases student performance.

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Finally, it is our aim to form a vibrant partnership where we support you and your department.

I hope you found this email helpful, and if you have any further questions, please feel free to let me know. Also, if you wish, I am available to talk with anyone in your department by phone if they wish to learn more.

Thanks for your consideration!

Eric

LETTER I SENT:

October 12, 2018

Dear Grant Reviewer,

If the proposal submitted by Mr. Simoneau is selected for funding by the NSF, the Math Division of West Los Angeles College intends to collaborate as detailed in the Project Description of the proposal.

Specifically, if funded, our college will collaborate with the project team to implement the project's new data-centric introductory statistics curriculum to prepare students for the modern workforce.

I have consulted with Vice-President Araceli Aguiar, who communicated to me her support for this project and affirmed that the College will be able to provide space for trainings, as requested in the proposal.

I have also consulted with our Statistics instructors and have already identified several who express interest in participating in this project. As we are in the process of expanding our Statistics program, this project has a very timely appeal.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Blustein, Ph.D.  
Professor of Mathematics  
Chair, Mathematics Division  
blusteb@wlaac.edu