Faculty Senate Resolution 454 **Introduced by**
Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Support of Discontinuance of Low-Producing Undergraduate Programs

WHEREAS, Standard Administrative Policy and Procedure: Academic Program Review (July 3, 2018) requires the Office of the Provost to review degree production for all academic programs on an annual basis and those that are low-producing (defined as those that average fewer than 5 graduates per year for undergraduate programs and 3 graduates per year for masters programs, over a 5 year period) will be required to conduct an immediate review with a report on the status of the program due back to the Office of the Provost within six months; and

WHEREAS, in January 2023, the Provost requested a review by colleges and schools of programs that were identified as low-producing. The Office of Institutional Analysis (OIA) provided data on all degree programs. The data identified 26 undergraduate and 34 graduate programs that were low-producing. In January and February 2023, the Provost provided the list of identified programs and the data to the Deans and made public the list of programs on the Academic Affairs website. Reports from the colleges and schools on these programs were due July 31, 2023. They included narratives that address the low-completion rate of each program and proposals to either continue, or recommend for reorganization, consolidation, reduction, or discontinuance pursuant to UW Regulation 2-13; and

WHEREAS, at the November 2023 Board of Trustees meeting, President Seidel, Provost Carman, and the Deans of the College of Agriculture, Life Sciences & Natural Resources, College of Arts & Sciences, and the College of Engineering & Physical Sciences recommended the following low-producing undergraduate programs for review under UW Regulation 2-13:

- B.S. in Zoology & Physiology,
- B.A. in French,
- B.A. in German,
- B.A. in Psychology,
- B.A. in Geology & Earth Sciences,
- B.A. in Mathematics,
- B.A. in Statistics; and

WHEREAS, the graduation data for the programs listed above, with rationales, are reproduced in the Appendix below; and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate Academic Planning Committee has reviewed the proposals to discontinue the undergraduate programs listed above and reported it is supportive of the recommendation to discontinue the programs listed above, with the following concerns:

Given the reorganization of two languages with a long history at UW, we recommend that the university take this moment to develop at the same time a more deliberate and a more robust engagement with today's geopolitically significant languages; and

A number of degrees are being discontinued in the College of Education [see Faculty Senate Resolution 455]. Are there still ample student opportunities for graduate programs in the college? With a new Dean in the college, were they involved in the discussion of discontinuing these programs?

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Faculty Senate of the University of Wyoming that it supports the discontinuance of the following undergraduate programs:

B.S. in Zoology & Physiology
B.A. in French
B.A. in German
B.A. in Psychology
B.A. in Geology & Earth Sciences
B.A. in Mathematics
B.A. in Statistics.

Treva Sprout-Ahrenholtz

Secretary, Faculty Senate

March 5, 2024

Appendix
Data and Rationales for Undergraduate Programs Recommended for Discontinuance

<u>B.S. in Zoology & Physiology</u>

Data:

Number of Graduates in AY 2021-22: 0
5-Year Average Number of Graduates: 0.2

Rationale: One degree awarded in last 5 years. This degree program is essentially a remnant since there are currently BS in Physiology and BS in Zoology UG degree programs that students subscribe to.

<u>B.A. in French</u>

Data:

Number of Graduates in AY 2021-22: 1
5-Year Average Number of Graduates: 1

Rationale: Averages one graduate per year. There is little demand for this major. With the elimination of French and German, the Modern and Classic Languages department intends to develop a new degree "B.A. in European Languages, Literatures, and Film Studies." There is demand and need for French courses at UW. To continue to teach needed French courses, we recommend retaining faculty in this unit.

B.A. in German

Data:

Number of Graduates in AY 2021-22: 0

5-Year Average Number of Graduates: 0.6

Rationale: Three graduates in past five years. No graduates in past three years. There is little demand for this major. With the elimination of French and German, the Modern and Classic Languages department intends to develop a new degree "B.A. in European Languages, Literatures, and Film Studies." There is demand and need for German courses at UW. To continue to teach needed German courses, we recommend retaining faculty in this unit.

B.A. in Psychology

Data:

Number of Graduates in AY 2021-22: 2

5-Year Average Number of Graduates: 5.6

Note: There were 17 graduates in AY 2017-18

Rationale: Five-year average barely exceeds minimum, but significant decline in degrees awarded over past four years. This was changed to a B.S. in 2015.

B.A. in Geology & Earth Sciences

Data:

Number of Graduates in AY 2021-22: 2

5-Year Average Number of Graduates: 2

Rationale: Chronically low numbers. The coursework of the B.A. in Geology was designed to create a geology degree more oriented toward a liberal arts education. While the degree program still attracts some students with an interest in secondary education and dual majors in the College of Education, the enrollment is historically poor despite recent G&G Dept efforts to simplify the degree.

Department Comment: The department voted to discontinue the program due to low enrollment, large overlap with the BS in Geology, and the transition to engineering.

B.A. in Mathematics

Data:

Number of Graduates in AY 2021-22: 1

5-Year Average Number of Graduates: 1.2

Rationale: The B.A. in Mathematics evolved into essentially the same degree as the B.S. in Mathematics over 20 years ago.

Department Comment: We see no problem in eliminating the BA in the catalog, as it is arguably redundant. We have verified this with both the Registrar and the College of

Education, to ensure there are no unintended consequences. All students would henceforth classify themselves as a BS in Mathematics. It is important to note that this change is purely clerical. This will not result in elimination of any courses, nor decrease the overall number of majors, hence there are no resource savings by eliminating this degree. The elimination of this degree will not result in any savings to the department, College or University.

B.A. in Statistics

Data:

Number of Graduates in AY 2021-22: 0

5-Year Average Number of Graduates: 0.2

Rationale: The B.A. in Statistics is essentially the same degree as the B.S. in Statistics. It appears that there would be no unintended consequences if the B.A. were eliminated.
Department Comment: We see no problem in eliminating the BA in Statistics the catalog, and henceforth having all students classify their degree as a BS degree. This will not result in elimination of any courses, nor decrease the overall number of majors, hence there are no resource savings by eliminating this degree. The elimination of this degree will not result in any savings to the department, College or University.