

## Member input from a volunteer leader of the AMS

Dear Colleagues,

There are two phrases that I find particularly troublesome in Director Pantula's letter:

(The name) Division of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences recognizes explicitly the two major disciplines served by the division.

The question of whether the DMS serves *two* major disciplines is far from clear to me.

The progression and the culture of statistics do not justify its being viewed as one of the mathematical sciences.

I will grant that statistics is a large field, not all of it being mathematical. However one of statistics' components is mathematical statistics, and it is this component that falls under the purview of DMS.

Let me make a comparison with a smaller, but very active, field that I know something about. Cryptography and data security, as a whole, is not a "mathematical science". Neither is it a field of engineering, nor of computer science. But it has parts that are clearly part of each of these fields. So presumably DMS funds research in "mathematical cryptography", but it does not fund research into hardware implementations of cryptosystems. Similarly, DMS presumably funds research in the mathematical aspects of statistics, but does not fund research in the parts that (paraphrasing Director Pantula) are "not part of the mathematical sciences."

So based on Director Pantula's letter, I see the name change as an attempt to change DMS from a division that supports mathematical research (in statistics and in other areas) to a division that has two quite separate directions, one being mathematics, the other being statistics as broadly construed, which includes non-mathematical parts of statistics.

This seems to be a major policy change, so as others have said, the discussion and possible implementation of such a policy change should precede any name change.

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