

**The University of Michigan
University Senate
Motion #110325-5**

**Call to Restore Funding for Consulting for Statistics, Computing, and Analytics Research
(CSCAR)**

Whereas the University of Michigan’s Consulting for Statistics, Computing, and Analytics Research (CSCAR), established in 1946, has for nearly eight decades provided high-quality, no- or low-cost statistical consulting and software support to students, faculty, and staff across the University, promoting rigorous and reproducible research practices in all disciplines;

Whereas, according to data shared by CSCAR leadership, the unit handled over 2,300 consulting requests between January and November 2024 alone, with users across colleges and schools, including the Medical School, LSA, Public Health, Engineering, Ross School of Business, Information, and others, demonstrating its broad and indispensable reach across the research enterprise;

Whereas CSCAR operates with remarkable efficiency, running on the equivalent of only 3.5 full-time staff positions (as reported in the Michigan Daily on August 28, 2025), representing a minimal investment relative to its vast impact on research quality, grant competitiveness, and educational excellence;

Whereas CSCAR allows faculty and research teams to seek expert statistical and computational support that their departments may lack, helping to ensure methodological soundness and enabling more ambitious and innovative research designs;

Whereas CSCAR contributes to the educational mission of the university by offering students access to free, as-needed statistical assistance that allows them to successfully complete dissertations, honors theses, and other independent research projects;

Whereas CSCAR provides low-cost continuing education opportunities in the form of applied workshops for students, faculty, and staff, enabling ongoing skills development among the campus scientific community, including opportunities to learn new and emerging methodologies and computational tools, enhancing the university's ability to compete for external funding, and contributing to professional satisfaction;

Whereas having unlimited access to CSCAR services is a perk that aids in the recruitment of faculty candidates, providing a competitive advantage over peer universities;

Whereas the work of CSCAR consultants has directly contributed to significant scholarly advances, including co-authorships on publications and methodological innovations that have appeared in top-tier journals;

Whereas consultations with CSCAR staff have frequently led to enduring research collaborations between methodologists and substantive experts, resulting in successful external

grant proposals and thereby generating indirect cost recovery and advancing the University's research portfolio;

Whereas CSCAR provides critical training opportunities for statistics graduate students and early-career researchers to gain experience in applied consulting, strengthening the University's teaching and mentorship missions while creating a bridge between methodological and substantive domains;

Whereas the closure of CSCAR, announced by the Office of the Vice President for Research during the summer vacation as part of a restructuring, occurred without adequate faculty consultation or transparent review, undermining shared governance and the University's stated commitment to research excellence;

Whereas community members, including students, postdoctoral researchers, and faculty, have expressed deep concern that the elimination of CSCAR will erode the quality and integrity of research across the University, and that existing alternatives do not represent the full range of CSCAR services; moreover, they are fee-based and far less accessible;

Whereas the decision to shutter CSCAR is particularly troubling given that it targets a unit central to the University's core mission of supporting high-quality, ethical, and innovative research, at a time when preserving research rigor is more critical than ever;

Whereas attempts to claim that alternatives to CSCAR exist have proven in some cases to be inaccurate;

Whereas, in summary, the pending closure of CSCAR sends a signal that the University, to save a tiny amount of money, is willing to see an erosion of a key part of the institution that has served to enhance quality control and research integrity for large parts of the campus;

Be it resolved that the University Senate calls upon President Domenico Grasso and the University's executive leadership to fund CSCAR at or above its current funding level of 3.5 FTEs, drawing upon discretionary or other institutional funds under their purview, to ensure continued campus-wide access to expert, equitable, and high-quality statistical and computational research support;

And be it further resolved that the Senate affirms that maintaining CSCAR aligns with the University's foundational values of research integrity, collaboration, and shared governance, and that any future structural changes that would serve to decrease the University's support for quality control, research integrity, and overall quality and rigor should involve transparent consultation with affected faculty, students, and staff.

Movant: Brady West, Faculty Associate, Population Studies Center, Research Professor, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, Adjunct Lecturer in Quantitative Methods and Social Sciences Program, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and Research Professor, Biostatistics, School of Public Health

Supporting Members:

Rachel Best, Associate Professor of Sociology and Director Graduate Studies, Sociology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Michael Elliott, Professor of Biostatistics, School of Public Health and Research Professor, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research

Mary Janevic, Research Associate Professor, Health Behavior and Health Equity, School of Public Health and Faculty Associate, Population Studies Center, Institute for Social Research

John Kubale, Research Assistant Professor, Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, Faculty Associate, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research and Adjunct Lecturer in Quantitative Methods and Social Sciences Program, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Jordan Siegel, Professor of Strategy and Michael R. and Mary K. Hallman Fellow, Stephen M Ross School of Business

Abram Wagner, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Assistant Professor of Global Public Health, School of Public Health

Approved by the University Senate on November 6, 2025

Results: Yes, 2585 (90.2%); 281 (9.8%); Abstain 772 - Motion PASSED

Link to event page: <https://facultysenate.umich.edu/faculty-senate-meeting/>

Link to news item: <https://facultysenate.umich.edu/university-senate-motions-and-voting-results-from-the-november-3-2025-meeting/>