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Missoula, MT 59812

December 24, 2015

Prof. Beezer,

We are writing in response to your call for participation in the UTMOST project. Together we would like to apply to be participants. The information you requested follows.

- We are comfortable and willing to teach both linear algebra and abstract algebra for your program. Eric is trained as a topologist and has taught linear algebra sections twice at Rice University and once at the University of Montana (UM). He has also been actively involved in the algebra program at UM, writing the part of the prelim problems, attending and giving seminars, etc. Kelly is trained as an algebraist and has taught the Abstract Algebra section twice at UM. The University of Montana offers linear algebra courses in the spring and fall semesters and is taught from the book of choice of the instructor. Abstract algebra is offered as a one year sequence, also taught from the book of choice of the instructor. For the last several years that book has been Hungerford's Abstract Algebra: An Introduction. The first semester (which is only offered in fall) offers rings and groups and the second semester (which is only offered in spring) offers more groups and field theory. The state of Montana requires the first semester of abstract algebra for mathematics education students and consequently the first semester of the course has a high enrollment (20 - 25 students). Aside from math majors, our linear algebra course also attracts students from other departments, including computer science, biology, and economics. As indicated by our chair, we could begin teaching these courses for your program according to this schedule anytime beginning F2016.
- We have both taught calculus many times throughout our years at UM. During these courses we have both made heavy use of moodle and webwork.
- Eric and Kelly both typically design pre-reading quizzes on moodle for their calculus courses. Kelly has also recently completed three programming courses in python through Rice University on Coursera.
- Kelly has not extensively used Sage or SageMathCloud, but she does have an account, which she obtained after seeing the presentation by William Stein at the PNW MAA meeting in Tacoma in April 2015.
- Eric has continually supervised an undergraduate research group beginning in 2011. That research project studies 3-dimensional hyperbolic geometry and makes heavy use of mathe-

matica and sage. They also use a wiki page through PBworks as a collaborative tool for the group.

- Eric has a sage math cloud account which he uses daily for personal research. Previously, he used mathematica for research computations, but beginning in the summer of 2015 he has completely switched from using mathematica to sage.

The University of Montana is a 4-year, public (state) university with about 13,000 undergraduate students. UM has a strong emphasis in the humanities, and offers an undergraduate math major. We also offer masters degrees and PhDs in mathematics (and math ed. and statistics). We are both excited about the possibility of joining your program and trying out these new technologies in the classroom. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Eric Chesebro & Kelly McKinnie



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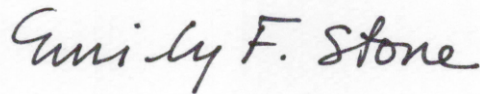
To Whom this May Concern:

I am writing to support activities being proposed by Eric Chesebro and Kelly McKinnie as part of the NSF's UTMOST project. Chesebro and McKinnie have the autonomy to develop and present material in linear algebra and algebra at both the undergraduate and graduate level in the department. We will work with them to schedule the classes they are proposing at the necessary times, and to ensure that they have the computational support necessary to be participants in the survey.

Please feel free to contact me if you need more information. My email address is stone@mso.umt.edu, and my office phone is 406-243-5365.

Thank-you for your consideration of Chesebro and McKinnie's proposal.

Sincerely,



Dr. Emily Stone
Professor & Chair
Dept. of Mathematical Sciences
The University of Montana-Missoula