Data Science Program Meeting 7/23/18

Present: Kevin Knudson (KK) – Incoming Chair of Mathematics, Dan Maxwell (DM), Sarah Meyer (SM)

* Preliminary discussion to explore mathematics offering a data science degree
* Provost has an open offer for the first college that wants to integrate a data science degree program
* Legislature has approved a Data Science building for UF, there will limited or no teaching space
* Undergraduate vs Graduate focus: graduate programs generate more money, but probably will start with an undergraduate focus
* DM has created a document with data science degree program examples from peer institutions/ or located in Florida:
* Berkeley- data program approved
* New College (Florida) intersects private sector – KK thinks this might be difficult to incorporate into UF program due to proximity
* Virginia Tech ( KK alumni) – Computational Modeling & Data Analytics (CMDA) program
* Objectives of UF program
  + Develop a first year experience that integrates coding
  + Integrate teaching experiences that met employers demands for relevant data science skills
  + Portfolios to demonstrate usable job skills
* Next steps
  + Curate a selected development group potential members from( Math, Stats, Computer Science, Biostats, Business)
* Obstacles
  + “Pure math" faculty buy in
  + Identify faculty willing to participate