February 13, 1963

Professor D. A. S. Fraser
Department of Mathematics
University of Toronto
Toronto
CANADA

Dear Don:

This letter will confirm the substance of our telephone conversation last week. As I stated over the phone the Department of Mathematics voted unanimously to recommend to the University Administration that you be offered an appointment as Professor of Mathematical Statistics to become effective on September 1, 1963.

As you know Frank Anscombe is leaving Princeton to head the new Department of Statistics which is being established at Yale. His resignation from Princeton, as you can readily imagine, leaves a serious gap in our statistics program which must be filled by a person of the highest caliber both on the teaching and research fronts. John Tukey and I came to the conclusion some time ago that there is no one better qualified than yourself to fill the position which will be vacated by Frank.

I do not have to describe to you the statistics program at Princeton and our philosophy of what a statistics program should be. You know the situation at the graduate level from your own experience as a graduate student here. You know it at the undergraduate level from your teaching experience here while a graduate student and as visiting Associate Professor in the spring of 1955. I might point out that the main change at the undergraduate level is that more students are taking statistics than was true when you were here in 1955. At the graduate level we try to have a small number of very good graduate students and one or two top-notch visiting research associates each year as well as a top-flight visiting professor once every year or two. Next year we expect to have C. R. Rao of the Indian Statistical Institute for the entire academic year. The small but high-quality program we operate in statistics permits those of us on the staff a good deal of time to do our own work. The teaching load, as you probably know, is six hours a week, so that approximately half of our time is spent on undergraduates and half on graduates.
Professor D. A. S. Fraser

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The salary being recommended for you is $17,000. for the academic year. As long as government project funds are available you would be provided two-ninths of your academic salary as a two-month summer research salary. This does not imply that you would be expected to do the summer research at Princeton. Thus, the eleven-month salary would amount to $20,777.77.

Princeton has one of the most liberal annuity plans of any university in the country. In your case, the University would contribute an amount equal to 9% of your academic-year salary to retirement and you would contribute 3% of your academic-year salary. (The figures are 12% and 4% for faculty members in their forties, and 15% and 5% for those in their fifties.) The University also has a liberal plan for group insurance and hospitalization.

The Department's recommendation is subject to action by a Faculty Committee, by the University Administration and by the Trustees of the University. This may take several weeks. However, we have very little doubt that approval will be granted by all three bodies, and that you will receive an official letter of appointment by University authorities within a few weeks.

Needless to say, John Tukey and I earnestly hope that you will decide to join us. With you as a member of the statistics team here I feel that we will have one of the country's best set-ups in statistics, even though it will be small. I can assure you that you will be cordially welcomed by the Department of Mathematics, and that you will find the atmosphere in the Department very congenial.

If there are any further points you would like to discuss or if there are points you would like to clarify please let me know. Or if you would like to come down to Princeton for detailed discussion with John and me and other members of the Department, please let me know.

John and I are looking forward to your favorable response to Princeton's official letter of appointment which we fully expect to be sent to you within a few weeks.

With best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

SSWilks

CC: J. C. Moore
A. W. Tucker
J. W. Tukey