MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
FOR A JOINT DEGREE PROGRAM
BETWEEN THE
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE
AND
THE DOROTHY F. SCHMIDT COLLEGE OF ARTS & LETTERS
FOR THE

Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence with Philosophy

Background: The technology landscape is evolving quickly with new fields such as AI, data science, machine learning, and cybersecurity directly impacting all walks of life and many job functions. Graduates with an interdisciplinary education that combines core AI and computer science skills with a deep discipline major specific knowledge will be better equipped to adapt to these changes and would be highly competitive in the job market.

Florida Atlantic will lead in preparing this new generation workforce to meet the need. The Florida BOG has approved FAU's pre-proposal for a new bachelor's degree in artificial intelligence with a second discipline. The program is designed so that there is equal core coursework in AI/computer science and the second discipline. This proposed bachelor's degree was positively received, with other SUS sister universities indicating interest in developing similar programs. It is critical for Florida Atlantic to act promptly to maintain this momentum and lead with our innovative ideas and not lose ground to other SUS universities. This new degree would put FAU at the forefront of producing a new generation workforce with computational thinking, problem-solving, and discipline-specific knowledge applied to solve real-world problems. The new interdisciplinary degrees will emphasize the discipline major in the context of AI and computer science skills and knowledge. It is an exciting time for FAU to lead the State of Florida in innovative degree programs.

Student Interest: Students are eager to gain interdisciplinary AI skills to stay competitive in the job market. AI and computing skills will enhance the marketability and job opportunities of students with core knowledge of their discipline. Increased employer demand for computing skills in many disciplines indicates an opportunity for new degree programs to meet student demand.

Increasing Program Enrollments: The proposed interdisciplinary programs offer the benefits of a dual major without the additional credits required in a traditional dual major degree. A second major is an indicator of greater earnings than a single major alone. Reported high earnings in relevant occupations will attract prospective students to the program. Increased student interest is expected to increase enrollment and attract a new pool of students to our departments.

New Degree Programs: New interdisciplinary programs created in this mold shall be named as Bachelor of Science with a **major** in Artificial Intelligence with *<discipline>*, where discipline being Linguistics, Economics, Public Administration, Biology, Education, etc. The new interdisciplinary program will use CIP code 11.0199 across all colleges. The new degree program jointly between the Philosophy department and the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science department shall be called *Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence with Philosophy*.

Enrollment Credit: Enrollment credit from this interdisciplinary program will be reflected in respective Colleges based on the courses students take. The new degree program is expected to have approximately the same number of credits from AI/computer science and philosophy. Faculty from the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science department will teach all AI and computer science courses, while faculty from the Department of Philosophy will be responsible for teaching courses in philosophy.

Degree Credit: Both the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts & Letters and the College of Engineering and Computer Science will be able to include the degrees and majors produced as a part of their respective College and Department metrics.

Home Department for Students: To promote belongingness and encourage participation and interdisciplinary engagement, students may express belonging to two home departments and will have access to the resources of both departments.

Academic Advising: Students in the program will be jointly advised by Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and the Philosophy departments. Advisors in both departments will receive training and coordinate student advising.

Program Coordination: Program coordination including accreditation and graduation audits will be supported by the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science department. Assessment of student learning outcomes will occur at the two departments.

Career Services: Students in the program will have access to career services resources in both departments. Students will have access to career preparation, internship opportunities, and industry mentors through the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science department.

Interdisciplinary Engagement: Curriculum shall include an interdisciplinary capstone course to offer students an opportunity to work with real-world problems with guidance from industry mentors. Departments are encouraged to create and offer at least one course jointly taught with faculty from EECS and Philosophy.
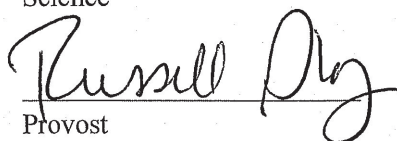
Diploma: The diploma will adhere to the standard format for FAU baccalaureate degrees but will specify that the degree is recommended by faculty from both colleges and will feature the signatures of both deans.
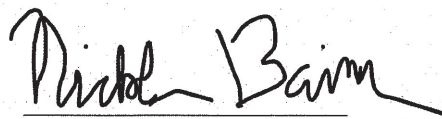

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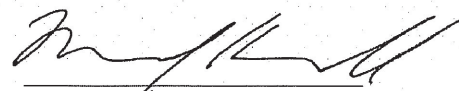Chair of Department of Electrical Engineering
and Computer Science

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Chair of Department of Philosophy

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Dean of College of Engineering and Computer
Science

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Dean of Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts &
Letters

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Provost