



**Academic Senate**

*Professor Kenneth Barish  
Division Chair*

May 15, 2026

Greg Ver Steeg, Lead Program Proponent  
Department of Computer Science and Engineering

Vagelis Hristidis, Chair  
BCOE Faculty Executive Committee

**Re: Proposed Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

Dear Greg and Vagelis,

Executive Council included the subject program proposal on our May 11, 2026 agenda. In addition to the attached feedback from committees, Executive Council members commented that it would be important for a future iteration of the proposal to address UCR's current difficulty in attracting international students.

Should you decide to submit a revised proposal, please send it my attention at [barish@ucr.edu](mailto:barish@ucr.edu) (copying Senate Director Cortez at [cherysac@ucr.edu](mailto:cherysac@ucr.edu)). [New Business] should be included in the subject line. You may find it helpful to know that some proponents find it useful to include a letter responding to the Senate review feedback as a part of a cover to the revised proposal submission.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenneth Barish".

Kenneth Barish  
Chair, Academic Senate

Cc: Student Affairs Manager and FEC Liaison Smith  
Senate Director Cortez  
Senate Analyst Miller

Enclosures

March 23, 2026

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair  
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

From: Jerayr Haleblian  
Chair, School of Business Executive Committee

Re: (Consultation): *MS Degree of AI*

The EC School of Business supports the proposed Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence in the Marlan and Rosemary Bourns College of Engineering. We view the proposal as academically strong and well aligned with the growing need for graduate education in artificial intelligence.

We also wish to note that the School of Business has submitted a separate proposal for a Master of Data-Driven Marketing with AI Application (MDM-AA). In our view, the two proposals are not overlapping or duplicative. Rather, they reflect differentiated but complementary educational missions within UCR's evolving graduate portfolio.


The proposed state-supported M.S. in Artificial Intelligence in BCOE focuses on the mathematical, algorithmic, and systems foundations of AI for students seeking technical depth in AI development. By contrast, the proposed MDM-AA focuses on the responsible and effective application of data analytics and AI tools to marketing problems, including consumer insight, experimentation, personalization, digital engagement, and decision support to marketing problems. Together, these programs illustrate the campus response to workforce demand for both AI creators and domain professionals who can deploy AI effectively in organizational settings.

Accordingly, the EC School of Business supports the Engineering proposal and views it as an important and complementary component of UCR's broader graduate strategy in AI. We believe that approving differentiated programs in both technical AI development and domain-specific AI application would strengthen the university's academic portfolio and better position UCR to meet student and workforce demand.



April 23, 2026

TO: Ken Barish, Chair  
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

FROM: Rachel Wu, Chair   
CHASS Executive Committee

RE: Proposal: Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Artificial Intelligence (AI)

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The CHASS Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) discussed the proposal for a MS in Artificial Intelligence, and we were glad to see initiatives on campus that are focused on this developing field. The FEC has had recent discussions on these topics, and the impact of AI on campus organization and specifically in relation to campus sustainability goals, seeing critical thinking in this area on campus is encouraging. That said, the Committee encourages collaboration with other departments and units on campus in order to better strengthen this particular proposed degree. In particular, the FEC encourages the preparers to contact Peter Graham (Philosophy) and Ian Ballad (Psychology) who are organizing a BA on a similar topic, and the FEC in general encourages collaborations with cognitive science, philosophy, psychology, and other departments researching or working on these topics related to AI. The CHASS FEC would like to know of these communications and general awareness across campus before ultimate approval of this proposal.



April 29, 2026

TO: Kenneth N. Barish, Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

FROM: Harry Tom, Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

SUBJECT: [Campus Review] Proposal: Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Prof. Barish,

The CNAS Faculty Executive Committee has reviewed the proposal for the Master of Science degree in Artificial Intelligence at the April 14th & April 28th meetings and has comments to provide.

The committee has noted that the courses listed in this proposal to be used towards completing the degree are mostly within the Bourns College of Engineering and since the proposal itself emphasizes that students will gain "a deep understanding of the mathematical foundations of AI (optimization, probabilistic reasoning, linear algebra)," we would suggest adding some of these types of courses to the electives options and would like to draw attention to existing MATH courses within CNAS that may help in support and are directly relevant, which include Math 161A–C (*Mathematical Foundations of Machine Learning, Deep Learning, and Artificial Intelligence*), Math 120 (*Optimization*), Math 131–132 (*Linear Algebra*), Math 135A–C (*Numerical Analysis*), Math 149A/B (*Probability and Mathematical Statistics*), and Math 162–163 (*Mathematical Models and Computational Science, Applied Dynamical Systems*).

The committee would also like to suggest that the name of this proposed Master program be updated to something like Masters in Foundational AI, to more specifically outline the focus of this degree and the market it is geared towards so other programs like the planned CNAS Applications of Artificial Intelligence Masters program can come alongside, but not overlap in content.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Harry Tom'.

Harry Tom, Ph.D  
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences



## *Academic Senate*

### **GRADUATE COUNCIL**

April 24, 2026

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair  
Riverside Division

From: Viji Santhakumar, Chair  
Graduate Council

**RE: [Campus Review] (Proposal) Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

Graduate Council reviewed the proposal for a Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence at their April 16, 2026 meeting. The Council was concerned by the broad scope of the current title and would like to see a letter from CNAS regarding the mutually agreed proposals related to AI described in the Executive Summary in order to clarify areas of potential overlap and how the two will complement each other.

This would also clarify other concerns that were discussed, such as renaming the degree to Master of Science in Engineering in Artificial Intelligence, exclusion of relevant Math and Statistics courses applicable to AI, and the inclusion of several courses listed that are not specific to AI.

The Professional Development requirement states that students will satisfy the requirement by enrolling in CS 287, are students expected to pass this course or just enroll? This should be made clear.



**Committee on Information Technology**

April 24, 2026

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair  
Riverside Division

From: John Franchak, Chair  
Committee on Information Technology

**Re: Review Item: Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

Although the Artificial Intelligence proposal states “All technical resources required for the proposed M.S. in Artificial Intelligence program are already available within CSE and ECE, including computing infrastructure, library resources, teaching laboratories, and research facilities”, the IT Committee requests a more thorough plan for technological resources. Computing resources for artificial intelligence are non-trivial and continue to change. The proposal should enumerate specific needs in categories such as data storage, compute (internal and external), software licenses for 3rd party tools, and security requirements for students to access resources. The proposal should be explicit in stating which existing CSE and ECE resources can be provisioned to meet those needs (possibly including letters of support to confirm). We encourage the proposers to consult with campus IT about the adequacy of infrastructure and report a plan for meeting the needs of the new program.

TO: Ken Barish, Chair  
Riverside Division

FR: Kurt Schwabe, Chair   
Executive Committee, School of Public Policy

RE: [\[Campus Review\] Proposal: Master of Science \(M.S.\) degree in Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#)

Date: April 20, 2026

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The Executive Committee of the School of Public Policy has reviewed the [\[Campus Review\] Proposal: Master of Science \(M.S.\) degree in Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#). We are supportive of this program and its timeliness. We have a few minor comments.

- In Section 2.2 (p. 14), the proposal notes the program contains 20 credits of core courses. However, in listing the core courses, the proposal then lists core credits as 24, noting “the following six mandatory courses” - but then only lists 5 courses. It would be useful to clarify whether there are 5 or 6 core courses, and whether there are 20 or 24 core credits.
- The UCI program cited in the proposal (Master of Applied Artificial Intelligence, shown on p. 8 of the proposal) - which appears to be the most comparable program to the current proposal - is a 9-month program with 40 credits. Is there any concern that a 16-month program with 49 credits (one full year + the following fall quarter) may reduce demand?

04/22/2026

**To:** Kenneth Barish, Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate  
and Cherysa Cortez, Executive Director of the UCR Academic Senate

**From:** Kinnari Atit, Ph.D., Faculty Chair of the School of Education Executive Committee

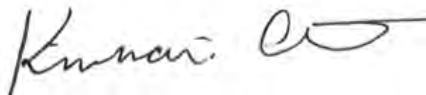
**Subject:** SOE Feedback on Proposal for M.S. Degree in AI

The SOE Executive Committee reviewed the Proposal for the M.S. Degree in AI. Comments/feedback were solicited at our executive committee meeting and via email.

Could you please differentiate between this proposed program and the M.S. Applied AI for Science Program mentioned in the proposal? Please provide these details in section 3.6 (Differentiation from Internal UCR Programs), if appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Sincerely,



Kinnari Atit  
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee  
Associate Professor  
School of Education  
University of California, Riverside  
Email: [kinnari.atit@ucr.edu](mailto:kinnari.atit@ucr.edu)

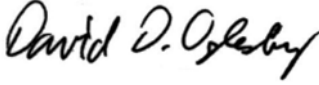


**PLANNING AND BUDGET**

April 23, 2026

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair  
Riverside Division

From: David Oglesby, Chair  
Committee on Planning and Budget



**Re: [Campus Review] Proposal: *Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Artificial Intelligence (AI)***

At our meeting on March 31, the Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) reviewed the proposal for the *Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Artificial Intelligence (AI)*. CPB found no budget-related red flags and generally supports the proposed degree.



April 23, 2026

TO: Ken Barish, PhD, Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

FROM: Adam Godzik, Ph.D., Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, UCR School of Medicine


SUBJECT: **[Campus Review] Proposal: *Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Artificial Intelligence (AI)***

Dear Ken,

The SOM Faculty Executive Committee has reviewed the *Proposal: Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Artificial Intelligence (AI)*

The committee is in support of the proposed M.S degree in Artificial Intelligence.

Yours sincerely,

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4/24/2026 | 11:10 AM PDT  
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Adam Godzik, Ph.D.  
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee School of Medicine



April 23, 2026

**TO:** Ken Barish, Chair  
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

**FROM:** Evangelos (Vagelis) Christidis, Chair  
BCOE Executive Committee

**RE:** MS in Artificial Intelligence

The BCOE Executive Committee met on April 23rd, 2026. Regarding the MS in Artificial Intelligence, the committee unanimously supports it.

