UC RIVERSIDE | CNAS Executive Committee

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)

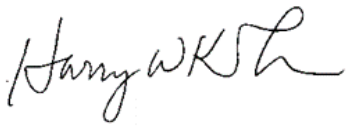
Prof. Barish,

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,



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