

From: Mihaela Cardei <mcardei@fau.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 12:10 PM

To: Stella Batalama <sbatalama@fau.edu>; Hanqi Zhuang <zhuang@fau.edu>; Frederick Bloetscher <h2o_man@bellsouth.net>; Fred Bloetscher <fbloetsc@fau.edu>; Dan Meeroff <dmeeroff@fau.edu>

Subject: RE: Artificial Intelligence at FAU

Hello All,

I would like to brief you on the meetings with representatives from different colleges (COS, COB, COECS, A&L, COE), Dean Pratt, and Dean Stackman. There were two meetings, one last week and one earlier today.

Everyone agreed that our engineering/CS items will move forward on Monday October 12 (both UUPC and Senate) and they will tell their representatives to approve/support. Dean Pratt said that he will be there at UUPC on Monday as well.

The committee agreed that we will follow the guidelines from Dr Ivy (see attached emails on June 19 and July 26) in proposing new courses/curriculum items on AI.

Regarding the courses in AI, CEECS is teaching the foundations course in AI, and the other units will develop courses in their specific areas, e.g. "AI for Social Good", "Business Innovations Through AI", "Ethics of AI", etc.

Regarding certificate/minor programs, in addition to our graduate & undergraduate certificate/minor in Artificial Intelligence, we agreed to have an Interdisciplinary Applications of AI Certificate / Minor, where each unit will add their own concentration. The Interdisciplinary Applications of AI Certificate / Minor will be housed under FAU (e.g. Graduate College, etc.). At the request of the panel, we agreed that the concentrations may list the CS courses as options rather than mandatory. The Interdisciplinary Applications of AI Certificate / Minor will be developed during the next few weeks.

Please let me know if I can provide additional information.

Thanks,
Mihaela

From: Russ Ivy <IVY@fau.edu>

Date: June 19, 2020 at 4:34:12 PM EDT

To: Bret Danilowicz <bdanilowicz@fau.edu>

Cc: Michael Horswell <HORSWELL@fau.edu>, Naelys Luna <ndiaz10@fau.edu>, Safiya George Dalmida <sgeorge@health.fau.edu>, Phillip Boiselle <pboiselle@health.fau.edu>, Stella Batalama <sbatalama@fau.edu>, Ata Sarajedini <asarajedini@fau.edu>, Stephen Silverman <silverman@fau.edu>, Daniel Gropper <dgropper@fau.edu>, Timothy Steigenga <tsteigen@fau.edu>

Subject: Artificial Intelligence at FAU

Bret,

As we have discussed previously, it appears that faculty in a few of the Colleges have been thinking about how they can link to the President's charge for Artificial Intelligence to be the FAU area of distinction (as defined in a recent BOG request of institutions in the SUS). Based on research I have done at other institutions (top-rated Artificial Intelligence programs as ranked by U.S. News and World Report in 2018) and in the CIP degree classification system, it appears that degree programs directly in programming and related design in Artificial Intelligence are established firmly in computer science/engineering. My query seems to affirm that the foundations of the subject are clearly in the lane of computer science. The only reference to "artificial intelligence" specifically in CIP 2020 is 11.0102 *Artificial Intelligence and Robotics* which is positioned in the general 11.0000 Computer and Information Sciences.

Having said that, there are numerous examples of other entities of universities offering more tailored programs to a wider audience with AI interests sometimes in partnership with formal Artificial Intelligence Departments and sometimes not. These tend to be housed in a variety of places including research centers, graduate programs and executive or continuing education programs in areas such as data science, cognitive science, public policy, business, the social sciences...even law and ethics, but all still seem very grounded in a core of computer science training (taught by computer science departments/faculty) related to AI. I think the bottom line is that Departments outside of Computer Science may be able to find a lane in AI, but need to avoid offering degree programs or minors or certificates with the exact label "Artificial Intelligence" (meaning Psychology should not offer a minor called "Artificial Intelligence") and should not duplicate courses in AI that are already found in our computer science department. Most of the non-computer science/ engineering examples I found were usually applications of AI...and called something like..."Certificate in Social Science Applications of Artificial Intelligence". Typically the foundation/programming courses in these are offered in the Computer Science Department with other applications courses in a specific area like social sciences built around those core courses. If AI "lanes" are developed in more than one College at FAU, we need to make sure we are not stealing students from one another....in other words, that each lane is focused on attracting a clearly distinctive student. Going back to my social science example, there may be students who would seek out the certificate I mention above who would not be interested in taking more advanced programming that would surely be part of a minor or certificate in AI within a computer science department, and as such would not consider enrolling in a computer science version of AI. Also, of course those students who are more programming-focused might find one of these "applications" degrees too light on the computer science training they desire or too application-restricted. If we seek the route of "multiple lanes" in AI at FAU, careful planning, market research and strong communication between Colleges needs to be our strategy.

Russ

From: Russ Ivy <IVY@fau.edu>

Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 7:15 AM

To: Tamara Dinev <tdinev@fau.edu>; Hanqi Zhuang <zhuang@fau.edu>

Cc: Bret Danilowicz <bdanilowicz@fau.edu>; Stella Batalama <sbatalama@fau.edu>; Daniel Gropper <dgropper@fau.edu>; Mihaela Cardei <mcardei@fau.edu>

Subject: More discussion on Artificial Intelligence at FAU

The Provost and I discussed the recent email exchanges from the College of Business and the College of Computer Science and Engineering regarding the proposal from COB to create a minor/certificate in business applications of artificial intelligence. You may recall that our office offered the guidance below on June 19, 2020 to help Colleges define their lanes within this rapidly-growing and broad-reaching field. Any College that desires, should be able to find a path in artificial intelligence as long as it is clear that it is an applications-based path and that there is not creation of new courses by that College that are a significant duplication of coursework that exists in computer science. Just because Computer Science has a track labeled "applications" does not preclude other colleges from developing an applications track if the general guidelines below are followed and the other college can make a case that the audience is different.

Beyond that guidance, the Provost and I feel we would be overstepping our bounds to get involved further. We feel the only issue that could get in the way of business being able to offer their proposed minor/certificate is if there is significant overlap in some course(s) proposed by business with existing core courses in computer science and if it is clear that business would be competing with computer science for the same student pool. It should be faculty looking at these issues not administration, therefore I will not be meeting with either college on the proposal at this time. We request that the two colleges meet to discuss the core course and market issues in detail to hopefully come to some agreement. If no agreement is reached, our suggestion is that COB should move forward in the curriculum committee process and make their case. The appropriate group to make the call should be the faculty through the university approved curriculum process.

Russ

Russ

We feel that the Provost's office has gone as far as we should in the matter. Going further

Russell L. Ivy, Ph.D.
Senior Associate Provost
Florida Atlantic University