Senate
Senate Chamber
Room E3-262 Engineering Building
WEDNESDAY, March 4, 2020
1:30 p.m.

ADDENDUM TO AGENDA

X REPORTS OF OTHER COMMITTEES OF SENATE, FACULTY AND SCHOOL COUNCILS

5. Report of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science RE: Proposal for a Bachelor of Science (Major) in Data Science, Including a Co-operative Option (*addendum*) Page 2

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Faculty of Arts

Dr. Jason P. Leboe-McGowan
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November 19, 2019

Dr. Pourang Irani
Associate Dean (Undergraduate)
Faculty of Science

Dear Dr. Irani,

The Faculty of Arts Dean's Office has reviewed the Faculty of Science's proposal to establish a 4-year, Bachelor of Science degree program in Data Science. In our view, the creation of this program represents an excellent opportunity for University of Manitoba students to acquire knowledge and skills that are currently in very high demand. Moreover, we expect that the need for training this area to increase significantly for the foreseeable future. Consequently, on behalf of the Faculty of Arts, please accept this letter as formal support for the proposed Data Science program.

Sincerely,

Jason Leboe-McGowan
Associate Dean (Academic Affairs)
Faculty of Arts

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA | Faculty of Engineering

November 19, 2019

Dr. Pourang Irani
Acting Associate Dean
Faculty of Science

Dear Dr. Irani

On behalf of the Faculty of Engineering I am providing this letter in support of your faculty's initiative to introduce the new undergraduate Data Science program. I reviewed the synopsis you provided. We do not see any conflict or overlap between this program and our existing engineering programs. In fact we strongly believe that this program will complement the existing programs and be a worthwhile addition to the opportunities the University of Manitoba makes available to students.

Many disciplines, including engineering, are heavily relying on data analytics skills to make significant advances. The proposed program, as you stated in your synopsis, will produce graduates with strong skills in data science, a critical need for many provincial, national and international businesses. The graduates from this program will have the much needed qualifications to assist companies to maintain a competitive edge. They will have the foundations to develop tools and methods to enable understanding to be derived from complex data.

On the interaction between faculties front, many members of our faculty are involved in different aspects of Data Science, from an end-user perspective for more advanced research. Training students in the skills related to Data Science (Machine Learning, Data Modeling, Data Privacy and Data Visualization) would support some of the activities in our Faculty. Potential for hiring such students either as co-op students or research associates, is enormous. The students will further develop interdisciplinary skills needed to advance data analytics.

We offer our strong support for this initiative and the skills students will be able to develop through your new undergraduate Data Science program offering.

Yours sincerely,

N. Sepehri

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