



SENATE RESOLUTION #2985

TITLE: Support for Artificial Intelligence (AI) Master's Degree Program
DATE INTRODUCED: 04/09/2024
AUTHOR: Senators Schliebe
SPONSORS: Senators Gundling, Keasling, Gomelsky; First-Year Senator Shosh; Students-At-Large Will Greiner, Daniel Collins, Benjamin Watts, and Cian Melker

1. WHEREAS, the purpose of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
2. (ASUW) is to serve our fellow students in the best manner possible; and,
3. WHEREAS, according to Addendum B the Artificial Intelligence (AI) master's degree
4. program is a postgraduate program set to launch in fall 2024 that focuses on advanced
5. study and research in AI with the goal of equipping students with the necessary
6. knowledge, skills, and expertise to understand, develop, and apply AI technologies in
7. various domains; and,
8. WHEREAS, The Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence program consists of two
9. years of coursework, research projects, and practical applications of Artificial
10. Intelligence (AI) with 30 required course credits; and,
11. WHEREAS, 12 of those credits will be Core Courses (COSC 4550/5550 Introduction
12. to Artificial Intelligence; COSC 4555/5555 Machine Learning; COSC 4557/5557
13. Practical Machine Learning; and COSC 4570/STAT 4240/5240 Data Mining), 12 of
14. those credits will be elective courses, 4 of those credits will be research projects,
15. and 2 of those credits will be seminars; and,
16. WHEREAS, the need for new resources for this program's initialization is minimal with
17. most of the resources already available at the University; and,
18. WHEREAS, An MS program focusing on AI will provide students with a new pathway
19. into computing careers and will be attractive both for graduates from regional schools
20. and international schools; and,
21. WHEREAS, the nationwide graduate level completion numbers in AI from 2019 to
22. 2021 increased by 54.107%, furthering the need for a UW program in AI; and,
23. WHEREAS, student demand for this program is strong nationally; and,
24. WHEREAS, students at UW have showed interest and support as well, as seen in

25. addendum A; and,
26. WHEREAS, the demand for AI professionals has been steadily increasing in recent
27. years; and,
28. WHEREAS, AI technologies are being adopted by various industries, including
29. healthcare, finance, retail, manufacturing, and transportation, leading to a need for
30. skilled AI practitioners; and,
31. WHEREAS, the growth of AI is expected to continue in the coming years, leading to an
32. increasing number of job opportunities; and,
33. WHEREAS, the estimated additional revenues for 5 resident students and 5 non-
34. residents entering each year is about \$190,000 per year; and,
35. WHEREAS, new program expense assumptions predicate faculty, marketing, and capital
36. expenses costing \$0, with total expenses for FY1-FY4 being \$0; and,
37. WHEREAS, there is a national student demand for an AI program, a growing field in AI,
38. a substantial projected revenue, and a low cost for implementation.
39. WHEREAS, it is imperative to attract more students to UW to deal with the impeding
40. enrollment cliff; and,
41. WHEREAS, ASUW recently passed a resolution acknowledging said enrollment cliff;
42. and,
43. THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Associated Students of the University of
44. Wyoming supports the implementation of an Artificial Intelligence (AI) master's degree
45. program; and,
46. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to Professor
47. and Vice Provost and Dean of the School of Graduate Education James C.M.
48. Ahern, the Board of Trustees, and all corresponding departments.

Passed 21-0-1

Referred to: AD&P and HOPE

Date of Passage: April 16th, 2024 Signed: 

(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on April 16th, 2024, I do hereby sign my name hereto and approve this

Senate action.” 

ASUW President

Addendum A
Student Support

I am writing today to sponsor the proposed resolution to support an AI Master's degree program. The AI Master's degree program will be a great asset to the University of Wyoming. We are currently experiencing an unprecedented boom in Artificial Intelligence technology. Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence are at the forefront of many companies' future plans, and studying in these fields is becoming rapidly in high demand. The addition of a master's degree program for Artificial Intelligence research will be useful in attracting new students to the University of Wyoming, retaining those students for the new master's degree program, as well as preparing those students for working in Artificial Intelligence fields in the future.

The University of Wyoming can help to make its Computer Science department even more desirable to students looking for a career in Artificial Intelligence. Therefore, it is our opinion that the University of Wyoming should support this new master's degree system.

Thank you,

Will Greiner

Computer Science, Sophomore

Cosigned,

Daniel Collins

Computer Science, Sophomore

Benjamin Watts

Computer Science, Sophomore

Cian Melker

Computer Science, Sophomore

Addendum B

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Master’s Degree Program Proposal

All Statistics and Information in the Resolution are Cited from the Following Source.



MS-AI-new-degree-feasibility (1) (2).pdf

Addendum C

Forma Budget for AI Master’s Program

The following budget is included in the proposal above but is cited below for accessibility.

Pro forma budget

	Fiscal Year			
	1	2	3	4
Revenue				
Enrollment in program in given Fiscal Year	10	20	20	20
NEW Resident enrollment (# of new students entering the program each year)	5	5	5	5
NEW Non Resident Enrollment (# of new students entering the program each year)	5	5	5	5
Total Resident credit hours generated	75	150	150	150
Total Non Resident credit hours generated	75	150	150	150
Per Credit Tuition (with 4% annual growth)				
Resident (Posted Tuition Rate)	\$358	\$372	\$387	\$403
Nonresident (Posted Tuition Rate)	\$1,074	\$1,117	\$1,162	\$1,208
Prior Year's Non Resident Discount Rate (updated annually by the budget office)	30%	30%	30%	30%
Estimated Actual Non Resident Per Credit Tuition	\$752	\$782	\$813	\$846
Total Resident Tuition in NEW Program	\$26,850	\$55,848	\$58,082	\$60,405
Total Non Resident Tuition in NEW Program	\$56,385	\$117,281	\$121,972	\$126,851
Total Tuition from NEW Enrollment	\$83,235	\$173,129	\$180,054	\$187,256
Fees				
Mandatory Fee (Per Full Time Student)	\$690.00	\$690.00	\$690.00	\$690.00
Mandatory Fee Revenue	\$6,900	\$13,800	\$13,800	\$13,800
Total New Revenue Generated	\$90,135	\$186,929	\$193,854	\$201,056
New Program Expense Assumptions				
Compensation and benefits				
Faculty	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other administrative staff				
Graduate Assistants				

Passed 21-0-1

Supplies				
Travel				
Marketing	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Capital expense	0	0	0	0
Projected Financial Results for New Program	FY1	FY2	FY3	FY4
Total Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total New Revenues Remaining with Program	\$90,135	\$186,929	\$193,854	\$201,056
New Program's Total Surplus or Deficit	\$90,135	\$186,929	\$193,854	\$201,056
Operating margin (surplus or deficit / revenues)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00