

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Subject: Memorandum of Understanding between the Knight Foundation School of Computing and Information Sciences and the Department of Mathematics & Statistics regarding a new BS in Data Science

To Whom It May Concern:

The Knight Foundation School of Computing and Information Sciences (KFSCIS) is proposing a Bachelor of Science in Data Science, and the KFSCIS committee in charge of that proposal has discussed this with relevant leadership within the Department of Mathematics & Statistics (DM&S). This Memorandum of Understanding is intended to capture the content of that discussion and agreement.

1. In general, both DM&S and KFSCIS express their sincere desire to maintain collaborative, productive, collegial, and friendly relations between the units in service of providing our students with as many of the highest quality and flexible educational options as possible.
2. In view of the above, DM&S has no objection to KFSCIS creating a Bachelor of Science in Data Science. The degree name was agreed to be "Bachelor of Science in Data Science" to clearly distinguish it from the DM&S's major in Mathematical Data Science, to show that it is an approach to Data Science that emphasizes computing and information sciences, and to distinguish it from a more mathematical course of study.
3. DM&S, in general, also has no objection to KFSCIS creating new Data-Science-related courses that overlap with existing DM&S offerings, as long as those courses are named and designed in such a way as to clearly indicate the computing and information sciences focus of the offering. For example, DM&S is supportive of KFSCIS offering the following courses in their new degree: "Introduction to Data Science" and "Advanced Data Science".
4. Regardless of the above, both units agree to continue to provide to the other unit's leadership, in accordance with the usual FIU processes, any other new course proposals that overlap with courses in the other unit, for their review and consent.
5. The new degree lists several required mathematics courses. DM&S is willing to serve KFSCIS students in these courses with the understanding that resources are available to DM&S to perform this service, such as: MAS 3105 - Linear Algebra (as an alternative to MAC 2313 - Calculus III), MAD 2104 - Discrete Mathematics (as an alternative to COT 3100), and STA 3163 - Statistical Methods I, STA 3164 - Statistical Methods II, STA 4234 - Introduction to Regression Analysis, MAD 3301 - Graph Theory, MAD 3401 - Numerical Analysis, and MAD 4203 - Combinatorics for a concentration in Statistical Modeling.
6. Finally, KFSCIS had no objection to DM&S proposing a new major in 2022 focused on Mathematical Data Science inside their existing B.S. in Mathematical Sciences, homed in DM&S. DM&S will provide the details of any further new proposed courses or major which overlap with Computer Science and consult with KFSCIS in accordance with the usual FIU processes.

**Louis Tebou**

Chair, Department of Mathematics & Statistics



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**Jason X. Liu**

Director, Knight Foundation School of Computing  
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**Knight Foundation School of Computing and Information Sciences**

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