To: Board of Trustees via Academic and Student Affairs Committee

From: Mung Chiang, President

Cc: Patrick Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date: December 7, 2025

Re: Approval of AI Working Competency Graduation Requirement and Delegation of Authority to Provost

<u>Purpose.</u> The purpose of this memorandum is to recommend, for the Board's consideration, the approval of an artificial intelligence (AI) working competency graduation requirement for Purdue undergraduate students, together with delegated authority to the provost, in consultation with the deans, to establish discipline-specific criteria and standards of proficiency for this requirement.

<u>Background.</u> As we evaluate the inexorable emergence and profound societal impacts of AI, we believe Purdue students should possess the requisite critical thinking skills to understand, evaluate and effectively use AI technologies, and to keep pace with their future changes—all as informed by evolving workforce and employer needs. The goal of this requirement will be to ensure that, from exposure and awareness to skill-building and problem-solving mastery, Purdue students possess job-ready skills and critical thinking competencies to:

- *Understand and use the latest AI tools effectively in their chosen field(s)*, including identifying the key capabilities, strengths and limits of AI technologies, as well as ways that AI can transform existing methods, processes and tools.

- *Recognize and communicate clearly about AI use, decisions and limitations*, including developing and defending decisions informed by AI-driven insights, as well as recognizing the presence, influence and consequences of AI in decision-making.

- *Adapt to and work with future AI developments effectively and continually*.

To support this work, the provost convened a faculty working group under the auspices of the Undergraduate Curriculum Council (UCC) of the University Senate to begin drafting potential learning outcomes and implementation models. This group's work has been helpful in surfacing initial, university-wide concepts on which the above points are based; however, the formal design, approval, and deployment of discipline-specific criteria supporting these points will rest with the provost and in turn with the deans and other appropriate areas within the Office of the Provost.

<u>Authority.</u> Pursuant to IC 21-41-2-1, the Board of Trustees has authority to define standards of proficiency and satisfaction within the curricula and courses established by the university. The Board has, on prior occasions, exercised this authority directly through mandated graduation requirements, such as the civics literacy requirement adopted in 2021, while delegating to academic leadership the development of specific curricular pathways and criteria needed to satisfy those requirements.

Proposal. The proposal is for the Board to declare and approve an AI working competency graduation requirement for Purdue undergraduate students and to delegate to the provost, in consultation with the deans of the colleges, the authority to develop and implement specific criteria for meeting this requirement. Such criteria will be:

- established in a discipline-specific manner at the college level by the provost working with the dean of each college;

- developed with the benefit of industry input in each case, including the creation of standing college-level industry advisory boards focused on employers' evolving AI competency needs; and

- designed to create outcomes to be compiled in a report provided to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee on an annual basis, which will form the basis for annual curricular inspection and refresh at the college and department/school/major/concentration level.

The provost and the deans will work to promulgate the discipline-specific criteria for this competency requirement by no later than the beginning of the 2026-2027 Academic Year.

Recommendation. We respectfully recommend approval of the AI working competency graduation requirement as outlined above, together with the delegation of authority to the provost to develop and implement discipline-specific criteria in consultation with the deans.

Mung Chiang
President

Patrick Wolfe
Provost