October 16, 2024

Dr. Jeffrey Johnson, Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs
University of Pittsburgh at Bradford
232 Swarts Hall
Bradford, PA 16701

RE: Approval of Dropout Detective Canvas Data Use

Dear Dr. Johnson:

I am pleased to inform you that your proposed use of Canvas student data with the Dropout Detective add-on to the Canvas system has been endorsed by the Institutional Data Review Committee (IDRC) and approved by Vice Chancellor and Chief Information Officer Mark Henderson in consultation with Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Joseph McCarthy.

The IDRC reviews data use cases rather than specific applications such as Dropout Detective. Therefore, this decision is applicable to other use cases which would make use of Canvas data in similar ways, subject to the conditions we have previously discussed. These conditions include:

1) Faculty are informed of and approve the use of Dropout Detective or similar applications.
2) Students are notified that Dropout Detective or similar will be used to monitor their progress. Students will have the option to opt out should they explicitly request to do so.
3) Information produced by the system will not be used to evaluate faculty performance. While your request did not mention such usage, the Canvas data could potentially be used in this way.
4) Dropout Detective will, as they have stated, maintain the confidentiality of University student data, "silo" it to prevent its use in unapproved ways, and return it to the University upon request.

Thank you for your willing cooperation as our new committee established its processes. Our aim is to streamline access to University institutional data for purposes consistent with our Data Values and Principles. Your request has enabled us to do that.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Alex Labridinis, Chair
Institutional Data Review Committee