

DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO: Mark Henderson, Vice Chancellor and Chief Information Officer

FROM: Alexandros Labrinidis, Chair, Institutional Data Review Committee

DATE: September 17, 2024

SUBJECT: Recommendation on Data Use – Dropout Detective Canvas Add-on

The Institutional Data Review Committee has considered a request submitted by Jeffrey Johnson, Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs for approval of the use of Canvas Learning Management System data with a program called Dropout Detective.

Dropout Detective is an add-on to Canvas that monitors student interactions with the system to identify students at risk of poor academic performance. The system alerts the academic advisor, allowing intervention to take place.

We have determined that the solution conforms to the Data Values and Principles established for the University. The vendor maintains that student data is not used to train AI models, is not sold or made available to third parties, and is used only for the intended purpose. In addition to these vendor commitments, we recommend the following additional conditions for use:

- 1) Students are notified that Dropout Detective will be used to monitor their progress
- 2) Information produced by the system will not be used to evaluate faculty performance.

The members of the IDRC unanimously recommend approval of the use of Canvas data for this purpose.