Informal Statement about Generative Artificial Intelligence from the Center for Innovative and Transformative Instruction (CITI) at Winston- Salem State University

For the academic year 2023-2024, the Center for Innovative and Transformative Instruction (CITI) developed an informal statement to guide faculty and staff regarding how they approach acceptable use of Generative Artificial Intelligence tools, such as ChatGpt and other open source or paid AI search engines and generators.

As a forward-thinking, liberal arts university who encourages innovation allowing students to "Unleash their Genius," the Center for Innovative and Transformative Instruction at Winston-Salem State University recognizes that generative Artificial Intelligence is a technological tool that will continue to transform the way we teach, learn, and share information. What we do know is that Generative AI is here and not going away- but will evolve into more sophisticated formats and versions over time. Just as in the past, we have seen how the internet/world wide web, search engines such as Google and Firefox, and even the capabilities and evolving of smart phones, generative AI is another format of technological advancement for users.

CITI at WSSU recognizes that generative AI has the potential to bring unimaginable, potential benefits to teaching and learning, but also understands that these tools come with inherent and unknown risks.

CITI at WSSU seeks to establish guidelines for ethical and strategic mission-aligned usage, data protection and privacy, intentional and unintentional use, ways to identify biases, ensure accuracy and responsible acknowledgement/citation of generated outputs, as well as promoting transparency and accountability for students, faculty, and staff who use these tools.

With this in mind, a Generative AI Task Force will be formed in 2023-2024 to develop an AI Acceptable Use Policy, which will help educate all to its current culture of

acceptance in the workforce/corporate settings and highlight the benefits for use in certain academic areas. The Generative AI Task Force will include representation from different disciplines and departments. In alignment with our Strategic Plan 2030 and commitment three the intellectual climate, the Task Force will support interdisciplinary collaboration.

CITI at WSSU also acknowledges that it is important to identify and communicate the known risks that accompany the use of AI tools, such as data privacy, third-party data sharing, and intellectual property rights. Furthermore, we acknowledge that the limits and uses of AI tools may differ across disciplines and its acceptance will vary from discipline to discipline.

CITI encourages WSSU faculty and staff to build trust with students by being transparent and openly sharing their views on AI use in their classes, communicating and revisiting the WSSU academic dishonesty policy. It is also important to develop ways to educate students on generative AI tools and how these tools can be used effectively for learning support and not in place of the learning process.

The Center for Innovative and Transformative Instruction (CITI) will provide ongoing resources, support, and training over the course of this academic year for faculty and staff. Please contact us for any additional questions you have regarding generative AI.

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