ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	☐
Decision	☐
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☒

DATE: 26 January 2021

FROM: Undergraduate Studies Committee

SUBJECT: Minor Program Adjustment – Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Data Science Specialization

COMMITTEE MANDATE:
In accordance with Section 1. b) of the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility "to approve minor program adjustments and report them to Academic Council for information."

USC is reporting these changes to Academic Council for information.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:
The Faculty proposed to move the three "core" upper year Data Science courses (CSCI 4050U, CSCI 4030U, and CSCI 4210U) to the list of select "data-focused" CSCI courses in order to provide more flexibility for students in the Computer Science - Data Science specialization. An existing course (CSCI 4150U: Data Mining) has also been added to this grouping. Students will need to take 4 courses total from the data-focused list, of which must include three from CSCI 4050U, CSCI 4030U, CSCI 4210U, or CSCI 4150U. These changes maintain the core data science skills and learning objectives that already exist in the program, while the new flexibility better aligns with the diverse job needs for data scientists.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:
There are no impacts on resources. Currently, at least three courses from CSCI 4050U, CSCI 4030U, CSCI 4210U, and CSCI 4150U are offered each year. Having students select three from the list provides some flexibility in annual course offerings. The remaining courses in this group are either offered annually or biannually.

TRANSITION PLAN:
Students currently in the Data Science specialization will have the option to move to this new program map. Any already completed requirements from the old program map will align with the changes, and will provide them with additional flexibility in selecting their remaining courses.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

USC: 15 December 2020
Faculty Council: December 1st, 2020
Curriculum Committee: November 27th, 2020

NEXT STEPS:
This change will be included in the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:
- [Minor Program Adjustment Proposal](#)