Memo

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To: Francine Vachon, Chair, IT&IC

From: Rajiv Jhangiani, Vice Provost, Teaching and Learning

Date: March 19, 2025

Subject: **Ethical framework for educational technologies: Components**

Background
At the February 26, 2025 meeting of IT&IC, we discussed the planned development of an ethical framework for educational technologies, which is among the actions that the university has committed to in its current academic plan:

> *4e: Develop and adopt an ethical framework for educational technologies that ensures the procurement of digital tools do not perpetuate and reinforce systemic inequalities and racial biases.*

A similar discussion was held at the March 3, 2025 meeting of the Teaching & Learning Policy Committee.

With the support of members of both IT&IC and T&LPC, we will adapt relevant portions of the British Columbia Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills' ethical educational technology toolkit, which will soon be published under an open, Creative Commons license.

As a first step in this direction, we wish to share the structure and component parts of this toolkit, which we wish to incorporate into our draft framework. These include:

1. Introduction (including key definitions, objectives, and guiding principles drawn from leading scholarship in this field)
2. Regulatory frameworks and responsibilities related to educational technologies (e.g., ethical practices in data management and analytics, navigating data privacy and security, and integrating accessibility in ethical educational technology)
3. Ensuring ethical practices in educational technology (e.g., understanding and addressing bias, respecting equity, diversity, and inclusion, and promoting environmental sustainability)
4. Appendices (including key questions for ethical technology adoption and practical scenarios to assist decision making)

With the support of members of IT&IC we intend to make the necessary revisions (including ensuring that the regulatory frameworks referenced reflected the Ontario post-secondary context) and bring a draft of the ethical framework for educational technologies to the next IT&IC meeting on April 30, 2025. In doing so we will draw on the expertise and input of members of IT&IC and T&LPC who have expressed interest in supporting the development of the framework along with other members of the university community with relevant expertise (e.g., including from the Centre for Pedagogical Innovation and the Provost's advisory group on artificial intelligence).