<p style="text-align:center">M e m o r a n d u m</p>

To:	University Senate
From:	W. Randy Smith, Vice Chair, Council on Academic Affairs
Subject:	Establishment of the Center for Software Innovation
Date:	April 14, 2025

A PROPOSAL FROM THE COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH THE CENTER FOR SOFTWARE INNOVATION, FROM THE ENTERPRISE FOR RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND KNOWLEGDE (ERIK)

Whereas   software technology increasingly impacts all industries and sectors, the Center for Software Innovation will be a hub for interdisciplinary education and collaboration combining fields such as computer science, data analytics, design, marketing, and finance and the Center will work across all colleges to advance learning, career opportunities, and entrepreneurial ventures in digital innovation; and

Whereas   the Center will focus on four pillars – learning, career, entrepreneurship, and community – that align with ongoing institutional goals; faculty may participate as either fellows or affiliates, with criteria specified for both; and current and future opportunities for students and staff were identified; and

Whereas   the Center reports to the Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge with a dotted line to the Office of Academic Affairs; there will be an Executive Director, an oversight committee that will support activities and provide feedback on performance, and an advisory council; and

Whereas   the Center is funded by a $110 million gift from the Timashev Family Foundation, with $70 million designated as current use funds to support programs, and support a future new building, and $40 million as an endowment to support endowed professorships and student activities; and additional funding is expected to come from external sponsors, corporate partnerships and tuition revenue; and therefore resources are available to establish and sustain the Center; and

Whereas   a large set of support letters accompanied the proposal, and following review by a subcommittee, the proposal was approved by the Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on April 2,2025; and

Now, therefore be it resolved that the proposal to establish the Center for Software Innovation be approved by the University Senate, with that action to be shared with the Board of Trustees.