

Resolution to Develop the “Scarlet Button” for Use at The Ohio State University

Synopsis: This legislation proposes the development and implementation of the Scarlet Button, an AI-powered chatbot embedded within The Ohio State University mobile app. This chatbot will assist students, faculty, and community members by answering queries related to the campus and surrounding areas. Users will interact with the Scarlet Button to obtain information about campus services, events, and community resources, helping streamline access to essential information. The chatbot will serve as a one-stop resource for Ohio State-related information and will be designed solely for informational purposes with clear limitations outlined below.

Examples of Prompts:

- "Where can I get food on campus after 9:00 PM?"
- "How do I figure out the bus schedule?"
- "Where can I go to see a movie on or off campus?"
- "What businesses on High Street take Buck ID cash?"
- “What mental health resources does Ohio State have?”

The Scarlet Button: What it Is and What it Is Not

- The Scarlet Button is exclusively used to provide information about Ohio State’s campus and the surrounding community.
- It will be available only to users signed in to the Ohio State app.
- The Scarlet Button is NOT intended for academic purposes or to generate scholarly content.
- It will not generate or manipulate images.
- It will not be accessible to individuals outside the Ohio State community.

This chatbot is designed solely for answering campus-related inquiries and will not emulate mainstream chatbots like ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, or Google Gemini. It will not handle creative or academic prompts.

Implementation:

The Scarlet Button will be developed by The Office of Technology and Digital Innovation in consultation with faculty and students. Given its focus on campus-related information, the development will be less complex than creative AI systems. The chatbot will use predefined responses to frequently asked questions and will be continually updated to reflect the latest information. The main challenge will be interpreting various question formats to provide consistent answers. For example:

- "What time does the Ohio Union close?"
- "Ohio Union closure time"
- "Ohio Union open until?"
- "Ohio Union building hours"

These variations will be recognized and answered accurately by the chatbot. The development and implementation process will evolve over time, and we request flexibility from the administration and the community as we refine and expand the Scarlet Button.

WHEREAS The Ohio State University recognizes the importance of staying at the forefront of AI development and application; and

WHEREAS The Ohio State University recognizes the importance of innovation in communication sharing; and

WHEREAS Other leading universities, such as the University of Texas, Penn State University, and the University of Michigan, have already pioneered advancements in AI for higher education; and

WHEREAS New members of The Ohio State community face significant learning curves in understanding the university's services, resources, and surrounding community; and

WHEREAS The Scarlet Button will provide a centralized platform to answer questions, making it easier for students, faculty, and community members to navigate campus life; and

WHEREAS The Scarlet Button will serve as an initial step toward establishing Ohio State as a leader in AI innovation, with the potential for future specialized AI-driven tools for the university; and

WHEREAS The development of the Scarlet Button is in alignment with Ohio State's commitment to improving the daily lives and experiences of all Buckeyes by providing a centralized, accessible resource for campus-related information; and

WHEREAS Other universities in the Big Ten are considering AI integration in admissions and various other areas, and Ohio State must remain competitive in this field; and

WHEREAS AI technologies, like the Scarlet Button, will significantly impact various aspects of university life, and Ohio State has the opportunity to position itself as a leader in AI development for higher education.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the University Senate at The Ohio State University supports the development and implementation of the Scarlet Button as an AI-powered chatbot embedded in the Ohio State app, dedicated to answering campus-related inquiries and improving the university experience for all members of the university community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University Senate calls on the Office of Technology and Digital Innovation to explore and define the necessary resources and support for the successful development, testing, and deployment of the Scarlet Button, with a focus on user-centric design, accessibility, and the involvement of Ohio State faculty and students in its creation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University Senate commits to working with the Office of Technology and Digital Innovation to establish ongoing evaluation and feedback mechanisms to monitor the effectiveness and impact of the Scarlet Button, making adjustments as necessary to ensure it remains relevant, effective, and useful for the community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Ohio State seeks the concurrence of the Board of Trustees for this initiative, with the development and deployment of the Scarlet Button expected to begin upon their approval.

Future Vision for Ohio State: The development of the Scarlet Button represents a first step in Ohio State's strategic integration of AI into university operations. By starting with a focused, campus-related AI project, the university can build a foundation for future AI applications that will improve student success, operational efficiency, and the overall campus experience. Ohio

State can position itself as a leading force in the responsible development and use of AI technologies in higher education.

University AI Leadership Examples:

- **University of Texas:** In 2024, the University of Texas declared it the Year of AI, showcasing its commitment to AI research and innovation through interdisciplinary AI education and research.
- **Penn State University:** Penn State won the Big Ten Augmented Intelligence Bowl, demonstrating leadership in AI-driven initiatives.
- **University of Michigan:** Michigan's M-Write program uses AI to provide personalized feedback to students on their writing, showcasing AI's potential to support student success.

This proposal is intended to set the stage for Ohio State to lead in the responsible development and application of AI technologies in higher education.

Reference:

- University of Texas AI initiatives: [Year of AI at UT](#)
- Penn State AI advancements: [Big Ten Augmented Intelligence Bowl](#)
- University of Michigan M-Write program: [AI in Education at UM](#)