

MEMORANDUM

To: University Senate

From: Sue Sutherland, Chair, Council on Academic Affairs

Subject: Proposal to Establish the Center for Brain Injury Recovery and Discovery

Date: January 22, 2026

A PROPOSAL FROM THE COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH THE CENTER FOR BRAIN INJURY RECOVERY AND DISCOVERY

Whereas Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is a significant individual and societal problem, and injuries to the brain encompass a range of conditions beyond TBI, and has the potential to manifest as a chronic condition; and the term chronic brain injury is defined here to be the persistent and progressive life-long effects of brain injury that affect health, independent function, and participation in society; and

Whereas understanding the mechanisms that cause persistent issues after brain injuries and translation of that understanding into early detection, novel treatments and multi-system supports, represent several critical areas for investigation and intervention; and brain injury research and care must engage a broad set of health sciences and other disciplines; and

Whereas the proposal builds on the success of the Chronic Brain Injury Program, established in 2014, with its current 49 faculty members from across 11 colleges, and whose sponsored pilot awards have helped the University secure \$29 million in extra-mural awards; and

Whereas the proposal adhered to all expectations for a center proposal including goals, and plans for organizational structure, membership structure, funding and assessment; and

Whereas the proposal is supported by the Enterprise for Research Innovation and Knowledge (ERIK) and includes strong internal and external letters of support; and

Whereas the proposal was reviewed by a Council Subcommittee that included representation from the Senate Fiscal Committee, and was approved by the full Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on December 3, 2025; and

Now therefore be it resolved that the University Senate approve the proposal to establish the Center for Brain Injury Recovery and Discovery and respectfully inform the Board of Trustees.