The Mico University College

Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI)

in Academic Programmes/Courses

Background:

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI), *a subset of artificial intelligence (AI), utilizes machine learning models to create new, original content, such as images, text, or music, based on patterns and structures learned from existing data, in increasingly shorter times*. This technology has spread rapidly, and its use has become prevalent in many industries including education, making a significant impact due to its range of capabilities. Consequently, educational institutions must examine the potential of GAI tools and implement the necessary policies to facilitate its integration in the teaching/learning process.

The Mico University College acknowledges the transformative potential of GAI and its profound impact on research, education, and the world at large. Additionally, the institution recognizes that GAI literacy will ultimately become a requirement for all lifelong learners. As a result, The Mico shall accept the potential of GAI in teaching and learning and in fostering innovation among all stakeholders (students, faculty, staff) as it moves to create a culture of learning that embraces curiosity, adaptability, collaboration and critical thinking built on a commitment to integrity and ethics.

This Statement on the use of GAI in academic programmes/courses as it relates to academic integrity was written as a precursor to the development of a policy document. Until then, the institution will remain open to new ideas and developments, embrace interdisciplinary collaborations, and prioritize responsible AI use.

Purpose:

The Mico University College acknowledges the benefits attributable to the use of GAI in the field of education, and is committed to fostering responsible and ethical use of all associated tools across operational and academic activities. This statement is therefore intended to provide the principles and guidelines governing the acceptable utilization of GAI tools within academic

programmes and courses. Its primary objective is to underscore the ethical use of these technologies, safeguarding academic integrity while integrating GAI into educational frameworks.

Stemming from GAI's increasing impact on the current educational landscape, the University College has deemed it necessary to document how using GAI tools is permissible for students completing academic work. GAI usage may assist in:

- brainstorming assignments or projects,

- the revision and review of existing work (N.B. it is the student's responsibility to ensure that all work submitted is their original work, to avoid claims of academic dishonesty),

- examining alternative explanations of a concept with which a student may be struggling or in need of help to understand,

- exploring a range of resources for a topic about which the student may be studying

- preparing for an examination or other assessment, using AI as a simulator. and

- the creation of new works.

Scope:

The use of GAI tools is widespread in both administrative and academic operations. This statement applies to all staff and students using Generative AI (GAI) tools for academic programmes and courses, academic research, projects, and other academic activities within and related to The Mico University College.

Position Statement:

The Mico University College supports the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence technology in research, teaching, the promotion of individualized learning, and the enhancement of the educational experience. While this is the case, its use should be within the institution's ethical framework and key principles guiding the use of GAI. As an emergent technology tool, GAI is not yet in a finite state. As such, the institution encourages all academic and operational stakeholders to keep updated with the developments in this space, continue to develop their AI Literacy skills and evaluate the potential benefits and limitations of the associated tools.

Key Principles:

1. **Academic Integrity:** The institution encourages the highest standards of academic integrity, and promotes creativity, innovation, and originality in the work of staff and students. It is understood that while GAI tools can assist with research and academic writing, they should not replace original work. All scholarships generated from The Mico (i.e. staff

and students) must reflect initiative, original thought, honesty, responsibility, and respect for self and others.

2. **Inclusivity and Equity:** The institution uses GAI systems to enhance the teaching and learning process; however, large language models are created with in-built biases that could impact their output. Therefore, in using AI tools, consideration must be given to the potential for bias, and effort must be made to promote impartiality, balance, equity, fairness, inclusivity, and trust, in all work.

3. **Reliability:** GAI is a powerful tool, but it is not peer-reviewed, and its contents may not always be accurate. Consequently, scholarly, and peer-reviewed sources must be prioritized when completing assignments or conducting research, to ensure that conclusions are valid and that there is a measure of consistency.

4. **Responsible Use and Transparency:** GAI tools must be used responsibly and ethically, and must not include any activity that would compromise the integrity of research or assignments or that of others. GAI sources should not be cited as a primary source or a sole source of information, as GAI sources are not always trustworthy. However, the use of GAI should be appropriately acknowledged, as instructed by the lecturer/research supervisor.

The principles and processes outlined in the Academic Integrity Policy shall be applicable in cases of non-permissible use of GAI, or other academic misconduct.

Responsibilities:

Lecturers:

Lecturers shall

1. inform students about the use of GAI, as outlined in the GAI usage above, on assignments and in courses, and what is expected of students in using the technology.

2. Integrate GAI technologies for certain assignments to produce initial results or solutions. Subsequently, create a structured framework that requires students to actively engage with these AI-generated outputs.

3. Encourage students to modify and improve upon the AI-generated work, fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

4. Limit students' GAI use in the classroom only, whether individually or as a group, as directed by the lecturer, and allow students to use GAI outside the class, but only for some aspects of assigned work. Guidelines must be provided.

5. Stay updated on GAI technologies and participate in discussions/events and other professional development opportunities within the academic community.

6. Be cautious in the use of GAI tools, particularly regarding data privacy and security

Students/Researchers:

Students/Researchers shall

1. Refrain from copying directly from generative GAI tools. Instead, use AI-generated content to support understanding of concepts or as instructed by the lecturer.

2. Cite scholarly and peer-reviewed sources as appropriate, in research projects or when completing assignments. GAI tools e.g. ChatGPT should not be cited as the sole source of information as these tools are not always reliable. The use of GAI, however, should be acknowledged.

3. Discuss with the lecturer the use of GAI tools for an assignment/research project and clarify how it should be used and acknowledged.

4. Stay updated on GAI technologies and participate in discussions within the academic community.

5. Be cautious in the use of GAI tools, particularly regarding data privacy and security

Students should note that all assignments may still be submitted through plagiarism-check tools as a precaution. Intellectual honesty is vital to the academic community and for the fair evaluation of work. All work submitted must be original work, completed in accordance with the requirements of the lecturer/research supervisor and the University College's academic regulations.

Administrators and Staff:

This statement is in relation to academic programmes/courses in relation to academic integrity, but administrative staff also have a responsibility to: -

1. Be cautious in the use of GAI tools, particularly regarding data privacy and security.

2. Monitor and evaluate the use of GAI tools to identify the achievement of outputs and outcomes.

3. Stay updated on GAI technologies and participate in discussions within the academic community.

The statement serves as a temporary measure to ensure responsible GAI usage within The Mico University College while the AI Policy is being drafted. This statement may

be updated and reissued as needed. The cooperation and dedication to maintaining academic integrity and ethical GAI usage within the institution is appreciated.