Resolution on Institutional Competencies: A Helpful, Open, and Transparent Process to Approve Through Committee Heuristic (IC HOTPATCH)

Whereas the university has adopted Policy 01.05.010 with the stated goal of ensuring that students are able to "conceptualize [their] academic experience as an integrated experience" and that their learning experiences are "more relevant to students' overall education, career readiness, and lifelong learning;" and

Whereas the implementation of this policy requires the approval of Institutional Competencies and Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) on a course-by-course basis through the Course Approval process (CAPA); and

Whereas no clear, published procedures governing the approval or rejection of Institutional Competencies have been made available to faculty and instructors; and

Whereas decisions to reject proposed SLOs and Institutional Competencies are currently communicated without justification or constructive feedback in a significant number of cases, leaving affected faculty without the guidance necessary to revise and resubmit their work effectively; and

Whereas the determination of what constitutes competency is properly a matter of value-relevance specific to each field of inquiry, and therefore requires representation from across the disciplines; and

Whereas faculty are presumed, under the principle of academic freedom and the norms of shared governance, to possess the expertise necessary to identify how their teaching promotes the acquisition of distinct competencies within their classrooms; and

Whereas the current composition of the UCC Institutional Competencies Subcommittee does not adequately represent the disciplinary diversity of the university;

Be it therefore resolved that:

- The Franklin College Faculty Senate urges the appointment of four additional members to the UCC Institutional Competencies Subcommittee; and that
- These four additional members should be drawn from disciplines not currently represented on the subcommittee, including but not limited to the humanities, fine arts, and education, in order to ensure that deliberations reflect a full range of disciplinary perspectives; and that

- The Franklin College Faculty Senate strongly suggests that decisions to reject proposed SLOs or Institutional Competencies at the UCC Subcommittee level require a two-thirds supermajority vote of the subcommittee, so that rejections reflect considered collective judgment rather than the preferences of a narrow majority; and that
- Any decision to reject proposed SLOs or Institutional Competencies should be communicated to the originating faculty member or instructor in writing, accompanied by a substantive explanation of no less than one paragraph that identifies the specific grounds for rejection and provides constructive guidance for revision.