WHEREAS, there is no graduate program with specialization in robotics in the state of Delaware, at the time where there is growing demand by domestic and international students for training in this particular area.

WHEREAS, similar graduate (masters) programs in other universities nationally have been growing rapidly.

WHEREAS, there is a sustained and increasing need for workforce development, demonstrated by industry and government organizations both in the mid-Atlantic region and nationally.

WHEREAS, the University is positioned to carve a unique niche in this area being one of the very few institutions with existing infrastructure that allows deployment, testing, and demonstration of robotic devices in air, land, and sea.

WHEREAS, there is an existing network of already collaborating faculty across campus who can contribute to the function and growth of this program.

WHEREAS, the Masters in Science in Robotics program is aligned with the mission of the University in terms of disseminating scientific knowledge for the benefit of society, and will contribute to increasing the visibility of the University as premier graduate education institution.

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate recommends provisional approval of the establishment of a new Master of Science in Robotics.