Ethics Statement for Artificial Intelligence in Teaching and Learning at Ramapo College

Ramapo College is dedicated to fostering ethical, equitable, and responsible engagement with Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in teaching and learning. As educators, we recognize AI's transformative potential to enhance pedagogy, support student success, and encourage innovation, while also upholding our responsibility to ensure its use aligns with the values of academic integrity, critical thinking, and holistic education.

1. **Alignment with Educational Mission**
   Faculty members should utilize AI tools in ways that support the liberal arts mission of fostering critical thinking, ethical reflection, and the personal and intellectual growth of students. AI should serve as a tool to enhance learning outcomes, not replace the role of educators or students in the learning process.

2. **Preservation of Academic Integrity**
   Faculty must ensure that AI use in the classroom upholds the principles of academic honesty. **Guidelines should clearly distinguish between acceptable and unacceptable uses of AI in assignments, assessments, and collaborative work**. Faculty are encouraged to educate students on the ethical use of AI to foster responsible academic practices.
   - Faculty should provide clear course policies on the use of AI, including examples of what constitutes acceptable and unacceptable practices. These policies should align with institutional guidelines on academic integrity and promote understanding of ethical AI use.

3. **Equity and Inclusion in Learning**
   AI tools and technologies must be selected and implemented with consideration for equity and accessibility. Faculty should strive to minimize potential biases in AI applications and ensure all students have equal access to the resources and support needed to engage with AI effectively. As a campus, we should strive to reduce or eliminate the opportunity gaps that may exist as a result of students' resources or prior experience.

4. **Transparency in AI Use**
   Faculty are encouraged to maintain transparency when incorporating AI into their teaching. This includes informing students about the use of AI tools, the rationale behind their integration, and how these tools contribute to their educational experience. Faculty should also model critical engagement with AI by discussing its limitations and potential biases.

5. **Empowerment of Human Agency**
   While AI can enhance efficiency and creativity, faculty must prioritize empowering students as active participants in their own education. Assignments and activities should be designed to encourage critical thinking, problem-solving, and original thought, with AI serving as a complement to these skills rather than a substitute.

6. **Sustainability and the Environment**
   Faculty and administrators should consider the environmental impact of AI tools and technologies. AI systems often require significant computational power, which can contribute to energy consumption and carbon emissions. Faculty should attempt to use AI tools when they create overall efficiency.

7. **Continuous Growth, Learning and Professional Development**
Faculty and students are encouraged to engage in ongoing learning about AI technologies to stay informed about their capabilities, limitations, and ethical considerations. Professional development opportunities should be sought to ensure faculty are equipped to integrate AI tools responsibly and effectively into their teaching.

8. **Support for Ethical AI Use in Scholarship**
Faculty using AI in their research and scholarship should adhere to ethical standards in conjunction with their respective discipline, ensuring that AI applications contribute to the advancement of knowledge while reflecting Ramapo College's values of integrity and responsibility.

9. **Reflection and Feedback**
Faculty are encouraged to continuously reflect on the effectiveness and impact of AI tools in their teaching. Soliciting student feedback can help ensure that AI applications enhance the learning experience without compromising equity, understanding, or student engagement. Additionally the College and its Faculty should stay abreast of the rapidly changing AI Ecosystem and the different techniques evolving in Higher Education.

10. **Respect for Intellectual Property**
Faculty must remain mindful of issues related to intellectual property when using AI in teaching and scholarship. This includes protecting student and faculty-generated work, understanding copyright implications of AI tools, and modeling ethical attribution of AI-generated content. It is important to understand that AI tools can use information provided for future use.

11. **Community Learning**
Ramapo has a responsibility to educate the larger community about AI is to provide accessible information and critical perspectives on the potential benefits and risks of artificial intelligence, fostering informed public discourse and ensuring responsible development and use of AI technology.