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TAMIL NADU OPEN UNIVERSITY
[Established by Act No.27/2002 of the Government of Tamil Nadu]
Research Division
No.577, Anna Salai, Saidapet, Chennai – 600 015.
Phone: (91-44) 24306626/58

RESEARCH COUNCIL

I. PREAMBLE

The Research Council is formed as a Advisory Body for all Research related activities including M.Phil & Ph.D. in Tamil Nadu Open University. It will review and recommend all types of Research Proposals received from Faculty and Research Scholars with a view to safeguard the dignity, rights, safety and well being of all actual and potential Research Participants. The goals of Research, however important, should never be permitted to override the health and well being of the Research Subjects.

The Research Council (RC) will take care that all the cardinal principles of research ethics viz. Autonomy, Beneficence, Non – malfeasance, Justice are taken care of in planning, conduct and reporting of the proposed Research. The Committee will also examine compliance with all regulatory requirements, applicable guidelines and laws. The mandate of the Research Council will be to review all Research Projects and to ensure the quality and that it shall not violate any norms or does not contradict the policies and rules of both Central and State Governments in vogue as amended from time to time.

II. THE OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH COUNCIL

- 1) To provide a Research Regulations for the University and formulate guidelines to carry out various objectives of the Research Council and modify as and when required in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Higher Education regulating authorities.
- 2) To consolidate information on Research funded by sources outside the University.
- 3) To provide overall guidance to Ph.D./M.Phil. Programmes and regulations related to it as and when updated by the regulatory authorities.
- 4) To administer various grants and fellowships under schemes accepted by the University.
- 5) To ensure timely completion of the research and ensure smooth conduct of research as well as resolve any conflict of all nature, whenever arises, (e.g. between Scholar(s) and Guide(s) etc.) concerning the research programme.
- 6) To explore funding sources in India and abroad and create linkages as desirable correlated with the research activities of University by the institutions for the Faculties.

- 7) To generate an overall Research Profile of the University, identify gap areas and examine means of supporting research in deserving cases and emerging areas
- 8) To facilitate activities related to Intellectual Property Rights/Patents.

III. THE ROLE OF THE RESEARCH COUNCIL

1. Creating Research Profile of the University
2. Formulating Research Regulations of the University
3. Pursuing Research and Development Grant for Innovative Projects
4. Monitoring Research Projects – Other National and International Grants
5. Considering and recommending the eligible Faculty applicant for recognition as Research Supervisor as per UGC/University regulations
6. Monitoring Ph.D. & M. Phil Programmes, Ph.D. registration and their extensions, submission of periodical reports.
7. Monitoring Ph.D. Scholarships- JRF/SRF/ Non-NET Fellowships, other State Govt Fellowships/grants etc.
8. Monitoring Foreign Travel of Faculties/Supervisors, Scholars regarding the scientific paper Presentations/publications.
9. Formalising International and National Level MoUs
10. Filing/Maintaining of Patents, Collaborative agreements, technology transfer etc.
11. Upgrading the quality of research findings and publications of University by adopting mechanisms like Plagiarism check, etc.
12. Providing required data to NAAC / NIRF and facilitate.
13. Taking necessary action for the research related matters which are forwarded from Internal Research Advisory Committee of TNOU.
14. Serving also as a Member – Ethical Committee of the University through Nomination.

IV. COMPOSITION OF THE RESEARCH COUNCIL

Research Council shall be multidisciplinary and multisectoral in composition keeping in mind the Independence and Competence. The number of persons in the Research Council/ Committee can be kept fairly small (8-10 members). It is generally accepted that a minimum of five persons is required to compose a quorum. There is no specific recommendation for a widely acceptable maximum number of persons but it should be kept in mind that too large a Committee will make it difficult in reaching consensus opinions. 12-14 is the maximum recommended number.

The Chairman of the Committee should preferably be from within the Institution and not head of the same Institution to maintain the independence of the Committee. The Member Secretary who generally also belongs to the same Institution should conduct and

record the business of the Committee in the absence of Chairman. Other members should be a mix of medical / scientific and non-scientific /lay persons including lay public to reflect the differed viewpoints.

The composition may be as follows:-

1. Convener
2. Physical scientist
3. Biological Scientist
4. Legal Expert
5. Social Scientist / representative of non-governmental voluntary agency
6. SC/ST Nominee
7. Academic council Member
8. Women Member

The Committee can have as its members, individuals from within or other institutions or communities if required. Generally, it is better to have more external members. There should be adequate representation of age, gender, community, etc. in the Committee to safeguard the interests and welfare of all sections of the community / society. Members should be aware of local, social and cultural norms, as this is the most important social control mechanism. If required, subject experts could be invited as special invitees in addition as special Invitees to offer their views, for example for drug trials, preferably a clinical pharmacologist, should be included similarly, based on the requirement for other research areas also. The membership of Research Council will include Basic/applied Science Experts, Legal Experts, Social Scientists, SC/ST representative, Academic Council Member, Women member etc. They should be appointed by the Head of the Institute based on their competencies and integrity, and could be drawn from any public or private Institute of repute from anywhere in the country but preferably within the state/city considering the availability/accessibility for the joint sitting/meeting for quick approval/disposal of the project proposal so that the proposals can be sent to the funding agency well in time. Three members of the Research Council may be nominated to the Ethical Committee for effective Co-ordination.

V. MEMBERS REQUIREMENTS

- The duration of appointment is initially for a period of 3 years.
- At the end of 3rd year, as the case may be, the committee may be reconstituted, and 50% of the members will be replaced by a defined procedure.
- The membership of the council ceases along with their service/tenure in their parent institution for a period of 3 years whichever is earlier.

- A member can be replaced in the event of death or long-term non-availability or for any action not commensurate with the responsibilities laid down in the guidelines deemed unfit for a member.
- A member can tender resignation from the committee with proper reasons to do so.
- All members should maintain absolute confidentiality of all discussions during the meeting and sign a confidentiality form.
- Conflict of interest should be declared by members of the Research Council.
- All members are eligible for Sitting fee and TA as per TNOU norms.

VI. QUORUM REQUIREMENTS

The meeting of the Research Council, may be conducted once in a Year to facilitate faster forwarding process, or as and when need arises (A special sitting may be arranged based on the need). The minimum of 5 members are required to compose a quorum. The Scholars and Teachers are supposed forward the proposal well in advance, at least 20 days before the closing day. Preferably all decisions may be taken in meetings and not by circulation of project proposals except in needy cases. The members of the Research Council shall be nominated by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, TNOU, from the panel of the Expert as submitted by the Director (Research)

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| 1. Convener | : Director (Research), TNOU |
| 2. Physical Science Expert | : Two members (Physics & Chemistry) |
| 3. Biological Science Expert | : One member |
| 4. Legal Expert | : One member |
| 5. Social Science Expert | : One member |
| 6. SC/ST Nominee | : One member |
| 7. Academic Council Member | : Two members from Academic Council of TNOU |
| 8. Women Member | : One member |

RESEARCH COUNCIL MEMBERS LIST

1.	Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Tamil Nadu Open University Saidapet, Chennai-600 015	Chairperson
2.	Dr. G. SARAVANAN Senior Scientist Chemistry Department CSIR-NEERI, Chennai Zonal Centre CSIR Madras Complex, Taramani -600 113	Member
3.	Dr.S. BALASUBRAMANIAN Professor and Director School of Tamil and Cultural Studies and Chairperson, Faculty of Indian and Foreign Languages, Tamil Nadu Open University Saidapet, Chennai-600 015	Member
4.	Dr.S,CHANDRASEKARAN Professor of Plant Science School of Biological Sciences Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai-625 021	Member
5.	Mr.P.SANJAY GANDHI Advocate, BBC Villa Complex Door No.66, 6th Floor Prakasam Salai, Broadway, Chennai 600 104	Member
6.	Dr. M. THAMILARASAN Associate Professor and Head i/c Department of Sociology University of Madras, Chepauk, Chennai-600 005	Member
7.	Dr. M. PONNUSAMY Dean, Institute of Cost Accounts of India No.4, Montieth lane, Egmore Chennai-600 008	Member
8.	Dr. S. Jayalakshmi Assistant Professor Bharathidasan University DDU-KAUSAL Kendra, Tiruchirapalli - 620 023	Member
9.	Dr. M. Michael Gromiha Professor Dept. of Biotechnology Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai-600 036	Member
10	Dr. L. Raja Professor Centre for Lifelong Learning The Gandhigram Rural Institute Chinnalapatti, Dindigul-624 302	Member

11.	Prof. K. RATHNAKUMAR Registrar Tamil Nadu Open University Saidapet, Chennai - 600 015	Special Invitee
12.	Dr.M. MANIVANNAN Professor & Director School of Education and Controller of Examinations Tamil Nadu Open University Saidapet, Chennai - 600 015	Special Invitee
13.	Dr. D.SUMATHI Assistant Professor(SG) School of Education and Assistant Controller of Examinations (Research Programme) Tamil Nadu Open University Saidapet, Chennai - 600 015	Co-ordinator