Manav Rachna University, Faridabad
Policy for Research and Innovation Promotion

1.0   Preamble

In order to promote quality in research and publications and keeping in view of the current government policies towards innovations and startups beyond research, the University considers to extend to facilitate the faculty members / staff and students for contributing towards country's socio and economic growth. Therefore, as a matter of policy, the University encourages its faculty, staff and students to undertake quality research leading towards publications, innovations, product development and startups. The faculty members get an opportunity to apply their knowledge for finding out solutions in the emerging and thrust areas of research.

This policy shall be effective from 01.07.2022 onwards. This Policy shall repeal all the previous policies existing prior to 01.01.2022 for Research & Innovation.

2.0   Objective of the Policy

This policy provides a broad framework to guide research and integrity of scholarly inquiry at the University level. The objectives are as follows:-

(a).   To create an research ambiance and infrastructure
(b).   To promote research publications in journals of international repute, file patents and transfer technologies to relevant industries
(c).   To promote research, innovation and intellectual capital
(d).   To ensure integrity, quality and ethics in research
(e).   To incentivise the generation of publications, IPRs and consultancy
(f).   To promote research culture among faculty members & students at both UG and PG level in addition to Ph.D.
(g).   To provide guidance and monitor research activities in thrust areas
(h).   To promote & facilitate collaboration with national & international Universities, research labs, corporate etc.
(i).   To promote interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research.
(j).   To create quality human resources for scientific research
(k).   To promote any other research activity not covered above.

3.0   Promotion of Research & Incentive thereof.

(a) The University shall create conducive environment for research with available facilities and resources, allocate the space, partial and infrastructural resources for research programmes based on the scholarly and educational merits of the proposed research. It shall also provide development opportunities to the researchers for research proposals, publications, IPR, innovations, startups etc.

(b) The University shall encourage quality research in different thrust areas. For this purpose outstanding research contributions done by faculty researcher and other staff who are on rolls of the University shall be recognized.

(c) Incentives will be available to faculty members and staff for their contribution to the University's overall ranking and reputation through Research Promotion / Published Research Work / Externally Funded Research Projects/Programs, Patents, Start-ups etc. through performance appraisal.

4.0   Research Policy Guidelines:- The following guidelines shall be followed:-

(a). Central Registry of Research Projects/Publications / Patents

A central registry of all the titles of research undertaken in the form of faculty research, departmental research, research done by Undergraduate, Postgraduate students, PhD scholars, Post Doctoral fellows be maintained.

A central registry of all the titles of the Extramural / intramural funded projects be maintained by the office of Dean Research.

(b). Research Funds/Grants Management

The Office of Dean Research shall be responsible for the management of funds received and disbursed in regard to every funded project, and maintains the audited records of the same. It facilitates smooth transfer of funds and the necessary communications with the funding bodies. It shall also facilitate to provide all the information related to the various funding bodies and the thrust areas. The fund allocation process shall be monitored by the office of Dean, Research, and shall be the contact person for research related financial and non-financial management services including the costing and pricing of Extramural Research and Consultancy.

(c). Central registry of conferences/workshops/other events conducted & attended by various Departments / Schools

All the conferences, workshops & other events conducted and attended by the faculty and departments of the University shall be documented by the respective Heads and Dean of School. The details of the financial assistance provided by the University to the faculty members shall also be documented by the Office of Dean Research.

(d). Financial assistance to attend Conferences/workshops/other events at National and International level

Financial assistance shall also be provided to the faculty members attending the National and International Conferences as per the guidelines for travel grant as approved by the Board from time to time.

(e). <u>Intramural Research and Innovation Support Grant as Seed Money</u>

In order to promote in-house research and innovation by faculty members and students, University shall provide seed money as intramural grant to the faculty members and students to pursue a research project / prototype development. It is a systematic process of basic and applied research to discover a solution for problems faced by society or creating new knowledge and products. It may result in the form of IPR, research publications and startups etc.

The proposal of the research project from faculty or student shall be evaluated by a committee headed by Dean Research in the presence of external expert and if found suitable shall be recommended for intramural grant. The following criteria shall be applicable for seed money:-

(i)   The University faculty members (regular or on probation) will be encouraged to submit minor research proposals based on their innovative ideas. The applicant will clearly and convincingly demonstrate that the proposed project represents a new research direction in an area likely to generate external funding.

(ii)   Seed money will be provided throughout the year on the request of the Principal Investigator/ Reseracher.

(iii)   The Principal Investigator (PI) would submit half-yearly report of the work done to Dean Research.

(iv)   After completion of the project, a final report must be prepared and submitted to Dean Research office for acceptance by the competent authority.

(v)   The PI will ensure that project is completed within the stipulated time and the final report is submitted well in time. In case of failure to achieve the desired project outcome, the PI shall not be eligible for applying for seed for seed money for next two years.

The primary goal of this scheme is to support faculty members in developing research resources in the area of expertise and to develop innovative or interdisciplinary approaches or methodologies.

(f).   Conduction of workshops/seminars related to Research

The Dean Research shall also facilitate to conduct workshops/seminars on basics of research, research methodology, ethics in research and publishing, scientific writing, research databases etc. to update the students, research scholars, and faculty members about the basic and advanced research.

(g).Identification of faculty member with good research and innovation credentials in all the departments with less teaching load

Dean Research in consultation with HODs and Deans of Schools shall identify faculty members with good research and innovation credentials in all the departments.

5.0   Research Ethics & Misconduct:

The university believes that the occurrence of misconduct is a threat to the research policy. The research misconduct is Fabrication, Falsification, or Plagiarism in Research Activities or Deliberate Interference of research activities construed to falsification and plagiarism in proposing, performing or reviewing research or in the reporting of research results.

Research misconduct does not include an honest error or differences of opinion, authorship disputes that do not involve plagiarism, and violations of other university policies. Misconduct in research damages the integrity of the profession and undermines the credibility of scholars.

The University currently conforms to the plagiarism policy as notified by the University in reference to the guidelines of the UGC namely, UGC (Promotion of academic integrity

and prevention of plagiarism in higher education institutions) regulation 2017 (F.1-18/2010 (CPP-II) dated 1st September 2017). The University shall take seriously all issues of misconduct and shall ensure that the procedures for the inquiry, investigation, and adjudication of any misconduct are well defined and just for all parties involved.

Following looks at the ethical angle of the research and also check for any academic & research misconduct.

a. **Plagiarism Policy**- This policy ensures non-plagiarism in all research work at MRU (in accordance with the UGC guidelines for plagiarism), and also deals with the actions on ethical misconduct by the faculty / student.

b. **MRU-IHAEC- Institutional Human and Animal Ethics Committee:** Research projects that involve clinical research, human subjects, and animal subjects including those undertaken as part of a teaching program, must be approved in advance by the respective institutional ethical committees.

6.0   Identification of Thrust Areas

Although the researchers have the freedom to choose their own topics of research, it is highly desirable to make research socially relevant and connected with thrust areas of Govt. of India. The University expects the different departments to prepare a list of research topics with a view to be focused in their efforts. Under each discipline and department, there shall be an exhaustive list of such topics or areas, which can be called, thrust areas of the department. It shall be utilized for the following research activities;

(i)   The thrust areas can be made available to the research scholars who may use it for their doctoral thesis.

(ii)   Similarly, the faculty shall also avail the thrust areas for identifying the subject for their minor research projects and even for major research projects.

(iii)   Even for industry sponsored projects or for collaboration with other institutions, the thrust areas shall be utilized.

7.0   Research at UG and PG Level

The faculty at MRU believes that this unique environment should be used for primary training of undergraduate and postgraduate students. A new type of training of a new generation of Indians is sought where even basic courses are taught in a manner informed by constant contact with active research. Teaching and research are quality important in a University. On the establishment of the University, it was thought to promote creativity among the undergraduate and post-graduate students some research component in the curricula, especially in the final or pre-final year of the bachelors programme and final year in the master's programme, is necessary. Accordingly, in the 3rd semester onwards of the bachelors programme, the UG & PG Research courses are inducted in the name of Introduction to Research, Technical Seminar, Research & Innovation etc. from year 2016 and 2019 respectively where the students under the guidance of the faculty, work on the decided topic leading to Project dissertation and seek publications in the listed journals reviewed periodically. The final project is

submitted to the institution and also the viva is conducted. Partial travel grant is provided to UG and PG students to attend national and international conferences.

8.0   Doctoral & Post Doctoral Research:

The doctoral and post-doctoral research work and award of doctoral degrees shall be as per the Revised Ordinance for Award of Degrees 2019, University. Various committees under it also monitor the research and ethics at MRU.

The University encourage both faculty members and scholars to opt their Ph.D. problems in the thrust areas of the departments. The University has fellowship schemes to the qualified students as per norms. The University support Ph.D students with contingency, travel grant to attend national and international conferences as per rules.

9.0   Publication and Intellectual Property:

The University expects all University Research outputs to be disseminated & publicly available, to the extent permitted by law, Research outputs may be filed as required in the University's Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Cell.

The University has an approved IPR policy for protection of IP generated by the faculty, staff and students of the University notified on 21 February 2018. The University proposes to strengthen the research, leading to filing of patents for which the guideline is already available on the University website. The University shall encourage the researchers and scholars to patent a requisite proposal.

The University also bears all expenditure for filing applications for patent as per IPR and HR policy of the Institution. If the patent is commercialized the sharing of earning is to be done between researcher and the university as per the IPR Policy of MRU. The University shall create awareness about intellectual property rights among faculty, researchers and scholars from time to time.

Staff and students are required to comply with the MRU University's Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy.

10.0   Consultancy:

For a sustainable future and to realize the University goals of progression towards the list of best universities, consultancy activities are promoted. The faculty shall abide by the MRU University Consultancy & Extension Policy, for all the consultancy related activities.

11.0   Dissemination of research results:

The researcher may use various tools for dissemination like, research reports, peer-reviewed papers, conference presentations, press releases, radio spots, community dramas, developing policy briefs, printing of brochures, making cartoon clips, writing internet blogs etc.

12.0   Collaborative Research Projects

The University has collaborated with industries and University across globe for joint research to contribute to the society at large, the departments of University closely work

with industries and different organizations, Industries and business organizations face different problems and would like to have the help from the University with an aim to find the solutions to their problems, For that, the University has the following activities:

a. **Sponsored Research Projects:** An organisation can sponsor a project and the experts of the institution concerned can conduct research on this project for which the financial support will come from the organization. As a result, if any intellectual property (IP) is generated that will be registered as per IPR Policy of University, and income coming out of the commercialization of IP shall be shared as per the IPR policy of MRU.

b. **Interdisciplinary Research:** The Interdisciplinary research in the department, institution, researcher or a scholar may address a research problem in which more than one discipline is involved and unless they get together and conduct interdisciplinary research no fruitful findings can be arrived at. Therefore, the University has decided to support interdisciplinary research activities for which the following steps will be taken:

   i) Identify the interdisciplinary area.
   ii) Identify the different experts from concerned disciplines who can work together.
   iii) Study the requirement of the infrastructure to conduct the concerned Interdisciplinary research.
   iv) Explore possibilities to find resources for such interdisciplinary research.

c. **Collaborative International Research**

Collaborative international research has been promoted to facilitate mutual learning and expert knowledge sharing. The University policy promotes the MoUs with prominent research institutions abroad, for conducting research jointly in the areas of common interest, For this purpose, a task force in the relevant areas is constituted that will constantly explore the possibilities of having such collaborative or joint research in terms of thrust areas, and to decide the modus operandi of conducting such research and attend to other relevant aspects.

13.0 Establishment of Centers of Excellence in thrust areas

The University proposes to create an environment for each faculty /department where they work in a specific research area and be known as a specialist organization or specific research activities in the specialized areas. Through these efforts, the university shall promote a particular department or the Centres of Excellence in a specialized thrust area.

14.0 Operating support for Prototype Development /Start-ups

This support is intended for new Research Ventures/Centres/Programs, to build an infrastructure in the early, critical years. This funding is particularly appropriate when grant funding is not available to cover certain operational expenses.

15.0 Establishment of Research Chairs

The University shall create research chairs and a scheme for appointment for professor emeritus for a particular term, where very senior scientists or professors shall be appointed for chairs and they shall conduct on an important topic. The research chair professors shall take some teaching load in line with the principle of integrating the research and teaching.

16.0   Incubation at MRU

The University fosters to provide an environment for innovation including incubation centre and other initiatives conducive to the development of Technology business incubators. As per the directives of AICTE-MHRD, Institute Innovation Council (IIC) established in 2018 under which students are developing their prototypes.

17.0   Following policy documents also provide support to the Research policy of MRU and are referenced in the research and innovation policy:

(a)   Ordinance for award of Ph.D. and D.Lit (Honoris Causa)
(b)   IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) Policy
(c)   MRU-IHAEC – Institutional Human and Animal Ethics Committee
(d)   MRU-ILSC- Institutional Lab Safety Committee
(e)   Plagiarism Policy
(f)   Business Incubation Policy
(g)   Consultancy Policy
(h)   NISP Policy (Credit Transfer/Mapping)
(i)   Ph.D. Fellowship
(j)   Post doctoral Fellowship

18.0   Review of the Research Policy

The policy shall be reviewed on regular basis to comprehend the changes, advancement taken place during the period for incorporating and updating the existing policy after changes / advancement from time to time.