

CHAPTER SIX

Operational Plan 2009-2015

Research Goal

To foster research to sustain economic development and growth

In this Chapter, the major actions that will be instrumental for the implementation of the proposed SRIF are reported.

SRIF sets the operational framework for achieving success through the consolidation of a change in mindset and through the inculcation of a conducive environment supported by the appropriate funding. SRIF provides for a research performance appraisal process to improve research management and output.

University of Mauritius will conduct research in areas that are aligned with national priorities without unduly penalising fundamental research. The University will strengthen its research through focused, innovative and enterprising approaches.

Maintenance of a productive research culture requires a pool of talented researchers (students and staff). UoM will ensure that researching students have quality supervision, clearly defined projects, sufficient resources and opportunities for developing generic skills.

Partnerships will be built between UoM researchers and other complementary national and international government agencies, universities, industrial and commercial partners and venture capital companies.

Key Strategies

- A. Foster and grow an active research culture that inspires discovery and innovation with emphasis on research of excellence that is world-significant**
- B. Create synergies, strengthen inter-disciplinary and collaborative research through increasing the number of functional and strategic internal and external links**
- C. Build future research and research capacity**
- D. Increase research income from external sources to support more research**

Key Strategy	Strategic Initiatives	Actions	Targets by 2012/2015
Foster and grow an active research culture that inspires discovery and innovation with emphasis on research of excellence that is world-significant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognise and support the university's areas of research strength by putting in place resource allocation models which aim to maximise the opportunities for good researchers to research; focus and support research in a few niche areas; • promote team research through UoM Research Entities; • increase overall research funding levels and diversify funding sources; rationalise funding stream; • develop plans to improve research quality and impact; • set criteria for assessing research quality and conduct research assessments; • increase citations by raising the profile and accessibility of UoM research; • reward excellence and achievement in research; • develop outreach activities aimed at enhancing the research and innovation culture nationwide; • encourage organization of national and international research events; • develop and consolidate pathways to ventilate research findings of UoM research; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UoM International Conference/ UoM International Virtual Conference • Document and promote the University's substantial activities and achievements in the National Research Priority Areas. (3-yearly report) • REEF applied to all faculties • Increased media releases to the community of research results produced by UoM researchers • UoM Innovation Week • Research prizes in recognition for outstanding accomplishments in research; • Publication of the Research Yearbook online • Initiatives to foster innovation in government ministries and departments • Review of resource allocation to designated areas of strength. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of research publication: 200/250 • Number of oral presentation by academic staff locally: 90/105 • Number of presentation made overseas by staff under ASD (Research): 60/75 • Number of oral presentation made by doctoral students locally: 65/70 • Percentage participation of academic staff at research week: >90/>90 • Journal of grant awards: 90/100 • Number of research excellence awards: 3/4

Key Strategy	Strategic Initiatives	Actions	Targets by 2012/2015
<p>Create synergies, strengthen inter-disciplinary and collaborative research through increasing the number of functional and strategic internal and external links</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify emerging strategic, inter-disciplinary priority areas with special focus on potential income-generating research and consultancies; • put in place mechanisms and incentives to support multi-disciplinary research activity; • integrate the activities of the various research into the core research endeavours of the University; • promote high-impact collaboration with other leading universities worldwide; • develop search criteria for next and future generation researchers to lead collaborative research; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop criteria for identifying major research strengths of the UoM • Innovation Week • Accreditation of Lab/Services • Set criteria for assessing research quality and impact and conduct research assessments; • Guideline for the management, review and disestablishment of research entities • Increase the awareness of staff and students regarding their ethical compliance responsibilities through increased participation in training seminars and improved web-based information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Research & Innovation Events organised by UoM (REsearch Week, Research Seminars, Research Workshops, etc): 65/80

Key Strategy	Strategic Initiatives	Actions	Targets by 2012/2015
Build future research and research capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • invest in research infrastructure and administrative support structures that are recognised as best practice; due consideration of a central analytical facility; • promote a vibrant research environment which attracts and retains the best researchers and values and rewards their contributions; • effectively and efficiently manage research and innovation; • emphasis on quality research training; • attract outstanding research students or researchers, new talents and potentials; • train and develop the next generation of research leaders to the best international standards; • appoint and retain high-calibre researchers; • aspire to effective and efficient high degree research administration with low withdrawal rates, high throughput and exemplary supervision; • grow research activity; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Performance Appraisal System in place • Increase rate of completions and reduce time taken to complete. • Training Staff for Accreditation • Achieve research active academic staff • performance in each faculty to at least 75% • Establish an Early Career Professional Development • Work experience contracts for research support staff • Development of online research training programmes • Doctoral professional development courses and seminars(Entrepreneurial Support Programme) • Central Analytical Facility in place. • Creation of specialised labs • UoM Science and Technology Park and Incubators set up • Review Academic Staff Development Schemes (Research) and Research Grant Schemes • Start-Ups and Incubation Cells • Preparing and Implementing the Triple Helix Model • UoM Science and Technology Park set up. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of MPhil/PhD students enrolled (cum): 215/230 • No of Postdoctoral Fellows (cum): 11/17 • No of Research Assistants (person-months): 50/65 • Number of participants attending research workshops: 110/140 • Number of staff trained under ASD scheme: 345/375 • Number of students in Research degrees: 20/35 • Number of vacation research scholarships: 15/15

Key Strategy	Strategic Initiatives	Actions	Targets by 2012/2015
<p>Increase research income from external sources to support more research</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop mechanisms, processes, incentives and support structures that will enhance the University's ability to attract research grant funding, contract research and consultancies; • stimulate knowledge transfer and commercialisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up and staff University Industry Liaison Office (UILO) • Marketing and fostering of Innovative measures in private sector • Set up several University-Industry Advisory Committees (UIAC) • Develop Technology Watch unit coordinated by the UILO • Consolidate the Help Desk for USN-SMEs • Prepare sectoral industry reports and validate them at UIAC • Organise a national University-Industry Interaction seminar to develop a common vision and strategy for University-Industry interaction • Consolidate University-Industry collaboration through numerous collaborative research projects. • Create a Venture Capital Fund to start commercialisation of research. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of university funded proposals by university staff: 15/29 • Number of new research entities established:4/5 • Number of externally funded proposals: 9/15 • Number of commissioned research projects: 97/110 • Value of commissioned research projects: Rs. M 15.5/Rs. M 18.5 • IPR: Number of new patents:2/2 • Number of incubation cells, start-ups, university companies, etc. established (cum): 13/15 • Professional indemnity cover (Rs) 150000/(Rs) 150000