AFE BABALOLA UNIVERSITY ADO-EKITI

RESEARCH POLICY

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ABUAD   Afe Babalola University Ado-Ekiti

CIOMS   Council for International Organization of Medical Sciences

DORE   Directorate of Research and Extension

HREC   Health Research Ethics Committee (HREC)

IP   Intellectual Property

IPTTO   Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office

NOTAP   National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion

NUC   National Universities Commission

NGO   Non-governmental Organization

ORUs   Organized research units

REC   Research Ethics Committee

SBREC   Social and Behavioral Research Ethics Committee

TISC   Technology Innovation Support Centers

URLU   University Research Laboratory Units

WHO   World Health Organization

FOREWORD

This Research Policy document stems from the need to provide a comprehensive set of guidelines for the management and conduct of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research in the university. The policy is driven by our desire to sharpen the competitiveness of Afe Babalola University in grantsmanship and managing research funding obtained nationally and internationally with the overall goal of attaining excellence and integrity in the conduct and administration of research by all staff, students, and faculty of the university. The Research policy provides clear guidelines on the sourcing and management of multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary research grants and processes for transparent disbursement, documentation and monitoring and to the satisfaction of the university administration and the grantors.

As dictated by our Mission and Vision, Afe Babalola University is to reform education delivery by providing quality and functional education to our students, while deepening the advancing the knowledge frontier through research, particularly research that solves pertinent questions challenging humanity. This research policy document, which is the third edition is intended to focus and direct our multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research practice to ensure that all efforts at undertaking research follow established rules procedures, and ethical guides and give confidence to funding agencies on the management of our research as an institution. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academics, Research, Innovation, and Strategic Partnerships (DVC ARISP) is charged with the coordination and implementation of the provision of this policy.

The administration of the university places great value on multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary research recognizing the major role it plays in showcasing the academic reputation of the University. The policy is, therefore, binding on all students and faculty of the university.

This Research Policy Document v3 of Afe Babalola University is dynamic like the university parlance "A Vision in Action!". Review and necessary updates and amendments shall be undertaken as the need arises from time to time. Such reviews shall be in line with established national and international standards and best practices

I encourage all to give life to this policy document to the benefit of research practice and administration in our great institution.

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Preamble

Research as one of the cardinal functions of a university is generally understood as the creation of new knowledge and /or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way so as to generate new concepts, methodologies, and understandings. This could include synthesis and analysis of previous research to the extent that it leads to new creative outcomes. The Research Excellence Framework 2014 defined research as "original investigation undertaken in order to gain knowledge and understanding". It includes work of direct relevance to the needs of commerce, industry, and the public and voluntary sectors; scholarship; the invention and generation of ideas, images, performances, and artefacts including design, where these lead to new or substantially improved insights; and the use of existing knowledge in experimental development to produce new or substantially improved materials, devices, products, and processes, including design and construction. It excludes routine testing and routine analysis of materials, components, and processes such as for the maintenance of national standards, as distinct from the development of new analytical techniques. It also excludes the development of teaching materials that do not embody original research."

1.2 Research and Scholarship

Within the context of this policy, research is regarded as a methodical investigation into a subject in order to discover facts, establish or revise a theory, or develop a plan of action based on the facts discovered. Scholarship, on the other hand, is creation, development, and maintenance of the intellectual infrastructure of subjects and disciplines, in forms such as dictionaries, scholarly editions, catalogues, and contributions to major research databases. Research and scholarship, therefore, go hand in hand and are encouraged in all facets of activity within the university.

1.3 Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti (ABUAD)

Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti (ABUAD), a Federal Government licensed non-profit private university is a model which is unique in many ways. It is the only University in Nigeria which, prior to the issuance of a provisional license by the Federal Government of Nigeria in November 2009, had its **permanent site** ready with newly constructed magnificent college buildings, student hostels, cafeteria, and staff quarters, with the lecturer room equipped with modern teaching facilities including e-learning platform and electronic boards**.** As such academic activities started at the permanent site **on 4th of January, 2010.** Consequently, the National Universities Commission (NUC) was so impressed that it described the university as: ***"Miracle, model, benchmark, and reference point for other universities".***

The founder is a frontline Legal Practitioner (Senior Advocate of Nigeria) and an acclaimed educationist, former Pro-Chancellor of the University of Lagos, Chairman of Committee of Pro-Chancellors of Nigeria Universities and twice winner of the Best Pro-Chancellor of all Universities in Nigeria. Interestingly his formal education ended at primary six (sixth grade). Through private study, he obtained two degrees namely, B.Sc Economics and LL.B Hons of London University. In 2015, he was honoured by the same university with LL.D Degree thereby becoming the third African after Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu to be so honoured and he being the only one in Law. The vision of the Founder is to lead education reform in Nigeria by providing quality and functional education that provide manpower for national development while offering platforms for fundamental and applied research that would advance the knowledge frontiers and stimulate economic development.

The research philosophy of the university shall be focused on creating internal development programs to support the professional growth of undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff members. The university aims to provide a functional and quality education through quality teaching, learning, cutting-edge research and robust human capital development for the realisation of both national and international development research goals, and developing solutions to problems of societal significance. We aim to proliferate in basic and applied research endeavours with multi, inter and transdisciplinary approach in order to develop knowledge -driven solutions to national and global problems. Our research trust will address key requirements for the attainment of most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG Goals), for a better, healthy, secured and more prosperous future. These shall therefore include research addressing issues of Hunger, Good Health and Well-

being, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean Energy, Economic Growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure, Social inequities; Responsible consumption and production; Climate Action; Life below water; Life on Land; Peace and Justice as well as national and international partnership and cooperation among many others.

1.4 Need for Research Policy

This research policy document is driven by the following factors:

(i) Created that attendant structure and necessary guidelines to make the office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics, Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships (DVC ARISP) function strategically as the nerve of the University-wide Research Management and Administration.

(ii) Increasing interest by Government and government agencies including private companies and corporations and established funding Agencies, to leverage the research potential of ABUAD in terms of available manpower and extensive research infrastructure on a competitive basis.

(iii) Improve the existing framework to guide and motivate staff and students to leverage available research funding opportunities. The revised framework includes ethical issues which has become more urgent considering the emergence of a strong medical and social sciences colleges in the University.

(iv) Establish a structured framework to expand the support for Institutional Based Research in the University

(v) The need to sharpen the competitiveness of Afe Babalola University in attracting national and international research grants and managing the same.

(vi) The need to provide an institutional framework to assist and support academic staff to develop and enhance their interdisciplinary research skills, including collaborative research and publication.

This Research Policy document therefore sets out to provide the necessary framework and set of guidelines for the management of research-related activities in Afe Babalola

University, Ado Ekiti.

1.5   Policy Objectives on Research Practice & Administration

The objectives of the Afe Babalola University Ado Ekiti on Research Practice and Administration shall include:

(i)   Provide a legal framework for research practice in all fields of knowledge offered in the University, with the overall goal of attaining excellence and integrity in the conduct and administration/management of all types of disciplinary (individual, multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary) research by staff, students, and associates of the University.

(ii)   Meet the qualification criteria and many other ancillary requirements for calls from national and international research funding agencies and donors.

(iii)   Provide the needed support structure that will encourage staff and students to devote substantial time to the conduct different types and categories of research.

(iv)   Provide transparent monitoring process and feedback on the appropriate centralized management of grants awarded thereby boosting the confidence of external funding agencies.

(v)   Provide clear framework that would encourage every unit of the university (e.g. Colleges, Departments, Institutes, Centres, Research Farm and Industries operating at the ABUAD Industrial Park, Multi-System Hospital, etc) to develop and proliferate their strategic interdisciplinary research areas of key competence.

1.6   Scope

This research policy document is intended for, and its provisions apply to all academic, research staff, support staff and other individuals employed by the Afe Babalola University Ado Ekiti to conduct multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary research at or on behalf of the University. It also applies to research students and their supervisors whether internal or external to the University.

1.7   Strategic Multidisciplinary, Interdisciplinary, and Transdisciplinary Research Objectives

(i)   Create a learning environment and research environment and research infrastructure that fosters multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary research culture that nurtures and extols excellence and innovation in all fields of research in which the university has developed/accredited programmes.

(ii)   Identify, frequently review and accord utmost priority to key fundamental and applied research questions that bear crucial relevance to the immediate and long – term development needs and overall wellbeing of the Nigerian people.

(iii)   Develop Centres of excellence and Research Group/Clusters for achieving focus, depth and rapid advancement in priority areas of research that address the leading science, health, Social, ecological and economic development needs of Nigeria, sub – Saharan Africa and beyond.

(iv)   Attract high profile private and public sector endowments and funds for interdisciplinary research development through sustained commitment to international best practices, need – driven and innovative research enterprise.

(v)   Encourage and facilitate collaboration for mutual exchanges of knowledge and skills with institutions that share our high ideals for excellence, equity, mutual respect, transparency and ethical research practice.

(vi)   To encourage and enforce strict adherence to international best practices and codes in research methods, management and bioethics.

(vii)   To develop world – class training and mentorship programmes to groom and empower a critical mass of well-trained young researchers with specialized skills and knowledge in both foundational fosters multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary research and cutting-edge tools for rapid advances in learning and innovation.

(viii)   Create internal development programs to support professional growth of undergraduate and graduate students, college and staff members.

(ix)   Engage research outside the borders of traditional university campus.

(x)   Lead and be widely recognized for achieving excellence in interdisciplinary research

and creativity, advancing the understanding of fundamental questions, and developing solutions to problems of societal significance.

(xi)   Direct more focus on Developmental Interdisciplinary Research objectives which is more amenable to uptake by the society.

(xii) Promote and enhance research and development (R&D) pursuits within the university.

2.0   RESEARCH MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

2.0.1   Definition

Research management activities cover the wide-ranging support that administration offers to researchers throughout the research process within the University. This ranges from help with seeking funding opportunities, suggestions and guidelines on research collaboration, assistance with grant budgeting, ensuring smooth submission of grant applications, hosting funded grants as well monitoring, evaluating and communicating their outcomes.

2.0.2   Research Management in Afe Babalola University

At the apex of research administration is the Senate of Afe Babalola University Ado Ekiti headed by the Vice Chancellor. Research activities is promoted and managed in Afe Babalola University, centrally through the **Directorate of Research and Partnership** superintended over by the office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academics, Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships (DVC ARISP). The DVC ARISP also coordinates the University Research and Innovation Committee (URIC) which comprises of Research Coordinators of the Colleges, Head of Research Clusters/Groups, Directors of Specialised Research Centres and Institutes, Representatives of the Bursary, Library, and Registry. The research groups/clusters, specialised centres and institutes are designed to operate on multi, inter, and transdisciplinary basis across the Colleges, Departments, farms and Industries, Multi-System Hospital, and Units in the University.

2.1   Senate of the University

The Senate of Afe Babalola University Ado Ekiti is the principal body regulating all academic matters in the university. It is the role of the senate to approve all policies relating to multi-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research.

2.1.1 Senate Research Grant Committee

This is a standing committee of Senate charged with the responsibility of disbursing/allocating internal research grant funds of the university to staff members. It is composed of a Chairman (DVC ARISP), all Provosts of Colleges, Directors of Research Centres and Research Institutes, Bursary and Registrar representatives.

2.2 Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics, Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships

2.2.1 Establishment

The Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics, Research, Innovation, and Strategic Partnerships (DVC ARISP) central administration office was established to superintending all elements of multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, innovation, extension, and strategic partnership programmes in the university.

2.2.2 Mandate

The Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics, Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships (DVC ARISP) central administration office shall serve as the coordinating office for research in the University. The DVC ARISP have oversight function over the Directorate of Research and Partnership (DRP). The Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics, Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships (DVC ARISP) who shall be an accomplished professor shall be appointed by the Vice Chancellor and ratified by the University Senate.

2.3 Directorate of Research and Partnership

The DRP is mandated to foster and promote all research endeavours necessary to enhance the multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research agenda of the university. The directorate shall collate and coordinate the scientific appraisal, processing and submission of all research grants application that require statutory recommendation from the university. The directorate shall be staffed with a full complement of research administration personnel including finance officer, auditor, procurement officer, computer database manager and administrative support staff.

2.3.1 Vision

To be an effective research management and coordinating centre initiating activities and programs to assist in elevating multidisciplinary interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research in Afe Babalola University Ado Ekiti to world class status.

2.3.2 Mission

To coordinate and manage multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research in Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti for the realization of optimal research performance of both staff and students thereby achieving better global academic reputation.

2.3.3 Objectives

With respect to multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, the strategic objectives and focus of the Directorate of Research and Partnership (DARP) includes to:

(i)   Formulate policies on multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research and undertake periodical reviews.

(ii)   Ensure academic and research staff of the University acquire adequate training on articulation and submission of winning research grants proposal.

(iii)   Appraise for the purpose of improving the quality and competitiveness of research proposals prepared by staff/research groups/clusters/centre of the University.

(iv)   Source and disseminate in a timely manner information on research grant sources and open research calls to academic and research staff of the University.

(v)   Maintain database on research capabilities and personnel within the University.

(vi)   Participate in the management of intellectual property (IP) emanating from all forms of research (individual, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary) within the University.

(vii)   Coordinate for optimal use the central research facilities provided by the university.

(viii) Organize research fairs and foster external partnerships with other universities, organizations, and industries.

(ix)   Monitor and evaluate funded (externally or internally) research (individual, multidisciplinary, and interdisciplinary) within the University to ensure adherence to quality and to terms of the research contract and ensure that issues of integrity and ethics are addressed and maintained in the conduct of research.

(x)   Facilitate the establishment of linkages and multidisciplinary research collaboration either directly or when a research group or department requests to formalize linkage by memoranda of understanding (MOU).

(xi)   Prepare annual/periodical research report of the university which should include research income, research infrastructure in the university, researcher database, faculty coordination, etc.;

(xii)   Working together with the university library, establish and manage institutional publication repository to electronically archive and manage research results emanating from the university and make them available in open access;

(xiii) Publicize and celebrate research excellence and accomplishments of staff members and generally promote / market the research output of the university;

(xiv)   Work with management to organize and support pilot projects that may form the prelude and basis for further research.

2.3.4   Functional/Organizational Units of the Directorate of Research and Partnership

To carry out it functions effectively, the DRP office is organized into the following unit/organs:

1. **Associate Director, Grant Management and Research Ethics**
    - Grants Attraction and Management
    - Research Administration
    - Environmental Health and Safety
    - Animal Ethics and Compliance and University Regulatory Veterinarian
    - Research Financial Reporting and Audit
    - Human Research Ethics

2. **Associate Director, Intellectual Property, Technology Transfer and Commercialisation**
    - Patent Development and Intellectual Property Management
    - Technology Transfer Office
    - Technology Support Centre
    - Commercialisation Strategy and Entrepreneurship

3. **Associate Director, Training and Capacity Building**
    - Grantsmanship
    - Short term training
    - Internal Programs, Special Initiatives

4. **Associate Director, Innovation and Partnership**
    - Indusial Park Liasion
    - Investors Relations

- Multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary Management

2.3.5 Intellectual Property, Technology Transfer and Commercialisation IPTTO &C

The Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO), is a Research Development Centre established by the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP). The concept of IPTTO was borne out of the desire to create national awareness on Intellectual Property (IP).

2.3.5.1 Mandate of Intellectual Property, Technology Transfer and Commercialisation Office IPTTO &C

(i) To protect the Intellectual Property (IP) of the University, its innovators, inventors, research sponsors and the public.

(ii) Eliminate the infringement, improper exploitation and abuse of the University's Intellectual assets.

(iii) To encourage and assist in the commercialization of the intellectual property rights of the university, staff, and students.

(iv) Optimize the environment and incentives for multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research and for the creation of new knowledge via the Technology Innovation Support Centres (TISC).

(v) Promote linkages between industry and the academia.

(vi) Provides the necessary translation of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research to witty inventions and makes them available for commercialization.

2.3.5.2 Capabilities of Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office IPTTO

(i) Enlighten the researchers and innovators in Afe Babalola University on areas of interest to them through the TISC project.

(ii) Help the University secure an IP policy that would protect the Intellectual property of the Afe Babalola University.

(iii) Help researchers and investor/innovators secure a patent for their inventions; industries.

2.3.5.3 Technology Innovation Support Centres (TISCS)

Technology Innovation Support Centre (TISC) is a programme of the World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO), which provides innovators in developing countries with access to locally-based, high quality technology information and related services, helping them to exploit their potential and related services, helping them to exploit their potential and to create, protect and manage their intellectual property (IP) rights. As part of her IP initiative, Afe Babalola University has keyed into this programme which offers the following services:

2.3.5.2 TISC Services:

(i)   Access to online patent and non-patent (Scientific and technical) resources and IP- related publications.

(ii)   Assistance in searching and receiving Technology Information.

(iii)   Training in database search.

(iv)   Monitoring technology and competitors.

(v)   Basic information on industrial property laws management and strategy; technology commercialization and marketing.

2.3.5.3 Intellectual Property Policy

Intellectual property refers to creations of the mind including inventions; literary and artistic works; and symbols, names and images etc. for which a monopoly is assigned to designated owners by law. As a University whose main function in the generation and dissemination of original knowledge, intellectual property (IP) issues must necessarily be incorporated into any policy dealing with research. Therefore, the University encourages staff and students to seek ways to create valuable knowledge through research and other activities making use of University facilities. Our policy on IP defines the conditions of ownership, Legal protection, and licensing of intellectual property. The purpose of this policy is to address issues related to the ownership and management of IP and to the sharing of any benefits derived therefrom. In so doing we intend to assist the development of a strong research culture at the Afe Babalola

University and encourage a greater focus on and awareness of IP. The Policy applies to all members of Staff, students and any persons using the facilities of the University

under the supervision of University personnel. Visiting and adjunct staff members are also bound by this policy. No exception to the Policy shall be valid unless agreed to in advance in writing by the Vice Chancellor.

2.4   Directorate of Information Communication Technology (ICT)

The directorate provides the necessary ICT back-stop and support to drive transdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research in the University within confines of the University ICT policy.

2.5   Directorate of Linkage and Internationalisation

The directorate support all international research staff and facilitate linkage to international partner institution collaborating on research and innovation.

2.6   Organized Researched Units

Organized research units (ORUs) provide opportunities for students and staff to do basic and applied research in a variety of disciplines. They traditionally operate outside of the established academic teaching department. All ORUs require submitting an annual report to the Vice Chancellor through the DDRP. Organized research units (ORUs) may fall into any of the following categories:

2.6.1   Institute

A major unit that coordinates and promotes College and student multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research on a continuing basis over an area that extends across the boundaries of department, faculty, and colleges. The unit enhances and supports broad-based research efforts. An institute may also engage in public service activities stemming from its research program, within the limits of its stated objectives.

2.6.1.1 Guidelines for Establishing Institute

 (i)   **Identify a need:** Before establishing an institute, it's important for a researcher(s) to

identify a clear need or gap in the university's research infrastructure. This could involve analysing existing multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research programs,

identifying emerging areas of research, or soliciting feedback from faculty and students.

(ii) **Develop a clear mission statement**: The institute's mission statement should clearly define the research focus and goals of the institute. It should also articulate how the institute will contribute to the broader academic community.

(iii) **Define the institute's structure:** The institute's structure should reflect its multidisciplinary interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research focus and goals. This could involve establishing partnerships with other departments or research institutions, defining research clusters or teams, or establishing research themes.

(iv) **Identify funding sources:** Institutes often require significant funding to support their research activities. This could involve seeking grants from funding agencies, soliciting donations from individuals or corporations, or seeking support from the university or other sources.

(v) **Recruit key personnel:** Recruiting the right personnel is essential for the success of the institute. This could involve hiring a director or College members with expertise in the institute's research focus, as well as support staff such as administrative assistants and research associates.

(vi) **Develop a strategic plan:** The institute should develop a clear strategic plan that outlines its goals, objectives, and multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research activities. This plan should also identify key performance indicators and metrics for measuring the success of the institute.

(vii) **Secure university support**: It's important to secure support from university administrators and other key stakeholders. This could involve presenting the institute's mission and goals to university leadership, seeking input from other departments and research centres, and securing endorsements or letters of support.

2.6.2 Laboratories

Laboratories are non-departmental organizations that establish and maintain facilities for research in several departments. They are considered as University Research Laboratory Units (URLU) that operate with the help of full-time research staff appointed in accordance with university policy. A laboratory in which substantially all participating College members are from the same academic department is a

departmental laboratory and the University is at the verge of building a central research laboratory.

2.6.3 Centres

A centre is any unit that furthers research in a designated field or a unit that is engaged primarily in providing research facilities for others units and departments. A centre may be identified primarily with one discipline; it may be clearly multi-disciplinary, interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary; or it may support research in a wide variety of areas. Centres allow some number of College members to work together in a single administrative unit for the purposes of carrying out more effective multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research programs. The University requires approved Centres to be largely funded from sponsorship by outside agencies and foundations while the University caters for staff salaries and administrative support.

2.6.4 Centres of Excellence

Afe Babalola University Ado Ekiti has been designated Centre of Excellence in Cyber-Security, Science and Research and also submitted proposals for the specialized University Centres called Africa Centre of Excellence in some key disciplines ranging from science, health, peace and conflicts, intelligence, and security and agriculture as way of projecting the University for the attainment of national or international recognition.

2.6.4.1 Guidelines for Establishing Centres of Excellence

(i) Must be established with one major national or international funding and cannot depend for its formation on funding from Afe Babalola University.

(ii) Centres of excellence shall be established within the structures of a College or Institute.

(iii) The Principal Investigator at the forefront of attracting the foundation funding shall lead the Centre in its formative years.

(iv) The university shall be responsible for providing the basic infrastructure for such a center including staff salary as may be required.

2.6.4.2 Privileges of Centres of Excellence

(i)   As much as lies within its power and resources, the University will accord preferences to a Centre of Excellence in the allocation of office and laboratory spaces;

(ii) The University shall accord a web page to a Centre of Excellence on the official University website;

(iii) Within the limits of the bandwidth available at any given point in time, a Centre of excellence shall be given a dedicated allocation within the University internet network facility;

(iv) Whenever the University is in receipt of a national or international development grant, the productive Centres of Excellence shall be accorded priority attention in the allocation of funds for key research infrastructure, equipment, and study fellowships.

Only Centres of Excellence established in accordance with the provisions of this policy guideline shall be accorded the privileges and be so acknowledged in official documents and websites of the University Centres of Excellence that fail to meet the minimum expected research outputs or fail to obtain external funding consistently over a period of three-year period shall be suspended and shall no longer be acknowledged or accorded the privileges of a Centre of Excellence or Research Group.

2.6.5 Research Groups or Research Clusters

The Afe Babalola University supports the formation of Research Groups and is committed to increasing the network of scholars affiliated with such units. Research Groups foster collaborative, multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and comparative research and serve as an important vehicle for sponsoring research by both the University and external organizations. A Research Working Group will comprise a Principal Investigator and other members of the Groups.

2.6.5.1 Guidelines for Establishing Research Group/Clusters

(i)   A Research Group may be domiciled in any department, college, or institute of the University that holds a critical mass of personnel with requisite core expertise associated with the research question or theme.

(ii) A Research Group or Cluster shall include but not limited to at least five academic and research and staff of the Afe Babalola University drawn from at least three departments and two colleges and as much as possible ensure gender balance.

(iii) Research Groups shall be encouraged to include accomplished researchers in their field of interest from other Universities in Nigeria and/or overseas.

(iv) A Group may only be recognized as a Research Group if the team lead and other Group team members have published in the subject area of interest.

(v) A Research Group shall have at least one major international grant and show evidence of efforts in seeking more funding to qualify for recognition.

(vi) Every academic staff should belong to at least one Research Group/Cluster and a maximum of three groups/clusters across or within departments or colleges.

(vii) It is recommended that as much as possible research proposals should emanate from or at least are vetted in the research group/cluster before submission.

(viii) Academic units shall be encouraged and appoint a coordinator for each Research Group/Cluster to organize research into thematic areas.

2.6.5.2 Privileges of a Recognized Research Group/Cluster

(i) As much as lies within its power and resources, the Faculty, College or Institute shall be expected to accord preference to recognized Research Groups in the allocation of office and laboratory spaces.

(ii) The University shall mention the Research Group in the official list of recognized Research Groups on the University Website. Faculties, Institutes, and Colleges shall be expected to give prominence to the activities of Research Groups on their respective web pages.

(iii) Within the limits of the bandwidth available at any given point in time, Research Groups may be accorded concession in the allocation of connectivity within the University Internet network facility.

(iv) Whenever a Faculty, Institute, or College is in receipt of a national or international development grant, productive Research Groups should be accorded priority attention in the allocation of funds for key research infrastructure, equipment, and study fellowships. Only Research Groups established in accordance with the provisions

of this policy guideline shall be accorded the privileges and be so acknowledged in official documents and websites of the University. Research Groups that fail to meet the minimum expected research outputs or fail to obtain external funding consistently over a period of three-year periods shall be suspended and shall no longer be acknowledged or accorded the privileges of Research Group.

2.6.5.3   Research Clusters Coordinators

Research Cluster Coordinator shall supervise research activities at cluster levels. Research Cluster Coordinator shall report to the RAMO in its Core Research Domain and coordination. Different research clusters formation shall consolidate multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research agenda of the University. Different research clusters can be formed as follows:

(i)   Cluster within a College
(ii)   Cluster within two or more Colleges
(iii)   Cluster within an Institute
(iv)   Cluster within two or more Institutes
(v)   Cluster within a Centre
(vi)   Cluster within two or more Centres
(vii)   Cluster within AMSH
(viii) Cluster within Farm & Industry, Colleges, Institutes, and Centres
(ix)   Cluster within AMSH, Colleges, Institutes, and Centres

2.7   Academic Faculty

These are Academic staff of the University that conduct research in various fields within the different Colleges of the University.

2.7.1   College Research and Innovation Committee

(i)   College Research Innovation Committees shall be established in all Colleges of the University for the purposes of coordinating and promoting multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research in the respective colleges.

(ii)   College Research Coordinator shall head the College Research Committee.

(iii)   He/she is responsible for the coordination of all multidisciplinary research conducted in the College under the direct co-supervision of the College Provost and DRP.

(iv)   The College Research Coordinator shall submit periodic reports to the DRP and DVC ARISP and shall represent the College on the University Research and Innovation Committee.

(v)   Research Coordinating Team shall consist as follows:

1. Director, DRP
2. Director, Legal
3. Director, ICT
4. Research Coordinator, College of Sciences (CS)
5. Research Coordinator, College of Engineering (CE)
6. Research Coordinator, College Medicine and Health Sciences (CMHS)
7. Research Coordinator, College of Social and Management Sciences (CSMS)
8. Research Coordinator, College of Pharmacy (CPh)
9. Research Coordinator, College of Law (CL)
10. Research Coordinator, ABUAD Multi-System Hospital (AMSH)
11. Research Coordinator, Farm & Industry
12. Research Coordinator, Institutes & Centers

2.7.2   Department Research Committee

(i)   Departmental Research Committees shall be established in all Departments of the University for the purposes of coordinating and promoting research in the respective Departments.

(ii)   Departmental Research Coordinator shall head the Departmental Research Committee.

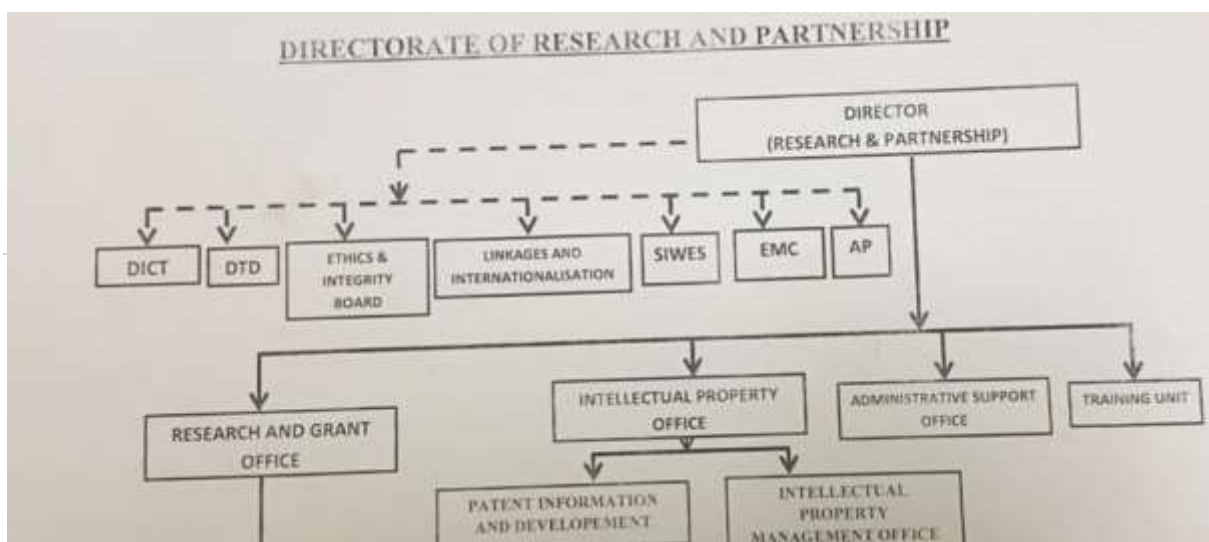(iii)   He/she is responsible for the coordination of all research conducted in the Department under the direct supervision of both the College Research Director and the Head of Department.

2.7.3 The University Interdisciplinary Research Organogram

DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH AND PARTNERSHIP

2.8 The Postgraduate School

The Graduate School of the University oversees postgraduate research leading to Postgraduate Diplomas, Masters and Doctor of Philosophy Degrees in various disciplines. The level of Masters and Ph.D. are primarily research degrees and the award of the Ph.D. is based on original contribution to knowledge. Researches in the graduate school are subject to the provisions of this University Policy. Additional regulations specific to the Postgraduate School are contained in the Academic Policy of the Postgraduate School.

2.9 The University Library

The role of the University Library in the management and administration of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research in the University shall include the following:

(i) Archiving and management of research data, raising awareness of data issues and the benefits of actively managing research data within the University as well as providing advice to researchers about data management early in the research life.

(ii) Developing and management of the Institutional Repository of the University as a means of promoting and increasing the visibility of Afe Babalola University's scholarship to the external world;

(iii) Providing literature and other data support services to researchers

(iv) Establishment and maintenance of open access institutional repository for the purpose of achieving publications and data and enhance visibility of University research output.

(v) Subscribe to relevant citation and indexing databases and advise the University community on the quality and type of academic publication outlets

(vi) Partner with DVC ARISP office in identifying and publicizing national and international research granting opportunities.

2.10 Non-Faculty Multidisciplinary and Interdisciplinary Research Appointments

2.10.1 Policy and Procedures for Academic Staff - Research

A. Research Scientist, Research Engineer, Research Scholar

The University shall recruit these positions when needed. The position's capacity shall require a Ph.D. or its equivalent in research skill and subject knowledge. A Research Scientist, Engineer, or Scholar shall be involved directly in the execution, and frequently the design, of a Principal Investigator's (PI's) multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research activities. Their primary purpose shall be to assist the PI in attaining the goals of the PI's sponsored research projects. A Research Scientist, Engineer, or Scholar shall participate in the preparation of proposals, progress, and final reports, and shall be the co-author of research results with the agreement of the PI. The positions shall not usually engage in formal classroom teaching but shall frequently assist in the guidance of postdoctoral scholars, and graduate and undergraduate students in the laboratory.

B. Senior Positions: Senior Research Scientist, Senior Research Engineer, Senior Research Scholar

The University shall recruit these positions when needed to support the research capacity of its interdisciplinary research mandate. Individuals whose accomplishments reflect professional achievement and recognition considerably greater than that of a Research Scientist, Research Engineer, or Research Scholar shall be appointed as Senior Research Scientist, Senior Research Engineer, or Senior Research Scholar, whichever is most appropriate to the nature of the individual's work.

Senior Research Scientists, Senior Research Engineers and Senior Research Scholars shall be Co-investigators in association with a faculty PI on those multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research projects (and on related applications for support) for which they carry a significant role. Designation of Co-investigator is not an entitlement but shall require the permission of the PI.

2.10.2 Postdoctoral Scholars

The University shall recruit postdoctoral scholars when needed. The University postdoctoral scholar is a non-matriculated trainee, in graduate student status, in residence at the University shall pursue advanced studies beyond the doctoral level in preparation for an independent career. Postdoctoral Scholars shall be appointed for a limited period of time and shall participate on the University multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research projects and/or shall be supported by external awards or fellowships. In all cases, their appointment at the University shall be for the purpose of advanced studies, research, and training under the mentorship of a faculty member in the University.

2.10.3 Visiting Scholars

The University shall recruit visiting scholars when needed. Members of the Professoriate shall invite faculty or other qualified individuals, who are employed or appointed at another institution or organization, to visit the University for an extended period in order to advance a collaborative multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research activity. These individuals shall be appointed into academic units and classified as Visiting Scholars. The invitation shall indicate the name of the faculty member hosting the visitor, and shall be approved by the chair of the hosting Department, Programme, Independent Laboratory or other academic unit. A Visiting Scholar shall be typically appointed for multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research or scholarship only, and shall normally not have any responsibilities for teaching classes in the University.

2.10.4 Graduate Student Research Assistantships

The University shall recruit graduate student assistantships when needed to support its funded interdisciplinary research. These are usually MSc and PhD students of the University carrying out research under internally or externally funded interdisciplinary research. These positions shall be a form of student employment, earning a compensation package including both salary and tuition allowance (TAL) for the performance of interdisciplinary research or teaching services to the University as part of the student's academic and professional training and development.

2.10.5 Visiting Postdoctoral Scholars

The University shall recruit visiting postdoctoral scholars when needed to support the research capacity of its interdisciplinary research mandate. Members of the Professoriate shall invite individuals who are postdoctoral scholars appointed at another institution or organization to visit the University for an extended period for the purpose of advanced studies, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research or training under the guidance of a faculty sponsor in the University. These individuals shall be appointed into academic units and classified as Visiting Postdoctoral Scholars. The invitation shall indicate the name of the faculty member hosting the visitor, and must be approved by the hosting Department, Program, Independent Laboratory, Institute or Centre or other academic units.

Visiting Postdoctoral Scholars from Other Countries

International Visiting Postdoctoral Scholars shall have an appropriate form of visa sponsorship prior to their visit. In the majority of cases, the position shall receive visa sponsorship from University. In some cases, the visiting postdoctoral scholar shall be arranged for sponsorship through an administering agency (e.g., Fulbright). As a condition of the visa the Visiting Postdoctoral Scholar shall be required to demonstrate proof of sufficient financial support and adequate health insurance coverage while at the University in Nigeria.

3.0   RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

3.1   Research Management

The Director, Directorate of Research and Partnership office shall be the central Research Management and Coordinating organ of the Afe Babalola University. The Directorate shah be supervised by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics, Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships (DVC ARISP).

Research Management and coordination involves:

(i)   Facilitation and Documentation of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary Research Proposals.

(ii)   Intermediary in securing grant funding.

(iii) Administration of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary Research funds.

(iv)   Monitoring and certification of concluded research and reporting on behalf of the University.

(v)   Communication of research results in internal University bulletins and other outlets in a form understandable to the public and other stakeholders.

3.1.1   Facilitation and Documentation of Research Proposals

(i)   The Directorate of Research and Partnership office shall be involved in the initial stages of articulating proposals for external research funding.

(ii)   All multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research grant proposals, be they for internal or external funding, shall pass through the DVC ARISP vide the Directorate of Research and Partnership office for purpose of University documentation, accountability and transparent management of funds.

(iii) The role of the Directorate in this respect shall include identifying granting possibilities, assisting prospective grantees with fine-tuning and submitting of research proposals and ensuring appropriate documentation in the records of the University.

(iv)   Proposal for external multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research funding shall be vetted by the Directorate before submission for signature by University management.

3.1.2   Intermediary in Securing Grant Funding

The Directorate of Research and Partnership office shall mediate between prospective grantees and the University administration as well as between prospective grantees and the respective granting bodies. In this regards, the DVC ARISP office shall provide the required back-stop and authentication of grant proposals.

3.1.3   Administration of Research Funds

3.1.3.1 Provision of Seed Grant for Interdisciplinary Research

The University shall provide seed grants for interdisciplinary research teams to support the initial stages of collaborative projects that are very innovative and impactful to

global multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research with a view to increasing their ability to secure future external funding. The maximum seed grant payable for one application proposal shall be $50,000 USD.

Application and Approval Criteria

All teams shall designate:

(i)   A lead applicant shall be referred to as the Corresponding Principal Investigator (CPI) will be the grant holder.

(ii)   A co-Principal Investigator Researcher.

(iii)   Research clusters they belong including Colleges, Departments, Institutes, Centres, Farm and Industries, Multi-System Hospital, and Units in the University.

(iv)   Each Principal Investigator must be a tenure or tenure track professor holding a full-time academic appointment at the University.

(v)   Each Principal Investigator must have spent at least one (1) academic session in the University.

(vi)   It is expected that the intellectual direction and leadership is shared among team members.

(vii)   Proposals shall address novel research looking for innovative solutions through advances in the target areas including the assessment of its impacts for sustainable development. Ideas that would lead to simple, practical innovative solutions to humanity and natural world are encouraged.

(viii) Researchers shall involve undergraduate students, graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the work.

(ix)   Proposals shall focus on Indigenous Nigerian communities, and must include a strong partner in these settings.

(x)   Each faculty member can only apply once in two years to encourage spread of grants.

(xi)   The research proposals shall be multidisciplinary in nature, have been peer-reviewed by the established researchers or committee, and approved by Deputy Vice Chancellor ARISP, the Vice Chancellor, and the University Senate.

(xii)   The Corresponding Principal Investigator shall sign an agreement with the University after approval by the Vice Chancellor and The University Senate.

Progress and final report shall be submitted to the Grants committee and copies deposited with the Directorate of Research and Partnership office and the University Library.

(xiii) Research findings shall be published in high impact journals (Scopus Index) on completion of the study.

3.1.3.2 External Research Grants/Contracts

(i) All applications for external interdisciplinary research funding are to be submitted through the Deputy Vice Chancellor ARISP office in the name of the University. The Corresponding Principal Investigator (CPI) shall sign a contract with the donor agency while the Vice Chancellor or Deputy Vice Chancellor ARISP shall sign on the University.

(ii) The Deputy Vice Chancellor ARISP shall then provide the contract financial and non-financial management services for the University's grant management process.

(iii) The Directorate of Research and Partnership office shall provide support to researchers in financial management of awarded grants. It is noteworthy to say that this may constitute a major reputational issue for the University and must therefore be adequately monitored and certified.

(iv) All financial transactions thereto shall follow the financial guidelines of the University;

(v) The University shall charge 10% of the project sum as administrative cost in the case of externally-funded research. Researchers submitting grant application will therefore be expected to request this additional administrative cost of 10% of the total budget at the time of preparing the funding proposal. Administrative cost shall not be taken from other subheads of the grant budget but should be requested at the time of application. Where the granting body does not accommodate this, the University must be informed beforehand. The Directorate of Research and Partnership shall retain 2.5% of this sum for the operations and activities of the Directorate of Research and Partnership office; 2.5% shall devolve to the College and Department hosting the grants.

3.1.3.3 Fund Disbursement

Disbursement of funds from a research grant may only be authorised by the Corresponding Principal Investigator (CPI) or a member of the research team nominated in writing by the Corresponding Principal Investigator (CPI) in his/her absence. The Corresponding Principal Investigator (CPI) has responsibility for the fiscal and technical management of the granted project and shall also ensure appropriate reporting according to the terms of the award.

3.2.3.4 Procedure for Release of Research Fund

In the case of internal University Interdisciplinary Research Seed Grants, the research grant recipient(s) will be required to write to the Bursar through the Director, Directorate of Research and Partnership as the case may be. The Bursar is required to ensure prompt release of such requested funding on the approval of the Vice Chancellor. Release of externally sourced funding will follow the agreements reached by the parties in the respective instances. For both Interdisciplinary Research Seed Grants and Externally Sourced Grants, released funds must be retired before any further tranches will be released.

Given the sensitivity of research fund disbursement and the importance of this to speedy and successful execution of research projects, the Bursar of the university shall be required to promptly respond to request for fund disbursement emanating from the principal investigator. The University shall sanction members of staff who fail to abide by financial rules and regulations on administration of research funds.

3.2.3.5 Reporting

Three major reports will be required of each successful application for funds namely, Progress Report, Financial Report and Final Report. Copies of all project reports shall be deposited with the Directorate of Research and Partnership office. Final Project Report shall also be deposited in the Library archives or the Institutional Repository.

3.2.3.6 Monitoring and Evaluation Administration for Interdisciplinary Research

Multidisciplinary research teams shall be monitored and reviewed from time to time by the University Monitoring and Evaluation Unit in the DVC ARISP office. Monitoring and evaluation in interdisciplinary research will aid the development of research documents including research proposals, inception and evaluation reports and supervise field teams in data collection and the coordination of regional working group coordination meetings. The team lead will also lead the training of data collectors on research methodologies and create and implement data collection tools, surveys and guides to ensure accurate and compliant data collection.

Monitoring and evaluation unit in interdisciplinary research shall have the following roles:

Program Roles:

1. Provide relevant program, administrative and logistics support for projects.
2. Ensure institutional learning through maintenance of program files (digital and hard copies) in a user friendly manner.
3. Work with the project team to periodically review project performance data and integrate recommendations to ensure adaptive management.

Business Development Role:

1. Support in the research and identifying of research opportunities and development trends, prospects and growth opportunities.
2. Support in the provision of data for new development opportunities.
3. Conducting desk based needs assessment to inform new proposal development.

Research Role

1. Development and deployment of research tools to various colleges and faculties
2. Development of research documents, including research proposals, inception reports and evaluation reports.
3. Training of data collectors on research methodologies

4. Create and implement data collection tools, surveys and guides to ensure accurate and compliant data collection.

4.0   Research Collaboration and External Linkages

4.1 Guiding Principles

One of the Strategic objectives of the University Research Policy is to foster interdisciplinary research collaboration to encourage productive and mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge, skills, and technology across various Colleges, Departments, Institutes, Centres, Farm and Industries, Multi-System Hospital, and Units in the University. To facilitate the establishment of linkages with institutions and interdisciplinary research groups from reputable institutions in Nigeria, sub- Saharan Africa and other parts of the World the following policy guidelines applies:

(i)   All Requests for formalization of interdisciplinary research collaboration between a research group, department, centre of institute, school, or college in the University and external institution or Research group shall be processed through Directorate of Research and Partnership office.

(ii)   On Receipts of Such request, the Director, Directorate of Research and Partnership will dialogue with the requesting group or the department in the university to ascertain that the linkage would be mutually beneficial, will not place undue burden on the resources of the university and shall indeed advance learning and interdisciplinary research in the university.

(iii)   The Directorate of Research and Partnership shall notify the Vice Chancellor through the Deputy Vice Chancellor ARISP of all the requests for collaboration and will within 14 days of the receipts of each request advice the Vice Chancellor in Writing on the feasibility the said collaboration/linkages and expected benefits in Learning and Research to the University.

(iv)   Requests for Collaboration that are considered feasible and mutual beneficial will be presented to the University Senate for Ratification, following which a memorandum of understanding will be developed by the Deputy Vice Chancellor ARISP on behalf of the university with the Supervision of the University Legal unit.

(v)   The University will create a conductive environment for international interdisciplinary research and study visit with whom we share formal collaboration

by providing formal invitation for visas and helping with Hotel Reservations. The University will encourage departments, institutes and colleges to provide well Furnished offices with internet access, and when necessary, laboratory spaces for researches and study visitors from our collaborating institutions.

(vi) On Request, the Directorate of Research and Partnership will Provide Central Research Facilities to Facilitate and promote such collaborate efforts. This May include facilities for conferencing and training, projects vehicles etc;

(vii) The University will Encourage Our Staff and Students to undertake study and research visits to reputable centres and institutions across the globe by facilitating individual and collective efforts to obtain the required funds for this purpose.

4.2 Multidisciplinary and Interdisciplinary Research Teams

(i) Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research teams shall be encouraged as best practice standard for attaining excellence and transparency in research.

(ii) The University is unlikely to recommend a research proposal presented by a sole author for funding except where such research requires critical appraisal or creative writing for which an additional author is not a norm and sole authorship is generally known to be gold standard.

(iii) When a Research question or design requires input from multiple department or fields of specialization, the university shall not recommend proposals that fails to include researchers from other required fields of study except when such expertise are not available within the university or have been provided by from another institution in a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary study.

(iv) Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research teams will receive preference for use of the university research infrastructure, equipment and supplies where such resources are limited.

4.3   Research Stations and Farm Locations

(i)   The University may establish stations in rural locations to help staff and students to have access to basic multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research tools in such remote locations.

(ii)   The University shall seek the collaboration of States and Local Government in setting of research stations in strategic locations that would be mutually beneficial to the university and the Government Agency.

(iii)   The University shall seek also the collaboration of Non-Governmental Organizations (**NGOs), industries, and other relevant private sectors within and outside Nigeria.**

4.4 Interdisciplinary Research Mentorship, Training and Capacity Building

The University shall explore mentorship as a strategy to build capacity for knowledge translation interdisciplinary research and practice. Mentoring a less-experienced Researcher is a professional responsibility of all scientists. The Ultimate goal of a mentor is to establish the trainee as an independent researcher. Mentoring responsibilities include sharing knowledge and skills, overseeing the trainees work, helping the trainee to make a contact with other researchers and assisting with career counselling. The trainee reciprocates by providing work hours and fresh perspective for the mentor, and taking a proactive role of learning, developing and landing a job.

(i)   Mentoring shall be encouraged as a means of recruiting the next generation of scientists and researchers. Interdisciplinary research traditions in the university will be sustained to the next extent that this aspect of academic works is properly discharged.

(ii)   To foster growth and acquisition of knowledge and skills in interdisciplinary research, the university shall run regular seminars and workshops for academic researchers and graduate research students.

(iii)   Preference shall be given to staff member in the early stages of their career.

(iv)   Senior accomplished researchers within the university community and visiting collaborators will be assigned to mentor young lecturers and researchers in grant writing, scientific writing and various aspects of interdisciplinary research practice.

5.0 RESEARCH ETHICS

5.1 Guiding Principles

Afe Babalola University Subscribes to national and global consensus and codes that derive from the universal ethical principles namely: autonomy beneficence and justice. The University aims to attain and sustain the highest standard in ethical interdisciplinary research practice by promoting and enforcing codes and guidelines that protect the dignity, rights, safety and welfare of persons involved in research. The University upholds the dictum that research can only be ethical if in addition to ensuring safety and respect for the human person, such research is performed with such scientific robustness that ensures the result of research is both accurate and credible.

5.2 Definitions

"Research ethics" Refers to the moral principles guiding research, from its inceptions through to complexion and publication of results and beyond-for example, the storage of data and samples of body fluid or tissue after the research has been published.

A "Research Ethics Committee" (REC) is defined as a multidisciplinary, independent, body charged with responsibilities reviewing interdisciplinary research involving human participants to ensure that their dignity, right, safety and welfare are protected.

5.3 Requirement for Ethical Researcher Practice

(i) Researchers must comply with relevant codes, guidelines, policies and directives on ethical and safe practices in interdisciplinary research.

(ii) The University shall establish the following sub-committees ensuring that international and national guidance are followed in the constitution of these committees and the preparation of their operational guidelines:

    a) Health Research Ethics Committee

    b) Social and Behavioural Ethics Committee

    c) Animal Welfare Committee

    d) Bio-safety Committee

(i) All Proposals for Interdisciplinary Research in Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti must be submitted for ethical approval by the relevant ethics committee.

(ii) Research proposals involving human persons should be submitted to the health research ethics committee (HREC) or the social and behavioural research ethics committee (SBREC) depending on the nature of the interdisciplinary research.

(iii) Interdisciplinary Research proposals that involve animal experimentation should be referred to "Animal Welfare Committee".

(iv) interdisciplinary research proposals involving potentially hazardous materials such as radioactive materials or biohazards should in addition to seeking ethical approval be submitted to the university Bio-Safety Committee for Clearance and Guidance.

5.4 Research Involving Human Persons

Code of Research Ethic:

(i) The University shall develop, publish and widely disseminate the "University Code of Research Ethics" to provide guidance and regulation of ethical conduct of research within the university and by all staff, students and associates of Afe Babalola University.

(ii) The University code of research ethics shall without prejudice to national laws guiding the conduct of interdisciplinary research conform to core internal code and guidelines on research ethics including World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki and International Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research Involving Human Subjects prepared by the council for International Organization of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO).

(iii) The conditions prescribed in the Code of Research Ethics shall be binding on all persons and the groups who engage in interdisciplinary research within the precinct of Afe Babalola University and all the staffs and students of the university who may engage in research elsewhere at locations outside the university.

5.5 Research Ethics Committees

(i) The University Shall Establish two research ethics committee (REC) namely (a) Health Research Ethics Committee (HREC) and (b) Social and Behavioral Research Ethics Committee (SBREC) to review all proposals for interdisciplinary research involving Human subjects to ensure that they meet acceptable ethical standard.

(ii) The Composition and mode of operation shall be guided by existing national and international codes of practice on research involving humans. The members of the committees will be appointed by the Vice Chancellor and ratified by the University Senate.

(iii) Health Research Ethics Committee or Social and Behavioral Research Ethics Committees shall be responsible for review and approval of interdisciplinary research proposals involving human subjects that fall within their respective areas of jurisdiction

(iv) The Primary role of a REC is to protect the dignity, rights and welfare of research participants.

(v) RECs should also give due considerations to the consequences (beneficial or otherwise) of the proposed interdisciplinary research for others directly affected by it and to the interests of those who do not take part in the research but who might benefit or suffer from its outcomes in the future.

(vi) RECS should also consider the safety of the researchers and may have reasons to refer issues of safety that significant of risks of harm to the community and environment to the Biosafety committee.

(vii) The committees shall enforce the rules and guidelines specified in the university code, including the exercise of oversight function for approved ongoing research and investigate cases of research misconduct.

(viii) The University Health REC Shall operate in accordance with the provisions of the current version of the National Code of Health Researches Ethics Issued by the National HREC. Additional guidance may be obtained from the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by the NHREC.

(ix) Take necessary steps to meet all local, national and international requirements for ethical Research practice such as registering the University Health Research Ethics Committee with the National Health Research Committee as required by law.

(x) Ensure that all those appointed to serve in the health research committee receive the requisite training in research ethics and related issues moral justice, who will turn training in research ethics to staff and graduate students.

5.6   Research Involving More Than Minimal Risk

The Health Research Ethics Committee (HREC) and the Social and Behavioural Research Ethic committee (SBREC) shall in the consideration of research proposals for approvals have the responsibility to ascertain that all issues that pose more than minimal risk to research participants are given due consideration. For the purpose of general guidance, common examples of types of research that may be considered as involving more than minimal risk are as follows:

(i)   Interdisciplinary research Involving vulnerable groups, for Example, children and young people, those with a learning disability or cognitive impairment or individuals in a dependent or unequal relationship.

(ii)   Interdisciplinary research involving instructive interventions, for example, the administration of drugs or other substances, vigorous physical exercise or techniques such as hypnotherapy. Participants would not encounter such interventions which may cause them to reveal information which causes concern, in the course of their everyday life.

(iii)   Interdisciplinary research involving sensitive topics, for example, participants' sexual behaviours, their illegal or political behaviours, their experience of violence, their abuse or exploitation, their mental health, or their gender or ethnic status.

(iv)   Interdisciplinary research involving groups where permissions of a gatekeeper is normally required for initial access to members, for example, ethnic or cultural groups, native peoples or indigenous communities.

(v)   Interdisciplinary research involving deception or is conducted without participant's full and informed consent at the time the study is carried out.

(vi)   Interdisciplinary research involving deception or is conducted without participants' full and informed consent at the time the study is carried out.

(vii)   Interdisciplinary research involving access to records of personal or confidential information including genetic or other biological information concerning identifiable individuals.

(viii) Interdisciplinary research which would induce psychological stress, anxiety or humiliation or cause more than minimal pain.

5.7   Use of Animals in Interdisciplinary Research

Guiding Principles:

Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti upholds national and international best practice that recommends humane and responsible use of animals in teaching and Interdisciplinary research. The University promotes the rational use of animals in the conduct of research for which animals provide the most appropriate option. The university encourages alternatives to the use of animals in Interdisciplinary research and teaching. Where such alternatives do not exist or are inadequate, the use of animals must be conducted in a humane manner and with observance of high ethical standards.

5.7.1 Types of Interdisciplinary Research Involving Animals

There are three main reasons for using animals in research

(i)   To advance scientific knowledge 'Basic Research' increase scientific knowledge about the way animals and humans behave or develop and function biologically. It may not necessarily intend to lead to applications for humans.

(ii)   To study disease and develop medicines: Animals are used as Models to understand disease process and to develop new vaccines and medicines.

(iii)   To access the safety of chemicals animals are used in toxicological studies to help test the safety of a range of substances that could be harmful to animals, humans or the environment. These include household and industrial chemicals, herbicides, fertilizers and food additives.

5.8   Animal Interdisciplinary Research and Ethics

(i)   The University shall set up an Animal Research Ethics and Welfare Committee to review and approve proposals for animal experiments by staffs, students or associates of the university; to provide advice and guidance all other issue pertaining to animal welfare and ethics.

(ii)   The composition and mode of operation shall be guide by existing national and

international codes of practice on ethical and human use of animal

interdisciplinary research and teaching. The members of the committee will be appointed by the Vice Chancellor and ratified by the University Senate.

(iii)   When the use of animal for Interdisciplinary research is consider appropriate necessary for the advancement of science and the well-being of humans, the university will expect all staff, students and associates to apply procedures that are in conformity with international best practice which are essential summarized in the principles of 3Rs of Refinement, Reduction and Replacement.

(iv)   The concept of three Rs were originally developed by Russell and Burch in 1959, and are currently defined with modification as follows:

   a. **Refinement:** Improvement of all aspects of the lifetime experience of animals to reduce suffering and improve welfare.

   b. **Reduction:** The use of fewer animals each experiment without compromising scientific output and the quality off biomedical research and testing and without compromising animal welfare.

   c. **Replacement:** The use of method that permit given scientific purpose to be achieved without conducting experiments or other scientific procedures on living animals.

(v)   Observance of the principles of 3Rs as provided in the policy will increase the credibility and acceptance of research reports by our staff, students and associates by reputable international journals and require articles based on results of interdisciplinary research involving animals to demonstrate adherence to the three Rs in the methodology section.

5.9   Biosafety Committee

Guiding principles:

Safety is given the utmost priority in all activities including learning, teaching, interdisciplinary research and leisure with the university. The university is committed to observing international guidelines on safety and the workplace, and this includes the setting

where research is the core enterprise. Biosafety is the concept of this policy includes hazards of biological and non-biological origin that are capable of causing injury or harm to humans,

plants, and animals. The focus of biosafety in interdisciplinary research is the research participants, research personnel, and those in the vicinity of the research. Due regard is here given to the potential effect of biological and chemical wastes generated in the process of research to contaminate the environment air, water or soil with immediate and long-term deleterious consequences to organisms in the affected areas. In pursuance of her commitment to minimizing the risk of harm as a result of the research:

(i) The university shall set up Biosafety Committee to access the risk of harm in interdisciplinary research involving potentially hazardous materials and procedures.

(ii) The Biosafety Committee will be appointed by the Vice Chancellor and ratified by the University Senate.

(iii) The constitution and mode of operation of the committee shall as much as possible conform to standards set in existing National and International Codes on biosafety.

6.0   INTEGRITY AND MISCONDUCT IN RESEARCH

6.1   Guiding principles

This section on "Integrity in Research" sets the standards and guidelines for responsible and ethical conduct of research to observed by all staffs, students and associates of Afe Babalola University, and describe procedures for dealing with cases of misconduct in research. The university subscribes to the school of thoughts that defines research integrity as personal commitment of individual researcher to best practices including but not limited to:

a) Intellectual honesty in proposing, performing and reporting research.

b) Accuracy in representing contributions to interdisciplinary research proposals and reports.

c) Fairness in peer review, congenial scientific interactions, including communications and sharing of resources.

d) Transparency in expression of conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest.

e) Protection of human participants in the conduct of interdisciplinary research.

f) Haman and responsible care of animal in the conduct of interdisciplinary research.

g) Respect for and adherence to the mutual responsibilities between investigators and their research teams".

All staff, students and associates of the university are require under this policy to observe the highest standards in interdisciplinary research practice, reporting and in administration of funds and other resources provided for the purpose research.

6.2 Guidelines of Interdisciplinary Research Integrity

In pursuance of this principle and ideas of integrity in interdisciplinary research as described in this policy, all staff, student and associate of the University shall be expected to observe the following standards of integrity and best practices:

(i) Take personal responsibility for obtaining, studying and abiding by codes, rules and policy documents that provide guidance on "best practice" for ethical conduct of research, reporting and administration of research funds.

(ii) Ensure the safety of interdisciplinary research participants and personnel are protected at all stages the research process.

(iii) Declare any conflict of interest that may exist in relation to their participation in interdisciplinary research to the research ethics committee, a sponsor or any authorized representative of the University or regulatory authority.

(iv) Observe fairness and equity in the conduct of interdisciplinary research information to all parties involved.

6.3 Quality Interdisciplinary Research

The University shall be committed to achieving the highest quality in its multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research processes. The university values interdisciplinary research as one of its core priorities. To ensure quality in research the following shall strictly be adhered to:

(i) All interdisciplinary research undertaken in the University is properly approved, conducted, managed and evaluated.

(ii) All interdisciplinary research takes into account ethical and environmental considerations.

(iii) interdisciplinary research results are integrated into teaching and learning, and

evaluated for their commercial value.

(iv) There shall be clear mechanisms for dissemination of research results for the benefit of society and industry.

(v) Researchers collaborate with internal and external partners.

(vi) Interdisciplinary research papers are published in reputable journals that guarantee a high citation impact.

6.4 Misconduct in Research Practice

Definition: For the purpose of this policy, misconduct includes but is not limited to:

(i) Fabrication, falsification, plagiarism or deception in proposal development implementing or reporting result of research.

(ii) Deliberate negligence or deviation from ethical codes of research practice that endangers and causes harm to research participation.

(iii) Action adjudged to significantly facilitate misconduct in research such as collusion, conspiracy and concealment of information related to an act of misconduct.

(iv) Misconduct also includes unauthorized use, removal, or damage to property, equipment or supplies meant for research.

6.5 Procedure for Dealing with Cases of Suspected Misconduct

(i) A member of staff, student or associate of the Afe Babalola University or a person who is enrolled as a participant or has given consent to participate or a parent/legal guardian in the case of a participating minor may report a case of suspected misconduct to the Directorate of Research and Partnership / Deputy Vice Chancellor ARISP.

(ii) Every case of suspect misconduct reported to the university through any of the authorized official channels shall be forwarded to the university research ethics committee who will discuss this at the next former meeting of the committee and institute the necessary investigation to ascertain merit of allegation and seriousness of the case.

(iii) Strict confidentiality shall be observed in the investigation of all cases of research misconduct.

(iv) The University research ethics committee shall notify the Deputy Vice Chancellor ARISP through Directorate of Research and Partnership of the findings and recommendation in each case in writing who will in turn cause a person found guilty to receive a reprimand from the office of Deputy Vice Chancellor ARISP or refer serious cases of misconduct requiring further sanction to the relevant disciplinary organ of the University.

(v) In all cases of serious misconduct, the ethics committee in consultation with the Provost of the College or College Research Director and Head of the Departments involved in the research recommends a replacement for the researcher who by the sanction of the University authority are temporarily or permanently barred from participating in the research project in question.

(vi) The research ethics committee shall ensure that safety and autonomy of interdisciplinary research participants is not compromised and that fairness and equity is applied in describing disciplinary action or sanctions for those found guilty of significant or serious misconduct.

(vii) Without prejudice to existing rules and guidelines regarding disciplinary measures in cases of misdemeanour involving staff, students or associates of the university, the research ethics committee shall be guided by the National Code of Ethics for research involving human subjects.

8.0 Gender Equality in Interdisciplinary Research and Innovation

The University shall always reaffirm its commitment to gender equality in interdisciplinary research and innovation and shall make it a cross-cutting priority and strengthened provisions.

The goal is to improve the University interdisciplinary research and innovation system, create gender-equal working environments where all talents can thrive and better integrate the gender dimension in projects to improve research quality as well as the relevance to society of the knowledge, technologies and innovations produced.

These are main levels at which gender equality shall be addressed in the University:

(i) Shall have a Gender Equality Plan (GEP) in place in the University.

(ii) Shall integrate a gender dimension into interdisciplinary research and innovation content.

(iii) Shall increase gender balance throughout the interdisciplinary research program with a target of 50% women in the University related boards, expert groups and evaluation committees.

(iv) Shall have a gender balance with a target of 50% women among interdisciplinary research teams set as a ranking criterion for proposals in the University.

9.0 RATIFICATION OF POLICY

9.1 Ratification

The policy of research practice and administration shall become effective as a research governance regulation binding on staff, students and associates of the Afe Babalola University following the approval by the Senate of the University and ratification by Governing Council.

9.2 Effective Date

The effective date shall be the date on which the last of these two organs of the University (Namely Senate and Governing Council) has approved or ratified the document.

9.3 Amendment

This policy shall be amended at the instance of the University Senate or the Governing council. The amendment shall be undertaken by a committee appointed by the University Senate for that purpose. The existing policy shall remain effective as previously approved and ratified until the amendment has been duly approved and ratified by the University Governing Council and Senate respectively.

9.4 Signature and Dates

Signed	**Signed**
Prof E.S. Olarinde	Prof D. S Olawuyi, SAN
Vice-Chancellor	DVC ARISP

RECOMMENDATION FOOTNOTE ON THE AMENDMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH POLICY

High ranking universities globally are now well positioned for sustainable multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research in order to regularly attract donor research grants to achieve their sustainable development.

One of these measures is to drive and lead the university research at the top management and administration level in order to achieve excellent impactful results. In this case, Deputy Vice Chancellor Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships or Vice President Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships, as it applies in different parts of the world.

ABUAD needs to reposition its multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research in order to regularly attract donor research grants to achieve its sustainable development and global impacts ranking. ABUAD should split its current DVC Academics, Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships (DVC ARISP) into two, 1) DVC Academics, and 2) DVC Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships (DVC RISP). Then the DVC Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships will have direct concentration drive and lead the university multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research at the top management and administration level to achieve excellent impactful results. This is what the amendment of the University Research Policy has addressed.

Thank you.

SIGNED

The University Research Policy Amendment Committee