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Chapter 1

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

Introduction

The **research agenda** of the University rest on its vision of a society whose citizens imbued with humanist values are empowered by the excellence and relevance of their education.

As the biggest state university in the country, with an enrollment of about 50,000 economically disadvantaged Filipino students and a growing number of foreigners, the PUP believes that "education is an instrument for the development of the citizenry" (*PUP Philosophy*). PUP sees itself not only as a teaching institution of excellence, but also as a catalyst for human and societal transformation made possible through research.*

It is PUP's responsibility to provide *quality* education through the performance of its four-fold functions: instruction, research, extension, and production.

As research generates new and significant knowledge, its importance to university education can not be overstated. Thus, the University continuously takes steps to make research a **mainstream** activity. The upgrading of the research unit of the University from a Directorate level to a Vice-Presidential level is one such important step. The conduct of a rationalization study of faculty researches in the past years is another. To ensure that future researches address responsibly the development needs of the society and are in consonance with the University's thrusts and mandate, this **University Research and Development Manual** is hereby set forth.

* See Appendix A for the PUP Philosophy, Vision, Mission and Goals.

Research Policy Statement

It is the policy of the University to initiate, motivate, and actively support **university research** in those fields and areas of concern identified in its Research Agenda.

The University commits itself, as its resources allow, to give full assistance to its researchers.

Research Principles

The conduct of scholarly inquiry and the transmission of knowledge are central and complementary functions of the University. These can only be carried out effectively and efficiently if researchers enjoy certain freedoms and accept corresponding responsibilities. Thus, to meet these goals, the University upholds the following research principles:

1. Individual researchers shall be free to select the subject matter of their research, to seek support for their work from any legitimate source, and to form their findings and conclusions. These findings and conclusions should be made available for scrutiny and criticism as required in Chapter 6 (Project Management and Monitoring) of this Manual.
2. The University shall nurture an environment conducive to research. Its limited resources, however, cannot support all research demands; hence, the allocation of space, facilities, funds, and other resources for such shall be based on their scholarly and educational merits and not on their political expediency or moral impropriety of the utilization of their results.
3. Research techniques shall always observe established professional ethics pertaining to the health, safety, privacy, and other personal rights of human beings and avoiding the infliction of injury or pain on animals and other life forms.

4. Researchers and faculty members of the University shall maintain a high level of intellectual honesty and academic integrity by explicitly acknowledging their sources of information, both published and unpublished, and by appropriately citing original works of other scholars/authors, and not attributing them as his or her own.

'University Research' Defined

Research is generally defined as an "investigation or experimentation aimed at the discovery and interpretation of facts, revision of accepted theories or laws, or practical application of such new or revised theories or laws" (Merriam-Webster 1983). Strictly applied, this definition excludes such writings as position papers, reaction papers, commentaries; and creative works such as handbooks, manuals, modules, and textbooks. It also excludes any essay (less than 50 pages) that is merely a compendium of larger research works (e.g., theses, dissertations) even if some amount of library research is done in the course of its writing.

University researches are those that fall within the University's Research Agenda and conducted by faculty members, as part of their functions in addition to instruction; by non-teaching personnel who have research projects that are approved by the University; and by students whose researches are adjudged best in their respective colleges/branches. Other than meeting the basic requirements of scientific research as defined above, university researches should also meet the following criteria:

1. The researches bridge the gaps in the programmed body of knowledge that the University is building up.
2. These researches are not done for the direct purpose of producing a textbook, handbook, manual, module or any other similar teaching-learning material.

University researches may be initiated by

- an individual faculty member,
- an individual non-teaching personnel,

- a group of faculty members belonging to one department/college/branch,
- a group of non-teaching personnel belonging to the same office,
- a group of faculty members and/or non-teaching personnel from different departments/colleges/branches/campuses/offices
- an academic department,
- a college/branch/campus,
- a student or a group of students belonging to one department/college/branch

Only researches that fit the definition of *university research* can expect material and/or financial support from the University, provided the University Research Evaluation Committee has approved their proposals. (See Chapter 5 for a detailed discussion of the process of applying for University support.) However, the RMO may provide other support services, e.g., research capability-building seminars, research trainings, etc., to any group within the University intending to conduct researches.

University Research Process

The policies and requirements for every step involved in doing a university research – are fully explained in the succeeding chapters.

The following chart summarizes the whole University research process:

Figure 1. The University Research Process

