Office of the Vice President for Research

RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION

Office of External Research Collaboration

O E R C

“Linking Research to Industry”

KUWAIT UNIVERSITY
On the threshold of yet another academic cycle, Kuwait University (KU) looks back with purpose and pride at its scientific legacy, spanning 45 glorious years of academic enrichment, scientific distinction and global visibility. This journey has empowered the institution with a strong edifice of higher education, with its scientific roots maturing into a distinguished system of support for basic, applied and humanities research, under the auspices of the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR). This system started functioning in 1979, and now 32 years later, Research Administration (RA) continues to award nearly 600 projects each year, providing the basis for high quality published papers in international refereed journals, with significant results, receiving international acclaim, and bringing laurels to KU and our distinguished faculty researchers. These accomplishments have significantly bolstered Kuwait University’s international profile, as being the repository of exceptional scientific talent, that could be the precursor for resolution of scientific complexities to serve national, regional and international needs. Today, RA is dynamically involved in transferring its research results to reach wider public through feasible investment options, with the establishment of Office of External Research Collaboration (OERC). This Office is specifically constituted to build external collaborations and partnerships to oversee the entire process of technology transfer, research marketing, raising funds, and investing institutional research outputs, through feasible commercial/industrial/public/private sector ventures, and enhancing awareness. In this ground-breaking venture, RA is envisioning a fruitful alliance of twin powers -- Kuwait University scientific talent, and the industry’s capital. There exists a huge potential for these two sectors to come together with their respective strengths, in creating a path for research results to be converted into tangibles that could be readily available for human benefit. RA is endeavoring to accomplish this ultimate purpose, with OERC being its prime conduit to achieve this goal of serving society through the scientific route.
Office of External Research Collaboration

Introduction

The Office of External Research Collaboration (OERC) is an integral part of the Research Administration, with a mandate to build collaborative partnerships, invest institutional research outputs, generate funds and promote public awareness. Essentially, the office promotes alliances, generates capital and resources for venturing into advancing the goals of applied research through technology transfer, overseeing marketing of critical scientific discoveries for the larger benefit of mankind.

These functions entail simulation and networking of cross-institutional collaboration to share expertise and resources, as RA’s spirited move in promoting need-based and applied research, raising funds and developing the institutional framework for technology transfer, research investment, marketing, visibility and public awareness. The Office is headed by the Asst. Vice President for External Research Collaboration to envision the mission, goals and priorities of OERC, and oversee the implementation of associated functions/responsibilities.

Mission

The OERC mission is linking research to industry, by developing the system for applied research,
and setting the mechanism and modalities for scientific and technological coordination through requisite leadership. This is intended to ensure that research results find appropriate investment outlet, geared to scientific, social, economic and human benefit.

Goals

The major goals of OERC are two-fold, to develop administrative and technical functionality, critically applicable to the domains of technology transfer, research marketing, patents process, intellectual property rights, fund-raising, commercialization, visibility and awareness. Essentially, these goals imply achieving smooth management operations for accomplishing OERC’s mission.

The administrative sphere provides services to achieve the function of rendering consultancy, advice and assistance on investment proposals and application procedures, through appropriate policy, system and resource support governing commercially viable research outputs of commercial propensity, develop intellectual property guidelines, offer contractual and management services, including publicity and related activities, and maintain database/records.

The Technical sphere develops feasible mechanism to render services concerning planning, implementing and monitoring of qualifying propositions for research marketing, evaluating technical and scien-
scientific content, developing legal framework, constitute specialized task force groups related to matters governing the country’s needs, technology transfer, commercialization, product testing and analysis, technology promotion and public awareness, etc.

**Responsibilities**

- Network inter-institutional and cross country alliances with external public and private sector bodies, individuals and clients, nationally, regionally and internationally, to identify potential sources of marketing faculty research results, breakthroughs, and landmark discoveries.

- Lay the groundwork for technology transfer, as a multi-function domain, encompassing within its sphere such activities as intellectual property rights, patents, legislative process, researchers rights, ethics, marketing, etc.

- Define rules and guidelines for Intellectual Property Rights, copyrights, and trademark.

- Oversee the functioning of Patents Office, including the legislative process, researchers rights, patents buy-back rights, and explore reinvestment/marketing feasibility, and alternative possibilities.

- Set standards and regulations for processing of marketable research propositions, constitute specialists task-force groups, and lay the entire sys-
tem and operational framework for seeing the proposed venture through to its logical investment, whether product, material improvement/new technique or industrial process.

• Raise capital and resources for strengthening institutional research potential, and provide critical support for internationally competitive ventures of human and scientific value through the Office of Consultancy and Development.

• Enhance research visibility through vigorous public awareness measures to bring strategic institutional research accomplishments to the forefront of national, international and public attention.

• Utilize current state-of-the-art technology/infrastructure/facilities/operational system and expertise, already available at Kuwait University, to expedite the process of scientific advancement through applied research.

Given these responsibilities, OERC is a key element of the RA’s organizational frame, under the direct responsibility of the Office of the Vice President for Research. The Office aims at developing and implementing the goals of investing institutional applied research through external cooperation, technology transfer and research marketing, to enable the OVPR in realizing its prime objective of investing faculty research outputs for benefiting mankind.
Programs

The OERC is responsible for the development and implementation of following programs:

- Technology Transfer, including critical areas of Intellectual Property Rights, Patents, Copyrights, trade mark, etc.
- Consortium task forces between University/ Industry/Private Sector.
- External Collaboration/Partnerships
- Research Investment/Marketing
- Public Awareness/Visibility
Contact

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