



**STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (here after referred to as SMC)**

## **RESEARCH AND INNOVATION POLICY**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Research and Innovation Policy of SMC is a document that provides a framework for the development of a competitive, innovative, ethical and a socially responsible research culture at SMC for quantitative and qualitative improvements in sustainable research performance for continued excellence.

The Research and Innovation Policy of SMC is a document that provides a framework for the development of a competitive, innovative, ethical and a socially responsible research culture at SMC for quantitative and qualitative improvements focusing on sustainable development.

**1.1**The College is also committed to support all research activities to create and advance knowledge and to improve the quality of education through the discovery, dissemination and use of research in various disciplines in line with the vision and mission of SMC.

### **2.0 OBJECTIVES**

The Research and Innovation Policy of SMC serves as a framework for stakeholders, management, and academic staff on their roles and responsibilities in the research and innovation acculturation process at the SMC. Accordingly, the objectives of this policy are to:

(a) strengthen the performance of the institution in the areas of research, consultancy and knowledge partnerships,



(b) enhance research collaboration between disciplines and various fields both locally and abroad,

(c) intensify and reinforce cooperation and collaboration between universities, industries, and society.

(d) boost efforts in generating revenue for the institution through patents as significant research contributions.

### **3.0 SCOPE**

This policy covers all processes related to the implementation and management of research, research output, scholarly activities, collaborations, knowledge dissemination and consultation at SMC.

### **4.0 POLICY STATEMENT**

To make SMC a leading institution of higher learning at the national and international level in research, innovation, teaching, and social service learning. The College believes in taking a significant step to develop a culture of competitive research and innovation among faculty and students in order to enrich our academic practices and social responsibility while demonstrating adherence to recognized standards of quality assurance.

#### **4.1 The Need to Conduct Research**

In an effort to achieve the set vision, the College undertakes the following approach:

(a) All faculty must conduct research and scholarly activities as well as to publish the outcome or patent their product.



(b) All researchers must make themselves eligible to apply for research funds to finance their research.

(c) Conducting research is essential in the career development of faculty as well as undertaking academic and administrative responsibilities.

## **5.0 MANAGEMENT OF RESEARCH**

(a) SMC Management & SMC International Research Centre

(b) SMC Research Council

(c) Office of the Academic Deans

(d) SMC IQAC- Internal Quality Assurance Cell

(e) SMC Research Ethical Committee

(f) Heads of Research Monitoring Departments

(g) Scholar coordinators

(h) Research mentors

## **5.1 SMC MANAGEMENT SUPPORT:**

Provide with financial, infrastructural and human resources to develop and enhance institutional research

(a) Provide financial incentives for researchers to engage in high quality, internationally competitive sustainable research activity.

(b) A seed money from the institution is a fundamental support provided to the faculty to enhance their research.

(c) Initiate research mentorship concept for attracting young researchers.



## **6.0 RESEARCH FINDINGS (OUTPUT) AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Research output and performance indicators for the research include publications, intellectual property rights, research reports, research funds, supervision and consultancy services.

## **7.0 SYNERGY IN TEACHING AND RESEARCH**

To implement a pedagogy which involves a research influenced teaching.

## **8.0 RESEARCH ETHICS**

Faculty and students of the College who conduct research must have high ethical standards in accordance with the guidelines stipulated in by the SMC Ethics Committee and the University of Madras.

1.It is a basic assumption that researchers are committed to the highest standards of ethical and professional conduct in undertaking and supervising research. They have a duty to maintain the highest standards of probity in research applicable to their discipline and thus protect and enhance standards of excellence in research.

### **8.1 IPR and Plagiarism**

Recognising and responding to the ethical dimension of research is a fundamental part of the College governance. The College needs to procure a plagiarism software for plagiarism detection to avoid deceitful practices. In this connection, workshops and awareness building sessions on IPR and plagiarism will be conducted to promote and sensitise research integrity.

### **8.2 Intellectual Property Rights**



Intellectual property rights are the rights protected by specific laws that allow the owner of the Intellectual Property to exercise exclusive control over the exploitation of such rights usually associated with commercial gains.

### **8.3 RESEARCH INTEGRITY**

1. Research integrity describes the responsibilities of researchers and the research community. It involves, above all, a commitment to intellectual honesty and personal responsibility for one's actions and to a range of practices that characterize responsible research conduct. These practices include:

- a) Honesty and fairness in proposing, performing, and reporting research;
- b) Accuracy and fairness in representing contributions to research proposals and reports;
- c) Proficiency and fairness in peer review;
- d) Collegiality in scientific interactions, communications and sharing of resources;
- e) Disclosure of conflicts of interest;
- f) Protection and confidentiality of human subjects in the conduct of research;
- g) Humane care of animals in the conduct of research;
- h) Adherence to the mutual responsibilities of mentors and trainees.

2. Research integrity is vital because it creates trust, and trust is at the heart of the research process. Researchers must be able to trust each other's work, and they must



also be trusted by society since they provide scientific and social expertise that may impact people's lives.

**3.SAFETY:** The institution and research workers have a responsibility to ensure the safety of all those associated with research. It is also essential that the design of projects conform to relevant ethical guidelines stipulated by the institution, the affiliated state university, the research guides and the SMC Research Ethics committee.

#### **4 Ethics Committee: Role and responsibility**

A Research Ethics committee comprises a group of faculty from multi-disciplines appointed to review research proposals in order to assess formally if the research is ethical. This means the research must conform to recognised ethical standards, which includes respecting the dignity, rights, safety and well-being of the people who take part. Importantly, the committee recommends research integrity and moral responsibility to respect the intellectual property rights and avoid malpractices.

#### **4.Standards for Research and Publications**

All persons to whom these Guidelines apply must be very careful in using material from other authors and ensure that it is properly acknowledged. The deliberate copying of other people's work and the presentation of it as one's own constitutes plagiarism, which is unacceptable to the institution. Those who use material which is not produced by them have a responsibility to make its status and origins quite clear to those to whom it is presented. It is a fundamental principle of academic life that individuals can claim credit for and make material use of only those works or parts of work to which they have a legitimate claim.



## **9.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION POLICY STRATEGIES**

Research and innovation strategies are to:

(a) provide and manage a conducive research environment moving towards a multi- and interdisciplinary research collaborations outside the institution and among departments of the College may also be promoted.

(b) provide and maintain infrastructure and basic and advanced facilities for research at all times.

(c) approve the appointment of academic staff that have track records of excellent research and publications in and outside the country.

(d) provide incentives and research facilities to academic staff to conduct research within and outside the country.

(e) provide adequate and trained human resources to promote research activities.

(f) encourage faculty to participate in research groups for sustainability and optimal use of resources.

(g) identify and support the development of expertise in 'niche areas' and explore new frontiers to maintain the research strengths and interests of the country and the world. To align with global research which is increasingly being redirected towards addressing poverty, reducing inequality and tackling the effects of environment and climate change.



- (h) invite competent researchers including foreign researchers to conduct research at the college.
- (i) establish research centres as dynamic catalysts for research development and ensure faculty membership in any of the research centers.
- (j) appoint external assessors to evaluate the progress and outputs of research programmes of the College.
- (k) network with the public and industry for research and innovation purposes.
- (l) develop strategies to increase the number of articles published in high impact journals.
- (m) implement an appropriate reward system to encourage excellence in research, incubation and enterprise.

## **10. RESEARCH AND SUSTAINABILITY**

Implement policies and strategies for sustainability in research performance.

## **11. INTERNATIONALISATION OF RESEARCH**

The internationalization of research is necessary in order to strengthen the development of competitive and innovative research culture among staff and students. The exposure and the internationalization of research are necessary for the following purposes:

- (a) To increase research excellence and innovation potential through greater access to external sources of knowledge.





- (b) To develop a global collaboration and innovation network that can promote and utilize new knowledge and technologies.
- (c) To compete for international research funds.
- (d) To expose local faculty and students to research culture in developed nations.
- (e) To attract excellent foreign students to conduct research at the College in collaboration with the University of Madras to promote interaction among multiple cultures.
- (f) The internationalisation of research will be implemented by organizing and participating in more international seminars and conferences, presenting research papers, generating project papers published in high impact journals or international papers and research through international collaboration.
- (g) encourage faculty to improve international relations such as undertaking their sabbaticals abroad

## **12.0 CONSULTATION AND INDUSTRIAL NETWORK**

Strategies in the commercialisation/consultation and industrial network aspect are to:

- (a) commercialise research discoveries and technology developed at the College.
- (b) organize workshops/seminars/conferences that aim to expose the College faculty to aspects linked to negotiations, commercialisation, intellectual property, and technology transfer.
- (c) promote interaction with industry and professional bodies.



- (d) create strategic plans aimed at strengthening consultation services to various government departments, industry and professional bodies.
  - (e) network with the public and industry for consultation and commercialisation purposes.
  - f) promote collaboration among departments/ colleges/ universities in technology transfer, digital learning, academic and training programs and related matters.
  - (g) support efforts to promote research activities through consultation.
  - (h) encourage the application of research findings into policies, industries and society as one of the social responsibilities of the College.
  - (i) work with private companies to complement their expertise to handle the needs of a multi-disciplinary project as required by the client.
  - (j) to develop an innovative ecosystem within the College in order to aid the formation of partnerships and to strategically develop commercialisation that will result in the necessary competencies with regard to innovative business endeavours.
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