

Need For a Research and Publications Committee and Publishing at a Higher Institution of Learning

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Abstract: *This article discusses the need for the research and publications committee at an institution of higher learning. It gives an overview of why there is a need, the procedures for publishing, formation of the committee(s), membership, terms of service, duties of the committee, challenges, conclusion and recommendations. It is evident that out of 10 institutions of higher learning five may not have the committee as some managers think that it is a wastage of money and others think that the work can be done in class by the learners and instructors. There is a need to have more funding to the committees by the mother organisations, capacity building of the trainers/lecturers, motivation of the researchers among others. Every Institution should encourage the learners to publish their research with their trainers or supervisors as it also leads to the growth of the individuals and the institutions that they serve.*

Keywords: Research, Publications Committee, Publishing, Higher Institution And Learning

Introduction

The Research Committee brings all elements of institutional research together including human subject review and functions to enhance and deploy institutional resources in support of research and scholarship. The role of the Research Committee is to encourage and support the institution and students in engaging in scholarly activities. Scholarly activities are defined as applying for research grants, conducting research, applying for patents and copyrights, and disseminating research results through presentations in local, national, and international conferences and publishing in peer-reviewed publications. The research committee is responsible for developing strategies that would help to maintain a healthy research base across the institution and promote cross disciplinary research and scholarly output. The research committee shall implement research activities in the institution.

Procedures

In supporting faculty research at the institution, the Research Committee encourages scholarly activity by overseeing the protocols for animal and human subject research, by facilitating the funding process and the establishment of inter-institutional partnerships, by assisting faculty members in determining the appropriate outlets for their research and by serving as an advocate for faculty relative to institutional policies and procedures. The Research Committee recommends policy on research activities to the General Faculty and / or to the college Administration when appropriated.

Membership:

1. Chairperson
2. Secretary
3. Deans
4. Members

From the college Research Committee, subcommittees may be formed for the purpose of promoting ongoing faculty and institutional research. These subcommittees may include additional professionals in a related field as deemed necessary by the committee.

Terms of Service

Members on the committee should serve for a period of one year and thereafter regular elections be held for the committee

Meetings

The Committee should meet a minimum of twice a year. Subcommittees may meet more frequently to consider timely issues.

Duties of the committee

- Organize research talks for academic staff, external speakers and students (open days)

- The committee is responsible for reviewing external research grant calls
- It shall be responsible for publishing research output including grants and publications.
- The committee shall maintain close cooperation with external research bodies local research institutions, local universities and industry when need arises.
- It shall vet research topics submitted by the researcher before beginning their research studies.
- Organize research defence sessions for researchers.
- Manage deployment of funds allocated for research grants and conference funds.
- Must submit a detailed report of its activities to the institutions head.
- Should submit a short proposal to support its grant application and must send a report at the end of the period for which the grant was allocated.
- Provide information about strategic publishing
- Determine funding for publications
- Promote researcher's publication in the journals that lead to increased research funding.
- Decide which publications are eligible for support
- Support the institutional researchers when they want to publish their research results
- Allocate supervisors to researchers
- Formulate standard research guides for the researchers of the institution and disseminate them
- Orienting faculty to the general process of acquiring, and administering external funds.
- Encourage grant application through workshops and other partnerships in coordination with the Sponsored Programs Office.

- Assisting as a liaison in linking ideas for research with expertise that would support that research.

- Assisting faculty with proposal development. This includes writing, corresponding with funding sources, preparing proposal budget, and submitting the proposal.

- Support faculty and student presentations, reporting the results of ongoing and completed research
- Assisting faculty in identifying funding opportunities relevant to their research interests.
- Establishing contacts with the community and the industry for the purpose of advertising faculty expertise and creating additional funding opportunities.
- Identify the infrastructure, systems, and services that enable effective use of computing and communication technologies by all members of the college community for research activities.

Benefits of publishing.

- provides endless opportunities and exposure.
- Publishing leads to recognition
- It results to career growth
- There is sharing of knowledge
- It connects different authors
- It solves problems through sharing ideas.
- It eliminates duplication of knowledge.
- It is a source of prestige in the society.
- It builds confidence in the authors that their work is valuable.
- It is a requirement for some academic awards such as post graduate awards.

Challenges of academic Publishing

Over the years publishing an article has never been easy, most researchers have been faced with the following hinderances while trying to publish:

- Fake reviewers
- Plagiarism
- Whistleblowers and their intentions
- Regulations and disclosures
- Corrigenda, correction, and retraction

- Reviewer workload
- Open-access and ‘predatory’ publishing

Conclusion

Most of the Institutions of higher learning such as Universities and Colleges have continued to keep a deaf ear by not creating the research and publications committee and this has not only made them to lag behind in academics globally but also on the learning as a process.

Most of the learners and Staff in most of the Universities do not know how to write suitable manuscripts for publication in international peer reviewed journals yet it is an academic requirement that at least one should have published two articles before graduating.

Recommendations

- Every Institution of higher learning irrespective of size should have a research and publications committee.
- Learners should be supported by their trainers/lecturers to publish their articles.
- Best researchers should be given internal awards as a motivation to inspire them and their colleagues.
- There is a need for more funding to these committees by their mother institutions.
- Researchers should be directed to the right journals for publication by their trainers and departmental heads.

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