



GONDWANA UNIVERSITY, GADCHIROLI

DIRECTION NO. 16 of 2021

DIRECTION GOVERNING INTER-DISCIPLINARY AND MULTY-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, RECOGNITION OF RESEARCH CLUSTER DIRECTION, 2021.

(Issued under provision of Section 12(8) of the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016)

Whereas, the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016 (Maharashtra Act No. VI of 2017) has come into force with effect from 1st March 2017;

AND

Whereas, the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016 has repealed to Maharashtra Universities Act, 1994 with effect from 1st March 2017;

AND

Whereas, the Gondwana University, Gadchiroli was established by Government of Maharashtra vide Notification No. MISC-2010/ (252/10) UNI – 4 Dated 27th September, 2011 as a State University Governed by the Maharashtra Universities Act, 1994;

AND

Whereas, the Gondwana University, Gadchiroli has started functioning by way of offering various academic courses commencing from the session 2012-13;

AND

Whereas, it is the duty of Board of Deans as provided under section 37 (2) (b) (IV) to undertake the task in Research matters;

AND

Whereas, the University Grants Commission, in suppression of the UGC (Minimum Standards & Procedures for Awards of Ph.D. Degrees of the universities) Regulation, 2009, has issued University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards & Procedures for awards of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2016 vide its Notification dated 5th May 2016 published in the Gazette of India No.278, Part III – Section 4, dated 5th July 2016, necessitating

issuance of new Direction regarding Minimum Standards & Procedures for award of the Ph.D. Degree;

AND

Whereas, the University Grants Commission regulation published in Gazette of India in the clause 18.0 Maintenance of Standards in Higher-Education Institutions and sub-clause vi, which reads as, “Research cluster shall be created amongst the universities/colleges/research institutions within the state for sharing research facilities, human resources, skills and infrastructure to ensure optimal utilisation of resources and to create synergies among higher education institutions;

AND

Whereas, Academic Council in its meeting held on 10.11.2020, vide item no. 51 has resolved to adapt the effective measures prescribed by the UGC, New Delhi as part of minimum standards required for the completion of course work;

AND

Whereas, Board of Research in its meeting held on 18.02.2021, vide subject no. 1 and timely subject no. 1, has resolved to institute policy framework whilst adapting effective measures for Recognizing Research Cluster and for instituting Inter-Disciplinary and Multi-Disciplinary Research, as part of the elevated standards aimed at improving research ambience across the university region;

AND

Whereas, the matter is required to be executed with immediate effect;

AND

Whereas, making an Ordinance for regulating the given matter is a time-consuming process;

Now, therefore, I, Prof. Shrinivasa Varakhedi, Vice-Chancellor, Gondwana University, Gadchiroli, in exercise of the powers vested in me under the provision of Section 12(8) of the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016, do hereby issue the following Directions:-

1. This Direction shall be called “DIRECTION GOVERNING INTER-DISCIPLINARY AND MULTY-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, RECOGNITION OF RESEARCH CLUSTER DIRECTION, 2021.” (Hereinafter referred to as “the Direction”).
2. This Direction shall come into force with effect from the date of its issuance.

3. Scope:

- a) This Direction shall govern the process of award of Ph.D. degree in all the faculties of the University and conducted research at places recognised by the university:
- b) This Direction shall apply to the university / institutions / conducted colleges / constituent colleges / affiliated colleges of the university and an institution recognized by the university for the purpose of research.

4. Definitions:

In this Direction, unless the context requires otherwise:

- a) "Act" means the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016 (Maharashtra Act No. VI of 2017);
- b) "Board of Studies" means a Board for a particular subject or a group of subjects constituted as per provisions of the relevant section of the Act;
- c) "College" means a college as defined under relevant section of the Act,
- d) "Faculty" means a faculty constituted as per the relevant provision of the section of the Act;
- e) "Head, Place of Research" means the Head of the Department of the University/Principal of the College/ Director of the Institute;
- f) "Place of Research" means all the post-graduate teaching departments of the University and includes any other place which is duly recognized as the place of research by the University;
- g) "Ph.D. Entrance Test (PET)" means the entrance test conducted by the Gondwana University, Gadchiroli in accordance with the (applicable) rules framed by the University in this regard;
- h) "Post Graduate Department" means a department in a college or institution of higher learning, research, or specialized studies, recognized to be so by the university and imparting post-graduate instruction or guidance for research and includes the post-graduate teaching department of the University;
- i) "Research Advisory Committee" means a committee as provided under this Ordinance;
- j) "Research & Recognition Committee" means a committee for the particular Board of Studies constituted by the University as per relevant provisions of section of the Act, which shall act as a subject-wise University Research Committee in lieu of the Department Research Committee as mentioned by the UGC in Regulations 2016;
- k) "Supervisor" means a Ph.D. supervisor who is recognized as Ph.D. supervisor as per the provisions of this Ordinance and "External Supervisor" means a Ph.D. supervisor who is recognized as a Ph.D. supervisor in the university but is not a full time regular teacher of the University/Institution/College, and
- l) "University" means the Gondwana University, Gadchiroli.

5. Applications for research in inter-disciplinary / multi-disciplinary areas and applicants belonging to a faculty or subject other than the faculty or subject in which the research is

proposed shall be considered on the basis of the proven ability and aptitude of the researcher for such kind of research.

6. Such proposal shall be referred to the Board of Deans. On examination, the Board of Deans, either depending on the major component of the research for registration for Ph.D. degree, shall constitute the desired RRC OR alternatively as per provision of section 37(2)(a) of the M P U Act'2016, consisting of Deans, Chairperson and two experts for each of the subject under discussion and shall refer the proposal to the same.
7. The decisions in this regard shall be taken by the above constituted Research and Recognition Committee (RRC) after presentation by the research student. Such interdisciplinary research shall be under additional guidance of co-guide/s from the relevant interdisciplinary area. Three years of work experience in the related field is necessary for such candidates. In such cases, the guide should be from the subject in which the candidate has completed his/her Master's Degree and that the Co-guide from the other subject. However, the guide and co-guide for one particular thesis cannot be from the same subject.
8. Only a full-time regular teacher of the PGTDs and affiliated colleges of the University can act as a Guide. The external guides are not allowed. However, Co-guide can be allowed in interdisciplinary / Multidisciplinary areas from other departments of the same institute/college or from other related institutions or industry or research organizations with the recommendation of the RRC and the approval of the Pro-Vice Chancellor.
9. Such proposal shall be examined by the Guide, Co-guide and the Head, Place of Research before giving provisional admission. The admission will be confirmed after the RRC concerned approves the topic.
10. Interdisciplinary study will be one in which expert guidance from more than one subject is required. One of this shall be the basic subject in which the student has acquired his PG degree and the other/s will be allied subject/s from the same faculty which not only help in the research but also enhance overall quality of research/applied research and are essential for the same. The Ph.D. in this case will be awarded having mention of the Title of the study along with Faculty/Faculties under which the candidate was allowed to register.

Multi-disciplinary / Inter-faculty Study

11. Multi-disciplinary / Inter-faculty study will be the one in which significant expert guidance from subject under other faculty is required viz other than qualifying post-graduate subject. Under this, any candidate from any subject can register for Ph.D. under any subject/faculty as per the provisions specified in the paras above.
12. The guide in interdisciplinary study must have his/her Ph.D. in the allied field of the subject or provided that he/she has published minimum of three papers in the SCI/peer reviewed journals in the subject(s) of interdisciplinary study in last three years preceding

the registration of student. Guide from allied subjects/fields shall be permitted to guide only in his field of specialization in the interdisciplinary subjects viz he/she shall not guide in subject/topic in which he/she has no expertise.

13. If the topic of research is such that expertise from more than one subject/field is required for the work, co-guide from such other subject/field shall be permitted. However, the guide from the basic subject of the student shall be the main guide.
14. Whether the topic/field is interdisciplinary / multidisciplinary or not, shall be decided by the Board of Deans.
15. The modality regarding conduct of meetings of the committee, preparation of list of guides, vacancies with individual guide, their specialization and any other matter shall be such as may be laid down by the University from time to time.
16. While granting admission to candidates for Ph.D. programme, due attention shall be paid to the State Reservation Policy.
17. In case certain facilities of research do not exist in the jurisdiction of the University, the candidate may be permitted by the Guide, Co-guide and Head of the Place of Research work to carry out his research work at an Institution recognized by any Statutory University or Central/State Government, outside the jurisdiction of the University, for such a period as may be approved by the Research and Recognition Committee (RRC).
18. Since the Gondwana University is established with its head-quarters at Gadchiroli with a purpose, so an open list containing relevant topics of research having a mention of preferential areas, containing localized aspects etc shall be part of the sphere of influence necessary for developing a research ambience across the university region.
19. The applicant once approved by the RRC, the student count shall be accounted within the permissible intake of both, the Guide and the Co-guide.
20. The other applicable rules regarding eligibility, procedure for conduct of Ph D entrance test (PET), structure of PET, interview, allotment of research guide, submission of application, provisional registration, course work, supervision, submission and evaluation of thesis, appointment of external examiners, viva-voce/Défense, depository with UGC, declaration of result of thesis shall be as specified by the relevant Ph. D. Direction / Ordinance published from time to time.

Recognition as inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary research center

21. University to encourage inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary research in varied subjects for which due recognitions shall be bestowed after judging the capacity of

existing applicant research centers of affiliated colleges and PGTDs. For this purpose, applications are inevitable from the existing research centers of the affiliated colleges, recognized institutions etc following which by constituting a legitimate committee consisting of Deans of the concerned faculties, one external member, and one BOR member, recognition shall be granted subject to the recommendation of the committee. The rest of the procedure shall remain same as adopted for recognition as Institutions of Higher Learning, Research and Specialized Studies in the given subject.

Recognition as Research Cluster

22. Research plays a significant role in the process of conceptual thinking, learning and innovation. Since its inception, the Institutions have been striving to achieve excellence in education and research in consonance with the contemporary and future needs of India through meaningful education, original research and leadership in technological innovation for the industrial growth of the Country.

Several countries have seen major investments both in research infrastructure and trained scientific manpower in establishing high-end institutions in the scientific and technological sector. Similarly, knowledge industry has also grown as enterprise in these countries. Yet, the connect between R&D institutions, academia, including universities and industry is a weak. The aim of the research cluster is to provide a platform to leverage the complementary strengths through effective collaboration and cooperation by developing a functional connect. The research clusters so recognised, will serve as hubs, which will interact with the broader research ecosystem including the university PGTDs, affiliated colleges, and local industries.

In the recent years, generally all domains are highly influenced by Clustering policies and procedures. Especially in the field of Education, Business and Commerce the clustering polices have been found to achieve more success rate. Due to the globalization, the Universities and Educational Institutes are moving towards Clustering policies.

The research cluster amongst the universities / colleges / research institutions / industries enables sharing of research facilities, human resources, skills and infrastructure. Thus, if created, chances for interventions gets enhanced.

23. Gondwana University envisages research cluster formation although limited number of affiliated colleges and university PGTDs has potency to carry out research. Under the situation, institutions outside the university region like industries, social work organisations, R & D institutes, research laboratories etc shall be approached for viable collaboration.

A given Research cluster within university region is basically interdisciplinary group of research centres addressing research problems that demand innovative approaches. They reflect the excitement of research across the university jurisdiction where discipline boundaries are permeable and research traditions may collide to find new ways of understanding our world and its problems.

24. Cluster objectives/goals and responsibilities

- to pursue collaborative research with a shared vision.
- conduct regular interactive meetings, trainings etc.
- organize focused workshops.
- development of research programs within the university system by providing the enabling eco-system.
- identify and take up high impact initiatives at national and international scale, and
- secure large grants.

25. Benefits of the Research Cluster

- Allows us to ensure optimal utilization of our physical and human resources
- Creates synergies amongst rest of the institutions of the region.
- Clusters can be useful for ensuring public private partnership (PPP) by way of which private CSR can be tapped.

26. An Advisory group shall be formed for mentoring and propelling research activities of the recognized research cluster/s. Monitoring is to be done for a specific period say 1-2 years for mapping outcomes of the recognised research cluster.

27. If any dispute arises out of the provisions made under this Direction, the same shall be referred to the Vice-Chancellor whose decision shall be final and binding to all the concerned.



(Prof. Shrinivasa Varakhedi)
Vice-Chancellor (Officiating)

Place: Gadchiroli

Date: 1.10.2021