

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
RESEARCH PRODUCTION AND EXTENSION (RPE) DIVISION
ANNUAL REPORT - 2012

1. INTRODUCTION

The Division of RPE came into existence in March 2011 following the establishment of the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, RPE. The Division is charged with the responsibility of enhancing research activities in the University in order to achieve and sustain “Excellence in Research, Production and Extension. To achieve the excellence, the Division is focused on a Mission to “promote the discovery, application and dissemination of knowledge through quality research and innovation”

COMPOSITION OF RPE DIVISION

The following Units constitute and support the cause of the RPE Division:

- a) The Office of the DVC, RPE
- b) The Intellectual Property Management Office (IPMO)
- c) The Science and Technology Park
- d) The Centre for International Programmes and Links
- e) The Board of Postgraduate Studies.
- f) The University Graduate Research Library
- g) The University of Nairobi Press
- h) The Grants Office in Finance Department

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE RPE DIVISION

- a) Initiate and maintain Inter-departmental Researches in the University and partner with other institutions.
- b) Promote, protect and exploit intellectual Property Rights.
- c) Disseminate research funding technologies and innovations to stakeholders

- d) Promote relevant and applicable academic research.
- e) Promote commercialization of research output and innovations.

2. STRATEGIC ISSUES

The following are the Divisions Strategic issues:

- a) **Research Infrastructure such as Libraries, Laboratories which enhance research:** They require rehabilitation and upgrading as well as acquisition of new ones. A Policy on utilization of the infrastructure is to be developed.
- b) **Research Funding and Capacity:** Efforts are in place to increase the level of research funding through encouraging and supporting staff in all disciplines to engage in proposal writing so as to attract more and more funds. Similarly, efforts are also being made to increase interdisciplinary and inter-institutional researches.
- c) **Collaboration and Linkages:** The Division is committed to facilitating and maintaining collaborations and partnerships with reputable research institutions. This helps expand the international network of knowledge sharing and also increase research opportunities within and across disciplines.
- d) **Intellectual Property:** Through the immense research carried out by the University of Nairobi Scholars, Intellectual Property assets are generated in the form of creative works, inventions and innovations. These require protection as Intellectual Property and Commercialization as well.
- e) **Dissemination, Visibility and Benchmarking:** Research output need effective dissemination and in so doing, increase the visibility of the University. Efforts are directed towards increasing University of Nairobi Website content, International Conferences, Media and Community Outreach activities.

3. ACHIEVEMENTS

Following are the achievements:

i) Developed and approved Plan/Policies:

a) Developed the Grants Management Strategic Plan – 2013-2017

b) Developed the University Open Access Policy

review of the IP Policy

Review of the research Policy

Development of the Plagiarism policy

ii) Award of Deans Committee Research Grant for 2012/2013 academic year

The following awards from the DCRG were made:

a) Top – Up - 10

b) New awards - 18

Total - 28

Total budget of Kshs7,000,000.00

iii) Research Associates & Research Affiliates

Applications were processed as follows:

a) Research Associates - 19

b) Research Affiliates - 7

iv) Collaborations

The Office of the DVC (RPE) initiated and facilitated the following collaborations:

- University of Washington USA –

a) Multi-disciplinary research on Climate Change

b) Multi-disciplinary Collaborative research on Global Health

- Ministry of Gender & UNICEF – setting up a Gender Research Documentation Centre at the University of Nairobi.

- Ministry of Industrialization – commercialization of Innovation for University of Nairobi
- KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Collaboration with University of Nairobi on building research capacity for early and middle level research careers. A strategic Award proposal has been jointly submitted to Wellcome Trust.
- The Office of the DVC(RPE) successfully bid for inclusion in the Development Research Uptake in Sub-Saharan Africa (DRUSSA) programme, funded by DFID. Benchmarking and campus visits have been undertaken and six members of staff have attended short courses in Science Communication and Science Utilization and Impact. One member of staff has been awarded a bursary to undertake Mphil studies in Science and technology Studies specializing in Research Uptake and Utilization at the Stellenbosch University.
- University of Nairobi successfully bid to host the COMESA Science Park.
- Collaboration with IGAD on skills development programmes for the Sheikh Technical Veterinary School (STVS) in Somaliland. Through the collaboration UoN will partner with IGAD to develop STVS as a regional training centre, and to use the expertise at UoN to develop IGAD sectoral pastoral policies. Accreditation process for STVS has begun and a multidisciplinary team(form CAVS, IDS and CEES) has already started developing the skills development programmes for STVS.
- DIES –DAAD partnership on research management meeting in May 2012 held in Germany. The meeting was attended by the DVC (RPE), Permanent Secretary MOHES, NCST, etc. A follow up lecture on Research management by Freier University, Berlin undertaken in October 2012 attended by the Vice-Chancellor, DVC (RPE) and one staff member from office of DVC (RPE)

- University of Nairobi Plagiarism policy and Open Access Policy have been developed.
- University of Nairobi has now been listed as a signatory to the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in Sciences and Humanities (October 2012)
- Stakeholders workshops attended by staff members from office of the DVC (RPE), e.g. Stakeholders workshop held in Kapsabet together with government ministries (Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Livestock Development) and the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to disseminate research findings and engage with policy makers (October 2012) based on the findings from the Safe Food Safe Dairy Project (CAVS).

v) Seminars & Workshops

The Division held five(5) Seminars/Workshops

- a) Sensitization of UMB, Deans Committee Members and Registrars on Plagiarism on February 9, 2012. The outcome was to develop a policy on anti-plagiarism and also integrate plagiarism in the Research Methodology course and teach it at all levels.
- b) Workshop on Research Grants Management Strategic Plan held from March 9-11, 2012. This led to the production of the Strategic Plan.
- c) Training of staff on Grants proposal writing where a total of 274 staff members were trained. As a result there is an increased response to calls for proposal writing
- d) Sensitization on Open Access and Biodiversity Heritage Library to researchers held on August 30, 2012.
- e) Training on Ph.D Students Supervision: November 26-28, 2012.

vi) Individual Research Work Plan

Developed and approved for use the Individual Research Work plan by both teaching staff and students. The Form helps researchers plan their activities and facilitates monitoring and evaluation of the same. It is available on the University Intranet.

vii) The Intellectual Property Policy Acceptance Agreement (IPPAA) Form:

The form encourages disclosure of Inventions/Innovations/Copyrights and facilitates protection of the same. It is ready for execution to all teaching staff through the Terms of Service, Postgraduate and Undergraduate students as part of registration documents and Visitors, Research Fellows and Research Associates/Affiliates as part of acceptance documents.

viii) Research Note Books.

The Notebooks were approved for use by all researchers in the University including research students. The Books are available in the UNES Bookstore.

ix) Use of the University Logo in Power-point presentation. In view of benchmarking as one of our strategic issues RPE recommended the design and use of a corporate power point presentation template with the University of Nairobi Logo. The template is now available on the university intranet for use by all staff members.

4. CHALLENGES

The following are some of the challenges encountered:

- a) Inadequate office space: Need offices for Senior Administrative Assistant, Records Clerk, Registry and for the future.

b) Need an enhanced establishment to enable the office operationalize its responsibilities. Currently the staff in post are

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 | DVC, RPE |
| 1 | Senior Assistant Registrar |
| 1 | Assistant Registrar |
| 1 | Senior Administrative Assistant |
| 2 | Secretaries |
| 2 | Drivers |
| 1 | Messenger |

Total 9

c) The disclosure rate of innovations is low. Majority of staff are either unaware of the existence of the Intellectual property policy or fear losing their rights on the innovation.

d) Monitoring and evaluation of the researches is slow.

5. FUTURE PROJECTIONS

The office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor aspires to do the following in the future:

a) Develop a Research Management Information System Policy to help monitor and evaluate researches.

b) Develop a Research Communication Strategy Policy for passing information on research activities.

c) Develop an Extension/Outreach Policy to assist disseminate research findings to communities and stakeholders.

d) Develop the RPE Newsletter as a means of communication of research activities.

e) Organize Workshops/Seminars to sensitize staff and students on all relevant policies to research.

f) Acquire staff capacity in technical areas such as Director of Research, Grant Proposal Writing Administrator.

