

# STRATEGIC RESEARCH PROJECTS BRIEF

By

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# Introduction

- **Strategic planning is essential to the continuous improvement of an institution**
- **The vision for the future development of research at KFUPM is based on the integral role that the University must play in its sustainable development, and cultural, social, and economic transformation, of Saudi Arabia**

# Identification of Strategic Issues

- **Research structure, policy, and procedures;**
- **Competent and contemporary research programs;**
- **Qualified research manpower and effective infrastructure and facilities; and,**
- **Securing of sufficient funds and expanding of marketing efforts**

# Defined Projects

- **Project 1 (P-1): Improvement in Research Structure, Policy, and Procedures**
- **Project 2 (P-2): Identifying and Developing Strategic and Interdisciplinary Research Programs**
- **Project 3 (P-3): Empowering University's research manpower and facilities**
- **Project 4 (P-4): Promoting and Marketing the University's Research Capabilities: Interaction with local industries and international R&D collaboration**



# Each project is summarized in terms of:

- Objectives;
- Expected outcomes; and
- Key action items

# and Outcomes for the Project P-1 (Improvement in Research Structure, Policy, and Procedures)

## Objectives

To enhance the desired research culture and efficiency of operation

To motivate and inspire the faculty members, RI researchers, and graduate students to offer the best research products and appropriately serve the societal needs

To protect against various forms of misconduct in research

To facilitate delivering the project commitments promptly and in a timely manner

To establish the appropriate coordination between the researchers, administrators, and the support staff

To accommodate flexibility and efficiency in terms of honoring the idiosyncrasies of researchers

To formulate the future research structure, policy, and procedures which will ensure attaining the defined objectives

## Expected Outcomes

- **Conducive research environment & culture**
- **Improvement in research support staff and services**
- **Simplified administrative procedures**
- **Enhanced efficiency of operation**
- **More prompt mutual responsiveness on behalf of research administrators, researchers, and research support staff**
- **Better utilization of qualified researchers and better facilities to solve the societal needs**
- **Increased participation, devotion, dedication, and commitment to quality from all categories of researchers**



# on Items for the Project P-1

(Improvement in Research Structure, Policy, and Procedures)

- **Survey Saudi Arabia's current and future societal research needs**
- **Prepare questionnaires for the research stakeholders**
- **Meet and/or interview (as appropriate) all research stakeholders and research providers**
- **Review the research structure, policies, and procedures of our university, as well as selected peer research-intensive universities and research institutes/organizations**



# Key Action Items for the Project P-1 (Improvement in Research Structure, Policy, and Procedures) (Continued)

- **Coordinate with the other three research-related project teams (Projects 2, 3, and 4) as required**
- **Coordinate with the Teaching & Learning, Public Service, and Long-term Planning project teams (as needed)**

# and Outcomes for the Project P-2 (Developing Strategic and Interdisciplinary Research Programs)

Objectives	Outcomes
Determining to what extent the University's current research programs cater effectively to the societal needs (current and future)	Better service to the societal needs
Determining to what extent the University's current research programs underscore area(s) of research excellence	Increase in extramural funding, establishment of emerging areas of research excellence
To revise the current research programs (as need be) and formulate the strategic future programs which will ensure attaining the above-defined objectives.	Decreased dependence on University research budget, facilitation of accreditation, enhancement in reputation, attraction of distinguished researchers (from all over the world), enhancement of research collaboration with national and international clients (foreign universities, research institutes/organizations, etc.), improvement in research productivity

## **Key Action Items for the Project P-2 (Identifying and Developing Strategic and Interdisciplinary Research Programs)**

- **Review Saudi Arabia's national research plan**
- **Survey Saudi Arabia's current and future societal research needs**
- **Prepare questionnaires for the research stakeholders**



## **Key Action Items for the Project P-2** **(Identifying and Developing Strategic and Interdisciplinary Research Programs)** **(Continued)**

- **Review the collected data**
- **Coordinate with the other three research-related project teams (Projects 1, 3, and 4) (as needed)**
- **Coordinate with the Teaching & Learning, Public Service, and Long-term Planning project teams (as needed)**



# and Outcomes for the Project P-3

## (Empowering University's research manpower and facilities)

Objectives	Outcomes
To enhance interaction and collaboration among faculty members, RI researchers, and graduate students	Better service to the societal needs, increase in extra-mural funding, increased participation, devotion, and dedication, as well as commitment to the best quality by all categories of researchers
To optimize the usage of university-wide research facilities	Better assurance of quality and timely delivery of project commitments
To ensure the requisite professional growth of the research providers (faculty members, RI researchers, graduate students, and research support staff)	Enhancement in reputation, hiring and retention of quality faculty members, RI researchers, and graduate students, better opportunity for professional development, improvement in graduate programs
To revise the current university master plan (as need be) and formulate the future one that shall cater to the need of the properly safety-conscious research laboratories	Enhancement of research collaboration with national and international partners (foreign universities, research institutes/organizations, etc.), assurance of safety while operating instruments, experimental set-ups, etc. that warrant so, improvement in research productivity

## **on Items for the Project P-3 (Empowering University's research manpower and facilities)**

- **Develop various effective data collection tools such as formulation of questionnaire, arrangement of meetings, interviews, etc.**
- **Contact selected peer and research-intensive universities as well as research institutes/organizations (whose research programs match Saudi Arabia's societal needs)**
- **Coordinate with the other three research-related project teams (Projects 1, 2, and 4)**
- **Coordinate with the Teaching & Learning, Public Service, and Long-term Planning project teams (as needed).**

# End Outcomes for the Project P-4 (Enhancing the University's Research Capabilities: Interaction with local industries and international R&D collaboration)

Objectives	Outcomes
To enhance interaction with Local industries	Better service to the societal needs, increase in extra-mural funding, decreased dependence on University research budget, improvement in research productivity
To enhance interaction with Selected peer universities	Facilitation of accreditation, enhancement in reputation
To enhance interaction with Selected research-intensive flagship universities	Improvement in graduate curriculum,
To enhance interaction with Research institutes/organizations/companies having common research interests and market the University-wide research capabilities	Establishment of emerging areas of research excellence, enhancement in generating innovative research ideas, attraction of distinguished researchers, focused professional growth, enhancement of research collaboration with national and international clients (foreign university, research institutes/organizations, etc.)



## on Items for the Project P-4

(Promoting and Marketing the University's Research Capabilities: Interaction with local industries and international R&D collaboration)

- Prepare questionnaires for the research stakeholders (the university and the list of clients that the University has served or has been serving) and research providers (faculty members, RI researchers, and graduate students)
- Review the collected data
- Coordinate with the other three research-related project teams (Projects 1, 2, and 3) (as needed)
- Coordinate with the Teaching & Learning, Public Service, and Long-term Planning project teams (as needed)



# Conclusion

- **The team identified 4 projects, and for each project only objectives, outcomes, and key action items were presented**
- **Other details such as:**
  - **external/internal drivers for research**
  - **needs and impact of stakeholders**
  - **SWOT/Portfolio and Life Cycle analyses, etc., are all elaborated in the handout containing the detailed report**
- **Suggested 'Performance indicators on Management & Administration', and, those 'Performance Indicators for Research', are included in Appendices of the detailed report**

# Project Team

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