

JSS Science & Technology University, Mysuru

Research Governance Measures during Covid-19 Pandemic

Dear colleagues,

I hope that this message finds you, your students, staff and your loved ones safe and well during these very trying times.

I am pleased to report that planning is underway for the eventual phased resumption of on-campus research. Basic points underlying this planning process include:

- The proper time for implementing the phased resumption of on-campus research will be determined by the University's leadership, taking into account the health and safety of our faculty, students, and staff, and all relevant local, State, and National Public Health directives regarding stay-at-home and social distancing.
- All research that can be carried out remotely will continue to take place remotely.
- Neither this planning process nor its implementation are coupled to the resumption of on-campus undergraduate teaching and thesis work.

Vice-Chancellor has taken series of measure and formed a committee chaired by Dean-Research, that has been tasked with formulating the plan and process for various research activities like

1. submission of R & D Projects to various International, National and State Government, Industry and Non-Governmental organizations for financial support;
2. management of R&D projects within the university, including monitoring, reporting on the progress and recognition of achievements and so on;
3. approvals on matters related to purchase and procurement, and financial matters related to research taking into account unnecessary approvals, and checks and balances involved, and finally recommend implementable solutions to improve the submission of high quality R & D Projects.

As per VC and core committee's guiding principles are:

- I. Over the next month, we may be able to convene with the campus research community, including faculty, graduate students, post-graduates for communicating and formalizing innovation and research at different levels of teaching and research.
- II. Our goal is to maintain fluid two-way communications prior to and during implementation.
- III. Protecting the health and safety of the campus community.

- IV. Implementing, adhering to, and enforcing best practices for social distancing, cleaning, preventive hygiene and case reporting protocols.
- V. Ensuring that researchers are not pressured or coerced to return to the lab prematurely.
- VI. Putting in place transparent policies and processes that allow phased resumption of on-campus research.
- VII. Designing plans that can be adapted to multiple scenarios, including the eventuality of a widespread infective resurgence requiring shut-down.

I take this opportunity to thank the University's research community for its exceptional level of understanding and cooperation during these extraordinarily difficult times. Halting much of our on-campus research represents an uncommon sacrifice for a community driven by its passion for discovery.

My sincere thanks are due to; the untiring efforts of Vice-Chancellor, core committee and the constant guiding, blessing and timely hand holding of His Holiness Swamiji during the period of pandemic paradoxes.

With all good wishes,

Dean-Research