

RESEARCH PROMOTION POLICY



AUDISANKARA COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

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1. PREAMBLE:

Audisankara College of Engineering & Technology (ASCET) is one of premier institute in the state of Andhra Pradesh and in particular in the SPSR Nellore district having R&D promotion is passion and kept in its vision & mission policy. ASCET quality profile states that “The college policy rests on all issues of quality that scrupulously encourage improvement and innovation to develop the institution into a center of excellence, thus increasing the stakeholders’ value and providing quality service to the society. At college, we preserve high standards of excellence in imparting technical education with a right mix of knowledge, training and research. We continually strive to improve the standard of competence of the content delivery methods of our educational programs, the quality of our infrastructure and add value to our growth inputs in tune with global trends”. R&D Centre is an important limb to this college. Research and Development is continuously encouraging all classes of students, faculty, research scholars and scientist at ASCET to understand the scientific mysteries, to fathom the truths hidden in nature, to develop methods to solve certain specific problems; to invent new devices that make life easy and to meet more such objectives. Besides the R&D another feather in the college history is having Audisankara Innovation and Incubation Centre (ASCII) to inculcate the research mindset across the Audisankara Group of institutions and to reflect the intellectual strength of the Institution, its response towards the problems in the vicinity of the Institute, it has to focus on both academics and research. In order to reach its goal of excellence in R&D and as a part of its passion, ASCET has focused more not only on academics but also Research. Research includes scientific experiments, projects, publications, intellectual assets, collaboration through MOUs with top class Universities/ Institutions and such allied activities.

ASCET has been successful in providing good quality education to the rural students in Engineering, and Management subjects including to diploma courses. This institute is very close to complete two decades of its excellence in higher education with sincere efforts in promoting quality research along with academics. This Institute has set itself, very high expectations I the domain of research in all core Engineering and Management areas.

ASCET promoted and implemented a wide range of policy actions since its inception in 2008 to promote research. The promotional initiative of ASCET include capacity building in terms of human resources and facilities, encouragement and incentives to faculty to carryout research, organization of conferences and workshops to disseminate the new knowledge and

a strong doctoral program for award of Ph.D., on completion of quality research.

These different activities and initiatives nearly the last two decades are consolidated to prepare this policy of ASCET on promotion of Research & Development and Innovation & Extension services.

2. RESEARCH PROMOTION POLICY

Audisankara College of Engineering & Technology (ASCET) has separate R&D Centre chaired by Dean, R&D. Principal, Vice-Principals, lead as ex-officio members. Deans, Heads of the department of postgraduate programs, members from reputed research institutions, Industries and faculty representative from the graduate departments are its members.

The following are the objectives of the ASCET R&D Centre:

- 2.1. To maintain confidence and cooperation of research faculty members.
- 2.2. To disseminate information, motivate, guide and monitor, execution of sanctioned research projects.
- 2.3. To create an environment conducive to intellectual and research growth.
- 2.4. To promote & facilitate research in cutting edge technologies including collaborative and interdisciplinary research, in areas related to the goals of the College.
- 2.5. To provide research facilities for a community of innovative researchers to enhance research capacity at the college/ department level and to increase internal and external research opportunities for faculty, Research Scholars, Post-doctoral fellows, Post Graduates and graduate students.
- 2.6. To develop networks between the research Centers and researchers in the field in the public and private sectors, locally, nationally and internationally.
- 2.7. To act as the nexus between the ASCET Management and the Research community with respect to research initiatives of mutual benefit. Where applicable, developing mutually beneficial linkages with industry in order to develop partnerships and collaborative research.
- 2.8. To transfer knowledge to society through outreach (e.g. collaborative research; seminars; workshops; lectures; websites; publications) and, where applicable, through technology transfer (e.g. collaborative research; contract work; and commercialization of intellectual property).

3. RESEARCH POLICY:

The following policies are in place to achieve excellence in the fore front of research.

- 3.1. Faculty is encouraged and motivated to bring sponsored projects and consultancy from external funding agencies and Industries.
- 3.2. To augment the research, faculty is provided with advanced laboratory facility in some thrust areas, excellent computational facilities to carry out simulation study.
- 3.3. The students and faculty are motivated and mentored to participate in seminars, conferences, symposia, and encourage them to present their works as paper/proceedings at the National/ International level.
- 3.4. Students are motivated to write review paper on the area of their interest as part of term paper to impart research culture in them.
- 3.5. Financial assistance is provided to the faculty towards TA, incentives and registration fees for attending workshops, training programs and conferences.
- 3.6. Faculty members are sponsored with financial assistance to pursue Ph.D. at premier institutes.
- 3.7. Motivational talks and consultation with experts from R&D organizations & various other premier institutes.
- 3.8. Publications in peer reviewed journals are rewarded with attractive cash incentives to motivate the students and faculty.
- 3.9. Establish Centre of excellence in some of the thrust areas by upgrading the existing lab with financial aid to inculcate the research environment/

4. PLAGIARISM:

The use of materials, ideas, figures, data of an experiment(s) without proper acknowledgement or permission from original source will be treated as a serious offence. This can be assessed by available software's either by paid (ie., Turnitin) or by online free sites. This may be also involving submission of materials, verbatim or paraphrased, that is authored by another person or published earlier by oneself. The following ways we are tracing the unethical way of authorization of IP (Intellectual Property):

- 4.1. Reproducing, in whole or part, text/ sentences from a report, book, journal, thesis, or internet source.
- 4.2. Copying previously published data, illustrations, figures, images, formulations etc., without proper acknowledgement.
- 4.3. Taking scanned copies from class-notes or downloading material from internet sites, or incorporation it in one's class reports, presentations, manuscripts or

theses work without proper citation of the original source.

- 4.4. Self-plagiarism, which constitutes copying verbatim from one's own earlier published work in a journal or conference proceedings with appropriate citations.
- 4.5. Fabricating or falsifying the others data and reporting them in thesis and publication or project reports/ assignments.

5. Research advisory Committee & Board of Research Committee:

Institution being autonomous institution in the educational milieu, research activities are undertaken in right earnest with a separate R&D division to inculcate research culture in the college. The college has provided all necessary facilities to the faculty members to undertake sponsored/ funded as well as consultancy projects of Private, Quasigovernment and Government sectors, to handle both minor and major schemes. Institute is always in the forefront to send the faculty members different FDPs/ workshops/ training programs on part time basis to undertake research works. More than 60 faculties are holding Ph.D's from reputed Universities/ Institutions are actively conducting research in thrust areas on cutting edge technologies. Almost all the departments of this institution are recognized by JNTUA, Ananthapuramu as Research centers for admitting Research scholars for the award of Ph.D in corresponding areas of Research. In addition to the above 40 faculty members from different departments are currently pursuing their Ph.D at various institutions/ Universities.

R&D division has structured research committees to monitor and address the issues of research in every department and also entire college. The following two committees are continuously monitoring and assessing the progress and final reports of different projects of the college.

5.1. Research advisory Committee (External Scientists, Academicians/ Fellows)

5.2. Board of Research Committee (Internal Research Scientists)

These research committees constituted specifically with experts from relevant areas, provides advisory support in selecting the R&D proposals for implementing R&D activities through analysis of technology trends, identification of thrust areas, preparation of technology development plan as well as formulation and evaluation of projects for execution by R&D organizations with financial support from different funding agencies. Projects are monitored regularly by Project Review committee and Board of Research Committee constituted by ASCET Research form/Working Group for each project.

5.3. KEY FUNCTIONS OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE:

- 5.3.1. Encourage the organization for more seminars/ conferences/ workshops in the thrust areas of research.
- 5.3.2. Increase the number of research publications in respected peer reviewed Journals.
- 5.3.3. Conduct motivational lectures by inviting experts from premier Institutions enabling faculty to write research proposals/quality research paper/ Patents.
- 5.3.4. Recommendation of necessary facilities to create R&D environment across the institute.
- 5.3.5. Subscribe additional journals as per the request & recommendations of BRC.
- 5.3.6. Motivate faculty to register for Ph.D.in premier Institutes.
- 5.3.7. Regular reviews and monitor the progress of the Ph.D. work by expert faculty.
- 5.3.8. Identify department wise thrust areas and invite researchers from reputed institutes.
- 5.3.9. Establish Centre of excellences in some of the thrust areas by upgrading the existing lab with financial aid to inculcate the research environment.
- 5.3.10. Motivate students to design projects for outside participation.
- 5.3.11. Incentivize the publications of faculty who publish their papers in respected journals and present their papers in reputed national and international conferences.
- 5.3.12. Establish research centre recognized by the affiliating university in each department.

6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Definition of conflict of interest: Conflict of Interest (COI) means "any interest which could significantly prejudice an individual's objectivity in the decision making process, thereby creating an unfair competitive advantage for the individual or to the organization which he/she represents". The Conflict of Interest also encompasses situations where an individual, in contravention to the accepted norms and ethics, could exploit his/her obligatory duties for personal benefits.

6.1. Conflict of interest Policy:

- 6.1.1. The provisions of the COI policy shall be followed by persons applying for and receiving funding from DST/ AICTE/ UGC/ DRDO/ DBT or any other funding agency, Reviewers of the proposal and Members of Expert Committees and Programme Advisory Committees (PAC). The provisions of the COI will also be applicable on all individuals including Officers of all funding agencies connected directly or indirectly or through intermediaries and Committees involved in evaluation of proposals and subsequent decision making process.

6.1.2. This ASCET policy aims to minimize aspects that may constitute actual Conflict of Interests, apparent Conflict of Interests and potential Conflict of Interests in the funding mechanisms that are presently being operated by concerned funding agency. The policy also aims to cover, although not limited to, Conflict of interests that are Financial (gains from the outcomes of the proposal or award), Personal (association of relative / Family members) and Institutional (Colleagues, Collaborators, Employer, persons associated in a professional career of an individual such as Ph.D. supervisor etc.).

6.2. Specifications of Conflict of Interest as per the norms of GOI.

Any of the following specifications (non-exhaustive list) imply Conflict of Interest if,

- 6.2.1. Due to any reason by which the Reviewer/Committee Member cannot deliver fair and objective assessment of the proposal.
- 6.2.2. The applicant is a directly relative* or family member (including but not limited to spouse, child, sibling, parent) or personal friend of the individual involved in the decision making process or alternatively, if any relative of an Officer directly involved in any decision making process / has influenced interest/ stake in the applicant's form etc.
- 6.2.3. The applicant for the grant/award is an employee or employer of an individual involved in the process as a Reviewer or Committee Member; or if the applicant to the grant/award has had an employer-employee relationship in the past three years with that individual.
- 6.2.4. The applicant to the grant/award belongs to the same Department as that of the Reviewer/Committee Member.
- 6.2.5. The Reviewer/Committee Member is a Head of an Organization from where the applicant is employed.
- 6.2.6. The Reviewer /Committee Member is or was, associated in the professional career of the applicant (such as Ph.D. supervisor, Mentor, present Collaborator etc.).
- 6.2.7. The Reviewer/Committee Member is involved in the preparation of the research proposal submitted by the applicant.
- 6.2.8. The applicant has joint research publications with the Reviewer/Committee Member in the last three years.
- 6.2.9. The applicant/Reviewer/Committee Member, in contravention to the accepted norms and ethics followed in scientific research has a direct/indirect financial interest in the outcomes of the proposal.
- 6.2.10. The Reviewer/Committee Member stands to gain personally should the submitted proposal be accepted or rejected.

[*The Term "Relative" for this purpose would be referred in section 6 of Companies Act, 1956.]

7.0. Regulations of COI:

The ASCET shall strive to avoid conflict of interest in its funding mechanisms to the maximum extent possible. Self-regulatory mode is however recommended for stake holders involved in scientific research and research management, on issues pertaining to Conflict of Interest and scientific ethics. Any disclosure pertaining to the same must be made voluntarily by the applicant/Reviewer/Committee Member.

8.0. ASCET College to keep pace with the infrastructure requirements to facilitate Research:

- 8.1. The college has provided adequate research facilities to all the departments. Nine departments are recognized as Research Centers by JNTUA, Ananthapuramu to offer full time PhD Programmes from the academic year 2013-14.
- 8.2. All the eligible senior faculty members with doctorates have been recognized as Research Supervisors by affiliating university (i.e., JNTUA) and other national universities.
- 8.3. Every department has its own Departmental Research Committee (DRC) to monitor & review ongoing funded/ consultancy and academic projects.
- 8.4. A Board of Research Committee (BRC) assesses the productivity and research output of all projects annually.
- 8.5. Every Department has its own Research groups (2 – 4) to take-up & guide research in thrust areas through interdisciplinary approach.

9.0. Strategies:

- 9.1. Advanced training on emerging technologies and software is provided to the faculty members and research scholars to updated knowledge in the concerned domain.
- 9.2. Interdisciplinary research facility is setup.
- 9.3. Seed money is granted to researchers as per the minutes of the 19th & 22nd Governing body meeting held on 02/11/2014 and 28/01/2019 under agenda point 5 & 7 and Resolution no.5 /GBM-21/5/1 & 7/GBM-22/7/1 respectively.
- 9.4. Travelling and sundry expenditure is being borne for presentation of project proposals.
- 9.5. Research assistance-ship is provided to full time research scholars.
- 9.6. Guest lectures are arranged in various upcoming areas of research.
- 9.7. Industry Institute Interaction has been strengthened.
- 9.8. Experts from R&D organizations are invited to educate faculty members on various avenues for research funding.

10.0. Promotion of interdisciplinary research:

The Institute encourages interdisciplinary research by categorizing all the faculty members into several groups based on their broad spectrum of specialization irrespective of their departments.

- 10.1. Faculty members of Mechanical Engineering, Electronics and Communication Engineering and Chemistry departments are collaboratively working on Nanotechnology and submitting on proposals jointly to different funding agencies. One of our faculty Mr. Vanki Prathap Kumar, Research Associate has developed a special Nano material for the purpose of Maritime use, with this he became a startup and registered with MSME, Hyderabad.
- 10.2. Faculty from Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE) & Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) are jointly working on Cognitive Science for making several expert systems using Artificial intelligence and Neural Networks.
- 10.3. Students from various departments undertake projects related to Entrepreneurship, Environmental Studies and Public Surveys. Some of them also getting ready to become startups by converting their Ideas into prototypes at our newly available Innovation center namely "**Audisankara Innovation and Incubation Centre**" likely to be recognized by MSME as Host Institute/ Business Incubation (HI/BI) Centre.
- 10.4. Environmental Engineering group of Civil Engineering and Green Chemistry group of the Chemistry Department are looking at Environmental issues in the pilgrim town, Tirupati, Industrial and dockyard areas of Krishnapatnam Port at Nellore District. This group is developing various innovative and sustainable technological solutions to the emerging environmental problems.
- 10.5. Faculty members of various departments supported and encouraged interdisciplinary consultancy works.

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