RESEARCH POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

Status of educational institution is highly dependent upon research productivity and innovations. The success of institution in reaching its goals is greatly reliant upon the involvement of the faculty with all the aspects of research initiatives which are planned by the BLDE Association. Hence, this research policy aims to help our faculty members, researchers and students to attain distinction and contribute to BLDE Association and society at large.

2. OBJECTIVES

i) To promote research, innovation and intellectual capital

ii) To ensure integrity, quality and ethics in research

iii) To integrate teaching and research through translational and instructional research and

iv) To incentivise the generation of intellectual capital.

3. PROMOTION OF RESEARCH

The BLDE Association believes that the researchers are free to choose the subject of their research, to get the financial support from any funding agencies for their research work, and to report their findings and conclusions. However, the research proposals, results and reports are available for scrutiny to the authorities of BLDE Association and peer reviewers. The techniques/methodologies used by the faculty/researchers shall not violate established professional ethics, pertaining to the health, safety, privacy, and other personal rights of human beings or to the infliction of injury or pain on animals.

The BLDE Association shall create favorable environment for research activities. Due to limited resources, the BLDE Association may not support fully all research activities, but shall allocate the space, facilities, partial funding, and other resources for research programmes based on the merits of proposal. It shall also provide development opportunities to faculty/researchers for writing research proposals for funding and reports, publications, patent filing, etc.

4. INTERNAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

The BLDE Association encourages faculty members to conduct research. Thus, it has developed a scheme for providing financial assistance to Internal Research Project (IRP). According to this scheme, a faculty member will prepare proposal and submit to the central research committee at the association and on the recommendations of this committee, the

association grants financial assistance up to Rs. 1.0 Lakh to the principal investigator. It is also mandatory to send half-yearly progress report to the Administrative office. For this purpose, every year the management earmarks financial budget under each institution. The limit for Sanction of IRPs is 10% of the total permanent faculty of the institution.

5. EXTERNALLY FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Faculty members can submit Major Research Project proposals to different funding agencies. These proposals will be scrutinized by the central research committee before submitting the same to a funding agency, after getting the approval from the committee; the faculty can submit the same to funding agency. The association provides all kinds of infrastructure facilities available to take up the sanctioned project.

The management has mechanism through which it shall monitor the progress of Research Projects funded by an external agency, maintain its accounts and submit the utilization certificate in time to the funding agency as per the requirement of the funding agency. At the same time the progress of the project should be submitted to central committee on half yearly basis.

6. TRAINING FOR RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Generally, faculties are eager to conduct research, but because of the lack of expertise to write a research proposal or having insufficient research skills, they are unable to channelize their efforts effectively. Hence, in many cases, a research proposal is rejected by a funding agency. Even for publication of papers because of the lack of knowledge about how to write a paper and under which format it should be submitted, sometimes the papers are not accepted. Therefore, the association/Institutions shall organize rigorous training programmes for researchers in the identified areas.

7. PUBLICATION OF PAPERS AND JOURNALS

Publication of papers is critical for the effectiveness of the Institutes. Faculty members must publish continuously in quality journals. Therefore, the BLDE Association encourages the publication of papers by the faculty with a targeted aim.

Research papers to be published in identified journals and to be presented at national and international conferences shall be scrutinized and guided by a research committee comprising senior professors. Each institution shall be encouraged to publish a quality journal and organize conferences, from time to time to boost research activities in the institute and to contribute to the existing body of knowledge.

8. PATENTS AND IPR

The BLDE Association would like to strengthen the research, leading to filing of patents. If any innovation is done, the association shall encourage the researchers and scholars to patent it. However, when a faculty/scholar files for a patent, a thorough scrutiny will be carried out at Department level, institution level and at the management level committee. The BLDE Association shall bear expenditure for filing application for patent which are genuine. If the patent is commercialized the sharing of earning is to be done between researcher and the BLDE Association as per the guideline developed from time to time. The Association/Institutions shall create awareness about intellectual property rights among faculty, researchers and scholars from time to time.

9. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

The BLDE Association would like to create an environment for each department and an institution, where they work in a specific research area and be known as a specialist organization. This will conduce to focus on specific research activities in the specialized areas. Through these efforts, the Association shall promote a particular department or an institution as the 'Centre of Excellence' in due course for a specialized thrust area.

10. CODE OF ETHICS FOR RESEARCH

BLDE Association promotes research that benefits the larger section of society and so all institutes under the association are committed to research focused on people, organization and industry. To honor the trust placed in researchers by research participants, funding organizations and society, the researchers should at all times act correctly and in ways that respect the rights and dignity of the participants, organizations and industry. In this regard all faculty members, researchers and students undertaking research are bound by code of research ethics.

1. Academic honesty: One should be honest in all scientific communications, honestly report data, results, methods and procedures, and publication status. They are not suppose to fabricate, falsify, or misrepresent data.

2. Integrity: One should keep the promises and agreements; act with sincerity; strive for consistency of thought and action.

3. Carefulness: Please avoid careless errors and negligence; carefully and critically examine the research data and the work of peers. Keep good records of research activities, such as data collection, research design, and correspondence with agencies or journals.

4. Intellectual Property: One should honor patents, copyrights, and other forms of intellectual property. Do not use unpublished data, methods, or results without permission. Give credit where credit is due. Give proper acknowledgement or credit for all contributions to research. Never plagiarize.

5. Confidentiality: Protect confidential communications, such as papers or grants submitted for publication, personnel records, trade or military secrets, and patient records.

6. Social Responsibility: Strive to promote social good and prevent or mitigate social harms through research, public education, and advocacy.

7. Competence: Maintain and improve professional competence and expertise through lifelong education and learning; take steps to promote competence in science as a whole.

8. Legality: Know and obey governmental policies, relevant laws and institutional rules and regulations.

9. Animal care: Show proper respect and care for animals when using them in research. Do not conduct unnecessary or poorly designed animal experiments.

10. Human subject's protection: While conducting research on human subjects, the care should be taken to minimize harms and risks and maximize benefits; respect human dignity, privacy, and autonomy; take special precautions with vulnerable populations; and strive to distribute the benefits and burdens of research fairly.

11. PLAGIARISM

BLDE Association aspires to facilitate the highest standards of knowledge and skills through its academic and research programmes. The aim of BLDE Association is to prepare graduates who will be able to take their expertise to the society. As a part of this preparation, the faculty/students are required to work on assignments, project/seminar reports, thesis, research papers, cases, etc. At the same time, it is expected that the faculty members should contribute in generation and dissemination of knowledge through research projects, by publishing/presenting research papers/articles/cases/books etc. In this context, plagiarism assumes importance as it undermines basic objective of higher education and harms the reputation of the institutions. It is therefore important to sensitize faculty, students and research staff regarding plagiarism, performed either willfully or ignorantly. The Association shall strive to have 'Zero Tolerance' against plagiarism. In this direction, BLDE Association has subscribed the ***"Turn-it-in"*** software to check the plagiarism and all the institutes have been supplied with user ID and password. The institutions should make best use of this tool.

12. MERIT INCENTIVES FOR PROMOTION OF RESEARCH

The faculty members are honored with an incentive in the form of cash for various distinguished research /merit activities in the field of academics and research. Merit Incentives is applicable only for Confirmed Employees.
The details are as follows:

A. Merit Incentives to faculty members for research grants projects from external funding agencies:

The policy of merit incentive to faculty for getting research grants from external funding agencies like DST, AICTE, CSIR, ICMR, UGC, VGST, RGUHS, BRNS, DRDO etc. or any other research organizations is proposed. The breakup of the merit incentive in the form of cash is as follows:

Name	Incentive
Principal investigator/Programme coordinator	3% of the sanctioned fund (excluding fellowships, remuneration, contingency and institute overhead charges)

Note: The principal investigator receives his 50% share of merit incentive as and when the sanctioned amount is received by the Institute from the funding agencies with undertaking to complete the project in stipulated period. The remaining 50% share will be released after completion/submission of audited reports/ project completion certificate.

B. Merit incentives for books publications and patents:

Sl. No	Type of work	Incentive
01	Full book/monogram published with reputed publisher having ISBN no.	Rs. 5000=00
02	For each Full Book/ Monogram (with chapter or partial contribution) published with reputed publisher having ISBN No.	Rs. 3000=00
03	For each patent (Granted) * Expenses for patent filing, drafting and other office fees will be borne by the BLDE Association for genuine patentable works.	Rs. 10,000=00

In case of multiple authors, the cash will be given to corresponding author.

C. Research publications in journals:

Sl. No	Journal type	Incentive
01	For papers published in journals having impact factor 5.1 - 10	Rs. 5000=00
02	For papers published in journals having impact factor 2.1 - 5.0	Rs. 3000=00
03	For papers published in journals having impact factor 1.1 - 2.0	Rs. 2000=00
04	For papers published in journals having impact factor 0.6 - 1.0	Rs. 1500=00
04	For papers published in journals having impact factor 0.0 – 0.5	Rs. 1000=00

Note:

- Impact factors calculated by Thomson reuters/JCR will be considered: journal's own impact factor calculation will not be taken into consideration.
- Papers published in non-indexed/non-refereed journals will not be considered.
- On-line open access journals will not be considered until and unless they are indexed and possess impact factors by Thomson reuters/JCR.
- The BLDE Association will not pay the publication charges for papers published in Paid journals.
- In case of multiple authors, cash will be given to corresponding author

D. Presentation of research papers in conferences:

Type of conference	Nature of support	Frequency
For presenting papers in national conferences/seminars	Travel allowances and registration fees for presenting author	Max. of one in an academic year
For presenting papers in international conferences organized in India	Travel allowances and registration fees for presenting author	Once in two Years
For presenting papers in international conferences organized outside India.	Maximum of Rs 50,000=00 or Registration fees, whichever is lesser for presenting author.	Once in three years

Note:

- Travel allowances will be paid for sleeper class travelling by train within India.
- For abroad travel (international conferences), the travel allowances to be borne by the candidates or through funding agencies.

13. SHRI. B.M. PATIL AWARD FOR BEST RESEARCH PAPER OF THE YEAR

Objectives:

a. To encourage the faculty/researchers of BLDE Association to publish high quality original research work in reputed indexed journals.

b. To recognize and reward the best research works published across institutions of BLDE Association.

Eligibility: Fulltime faculty members of BLDE Association who are on the payrolls.

Frequency: Annually

Policy

1. An eligible faculty submitting research paper for the award should bear the BLDE instution's affiliation as corresponding and work should have been carried out in BLDEA's institution only. The paper ought to be published the calendar year previous to the year of the award. For example, the papers published in the year 2016 between January and December shall qualify for nomination for the 2017 award.
2. A covering letter addressed to the General Secretary, BLDE Association containing all the relevant details of the research article along with two copies of the original research publication has to be submitted through the proper channel, duly forwarded through the Head of the Institution.
4. The Research committee of BLDE Association shall further facilitate the evaluation process to examine the papers objectively based on novelty/originality, and impact factor.
5. General publications including reviews, short communications, editorials, case reports, perspectives etc. are not applicable for the award.
6. The award will be granted to the corresponding author on condition that he/she has a BLDE affiliation.
7. All the other authors listed in the publication having the BLDE affiliation shall also receive a certificate of appreciation signed by the Hon'ble President, BLDE Association.
8. The award shall carry a memento and certificate.

IQAC Coordinator
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