Office of the Rector II

NOTIFICATION

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Working rules of the Transdisciplinary Research Cluster at JNU

Preamble

Creation of the Transdisciplinary Research Cluster was discussed during the preparation of the XIIth Plan document and by the Academic Council, which approved the proposal to create such a Cluster. This was thus included in the XIIth Plan document. The concept of the Cluster was upheld in the Vision document of the University, whose mandate was to 'plan the University's teaching and research so that JNU can assert its relevance and maintain its status as a pre-eminent University of innovation and social change and attain its position amongst the top universities of the world'. This concept formed the basis for the University's proposal to the UGC for the creation of an Innovation University, while JNU's application for the second phase of the University with Potential for Excellence (UPE II) grant, has been modelled, with key features of interdisciplinary research, cutting across Schools and discipline boundaries.

Accordingly, a Transdisciplinary Research Cluster Committee was set up by the Vice-Chancellor in October, 2013, to initiate preliminary activities and provide a seed for this idea within the University. This enabled proposals to be submitted beyond the boundaries of Schools, and issues which relate to Transdisciplinarity discussed, with several stakeholders. Further, a meeting of the Committee, with the Vice-Chancellor, was held on 27 June, 2014 in Room No. 201, Administrative Block, JNU, to outline the governing rules of the Cluster.

The governing rules

1. The Transdisciplinary Research Cluster is to work as a decentralized administrative core within the University and form a 'hub' of Transdisciplinary research. The Hub will consist of several theme-based research clusters with their individual Principal Coordinators.

2. The Hub will function under the administrative control of the Rector and will be headed by a Cluster Director, for a period of 02 years.

3. The Hub operations and administrative decisions etc. will be worked out through an advisory committee, to be chaired by the Rector.

4. The Hub Advisory Committee, together with the Principal Coordinators will form the Academic Committee of the Research Cluster which will be chaired by the Rector.

5. The Hub programmes will belong to the University while the faculty running them or associated with them will belong to the Schools within the University.

6. It is imperative for the Hub to evolve in time, its own thematic clusters. These thematic clusters will be based on creative ideas.

7. The Research Cluster through internal mechanisms, such as deliberations within the Academic Committee, must generate themes for innovative ideas and recommend recruitment of faculty members. Such recommendations must be sent to the Vice Chancellor, from time to time.

8. The theme-based research clusters will apply for competitive grants and approach funding agencies for research support. These applications will be routed through the Cluster Director to the Project Cell and approved by the Rector.

9. All proposals/applications to become a part of the Hub are basically seen as 'programmes'. However, some may grow and become Centres within the University. The Hub thus performs the act of an incubator for such programmes. As far as nomenclature goes, the Research Clusters may adopt such details, as desired by the relevant funding agency.

10. In order to be part of the Cluster, a participating faculty must originate from a School (and associated Centres within the School), where the concepts or methods were originally developed, but now can be used by another School (and associated Centres within that School), or other Departments outside JNU, where further progress/application development can be infused, invoking Transdisciplinarity.

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RectorII

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All Chairpersons of Centres/Special Centres
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