



Gujarat National Law University



## Gujarat National Law University

### Administrative Directive

GNLU/AD/45/15

Wednesday, 19 August 2015

**Subject: *Student Research Development Council***

#### 1.0. *Purpose*

- 1.0. With an aim to become a Research Based Teaching University, GNLU has started a variety of initiatives for faculty, students and research professionals in the form of research projects, research publication, group publication, in-house publication, fellowships, the Student Research Development Council, collaborations with national and international institutes, industry leaders and centres of excellence. The significance of research is to inculcate knowledge that can be applied to the entire society and contributes towards forming the foundation of development and policies across the globe.

#### 2.0. *Objectives:*

- 2.1. To promote the interest and reputation of research activities amongst faculty members and students and to ensure that the research activities of the Department support the University's objective of being a research based teaching university.
- 2.1.1. To develop consistent departmental research strategies to deliver high quality research.
- 2.1.2. To keep faculty members and students updated about contemporary areas of the law.
- 2.1.3. To develop interdisciplinary activities with other Departments.
- 2.1.4. To promote, develop, manage and assess various Research Associate programmes run by the University.

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**3.0. *Research Council: Purpose***

- 3.0. To realise the objectives set out by the Research Department, GNLU has established the Research Council with the mandate to plan, execute, monitor, allocate resources, etc. for all research and publication activities and programs of GNLU.
- 3.1. GNLU envisages the development of an institutional framework with a strong belief that such framework would not only foster strong research and academic culture among the teaching fraternity but would also be a rewarding and stimulating platform for students.

**4.0. *Student Research Development Council (SRDC):***

- 4.0. The SRDC is formed to promote awareness about and participation in research amongst students. Participation and engagement in such scholarly activities will not only enrich the academic experience but enable one in gaining more knowledge and a deeper appreciation of the academic field. It will also provide students with tools and skills for improving their research capabilities and success in future endeavours. Furthermore, by participating in research students become active learners as they explore ways to answer pressing research questions. The SRDC as well as the interest groups shall be the platform where researchers engage in discussion, debate and the sharing of new knowledge through mutual efforts to explore and innovate.

**4.1. *Objectives of the SRDC:***

- 4.1.1. To identify student research needs and plan for the development of an active student research culture.
- 4.1.2. To set up student research interest groups that deals with key emerging areas in law, social science, commerce, management and science and technology. However, to achieve our vision we encourage and emphasise on research that crosses the traditional boundaries between academic disciplines and schools of thought.
- 4.1.3. To provide students with resources and information for scholarly engagement.
- 4.1.4. To undertake regular capacity-building initiatives. This will include presentations, talks and discussions on specific issues and research problems; introductory presentations regarding subjects (for students who have not studied it yet).
- 4.1.5. To promote student-faculty collaborations in ensuring that students are regularly engaged in research and scholarships.
- 4.1.6. To establish a strong network of partners from law institutes, law firms, government, industry, civil society and academia both at the national and international level.

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- 4.1.7. To carry out outstanding, original, significant, rigorous, innovative and potentially agenda-setting research, aimed at providing strategic advice and practical guidance to various stake holders or influence decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions
- 4.1.8. To develop new interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research programmes involving students, faculties and academicians from across the country and also foreign countries. While our research will remain firmly grounded in strong discipline-specific areas, the University encourages student research interest groups to develop new research areas and stimulate new ideas for creating new interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary teams.
- 4.1.9. To produce quality publications that target a range of issues that addresses questions and issues with the potential to make significant impact on knowledge, society or economy, or to enhance or change society for the better.

#### **5.0. *Student Research Interest Group: Organisation and Composition***

- 5.0. The Office of the Dean Research Department or any individual assigned will be responsible for coordination as well as assessing the activities of the SRDC. Members of the SRDC shall facilitate the formation, promotion, participation and activity of student research interest groups. Members of the SRDC are free to start and join interest groups of their choice. The SRDC must actively support interest groups after their formation and functioning.

#### **5.1. *Student Research Interest Groups: Roles and Responsibilities***

- 5.1. Student research interest groups shall be formed on various legal subjects, fields, schools and approaches. The interest groups must operate not only as platforms for the development of research but also as a meeting-place for individuals who share interests and an organic and dynamic space for self-motivated learning and exploration through mutual encouragement.
- 5.1.1 Membership in an interest group is open to all students on a voluntary basis. A student may join any number of interest groups.
- 5.1.2 Every interest group will have a minimum of five members. Any individual desirous of initiating a research interest group may approach the SRDC or the office of the Dean, Research Department.
- 5.1.3 Each interest group must have one member acting as the nodal coordinator. The group may make provision for further posts, groupings, teams and partnerships.
- 5.1.4 Membership shall be reviewed at the end of each academic year in terms of participation and research output.

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- 5.1.5 The interest groups must keep records of specific interests within the group and make provision for connecting individuals with similar interests.
- 5.1.6 An interest group may initiate the research projects, discussions, talks, capacity-building exercises and other activities of its choice.
- 5.1.7 In order to remain relevant, interest groups must actively create a data base of research questions from practitioners in various fields, forming long-term relations so as to stay in touch with contemporary issues and concerns while also providing solutions to said practitioners and obtaining feedback.
- 5.1.8 An interest group must also develop avenues to communicate to the public clear and accessible solutions to the research problems it has tackled, including small-scale research questions on law and strategy that can be of utility to various lay stakeholders.
- 5.1.9 The student coordinator of each group shall regularly report and present records of activities etc., to the Dean Research or any individual assigned.

**6.0. *Programmes and Activities:***

- 6.0. Research Month: Every month, a seminar/workshop shall be organised wherein students who have engaged themselves in research or any other scholarly activities would share their work and findings. The Research Month shall be the unit of account and review for the SRDC and the interest groups, facilitating month-by-month adaptation.
- 6.1. Intra-Group Competition: Competition (debate, paper presentation, etc.) between the members of an interest group shall be conducted on a regular basis.
- 6.2. Annual Research Meet: At the end of each academic year, a meet shall be organised wherein the students who have engaged themselves in research or any other scholarly activities would share their work and findings.

**7.0. *Awards/Fellowship:***

- 7.0. To encourage research activities amongst student, the Research Department may provide for:
  - 7.1. Annual awards for excellent or outstanding research contribution within the above framework.
  - 7.2. Encouragement of collaborative research with external agencies
  - 7.3. The preparation and submission of research project and other proposals communicated to it by an interest group so as to facilitate the fair allocation of funding for activities.

**8.0. *Implementation of the Directive***

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- 8.1. In case of any difficulty or issues arising out of the application or implementation of this Directive, the decision of the concerned Committee as approved by the Director, on part of the GNLU, shall be final and binding.
- 8.2. Participating students shall all the time abide by the relevant academic, residential, discipline GNLU regulations and instructions as promulgated by the GNLU.
- 8.3. For further queries and information, please contact:

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9.0. ***Effective Date:***

The Directive shall come into effect from academic year 2015-16.



Signed

**Bimal N. Patel**  
Director