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OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

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To: Chancellors, Vice Chancellors for Academic Affairs, Research, Development and Extension,
Faculty and Researchers

From: 
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Vice President for Academic Affairs

Subject: Emerging Interdisciplinary Research (EIDR) Program

I am happy to announce the Emerging Interdisciplinary Research (EIDR) Program of the OVPAA which was approved by the Board of Regents in its 1272nd meeting on 25 August 2011 for ~P80M/year for 5 years. Kindly find below the new guidelines for this program (Annex 1). It is a variation of the previous research program of the OVPAA.

Two categories of grant proposals will be solicited: 1) interdisciplinary research (IDR) program proposals for ~P10M/year, and 2) single or dual project proposals for ~P2.0M/year, for a maximum of 4 years (in 2 phases).

The grants will be competitive with evaluation & ranking of proposals performed by external reviewers. Major evaluation criteria are: 1) innovation & intellectual merit, 2) significance & broad impacts, 3) investigator competence, 4) feasibility of completion in 4 years.

The OVPAA 'seed' research funds are intended to:

- 1) enable UP researchers to produce high quality publications and other academic output quickly & regularly;
- 2) lay the groundwork to establish a research culture in UP (by having UP's research experts mentor the present and future generations of UP researchers in the best practices of research);
- 3) promote interdisciplinary and intercampus research interactions & activities (oneUP);
- 4) support the creation of 'value' networks from basic to applied research to produce discoveries & innovations that can be developed and packaged into useful & marketable products & services (involving integrated teams of researchers in the natural, engineering & computational sciences, as well as in business economics management & development; & arts, culture & lifestyle creators) that contribute to our growth and development as a UP community and as a nation.

I strongly encourage all Chancellors & Vice-Chancellors to immediately organize & host multi- & interdisciplinary, as well as intercampus, meetings & discussions among their constituents, if you are interested to submit proposals & compete for funding support from the OVPAA. The OVPAA will be happy to answer questions or address concerns at these meetings.

There are other major initiatives & incentives being planned by the OVPAA that will complement & boost this research program.

The call for proposals indicating research area priorities for the first cycle, the capsule concept application form & other forms will be available in the OVPAA website (ovpaa.up.edu.ph) on 15 October 2011.

I encourage you to get together with your most trusted, innovative, creative, passionate, competent & productive research colleagues in UP & submit proposals to the OVPAA!

Thank you very much in advance for your interest & cooperation.

EMERGING INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH GRANT
Guidelines for Emerging Interdisciplinary Research

Under the UP Charter of 2008, UP is envisioned to significantly strengthen its research culture and increase nationally and globally relevant research output.

The OVPAA supports research in the university under the following general guidelines:

1. RESEARCH PRIORITIES

1.1. INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH FOR PUBLIC & PRIVATE GOOD

Innovative interdisciplinary research (IDR) programs and projects

- 1.1.1. that address pressing problems and provide opportunities for growth and development in UP communities and campuses, and in Philippine society [Millenium Development Goals (MDGs)]
- 1.1.2. to develop unique Philippine resources that represent a competitive advantage regionally or globally
- 1.1.3. with clear technology transfer and commercialization potential that could reap benefits for UP researchers and UP
- 1.1.4. identified as priorities by CIDS (Center for Integrative Development Studies) (Figure 1)
- 1.1.5. that foster “ONE UP” or “inter-CU” cooperation and development

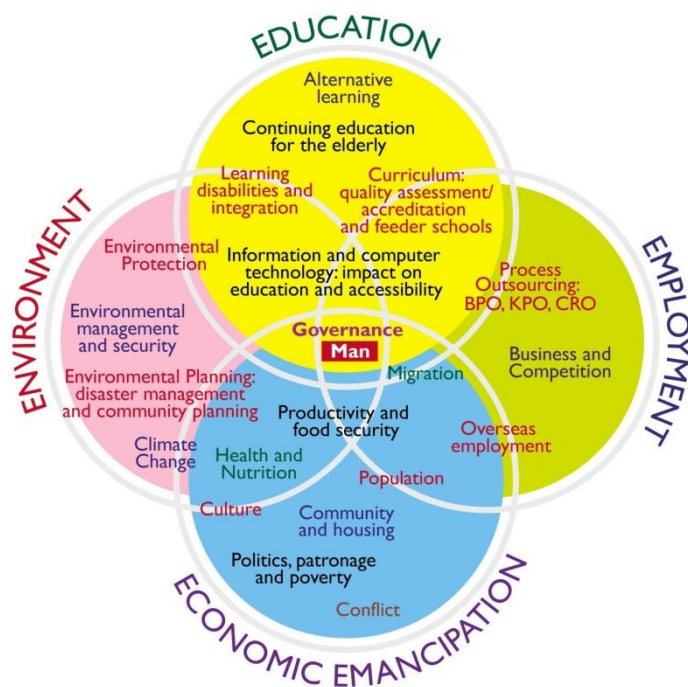


Figure 1: Priorities of CIDS (Center for Integrative Development Studies)

1.2. BASIC & APPLIED RESEARCH AREAS

Innovative projects that aim to generate new fundamental knowledge to understand natural phenomenon and find useful applications that benefit human society and nature in the following general areas:

- 1.2.1. Health, disease & wellness
- 1.2.2. Agriculture, aquaculture, livestock, food & nutrition
- 1.2.3. Environment, climate & energy
- 1.2.4. Biodiversity, conservation & drug discovery
- 1.2.5. Genomics, other “-omics” & biotechnology
- 1.2.6. ICT, engineering, nanotechnology, & instrumentation
- 1.2.7. Computational modeling, complex systems & systems biology
- 1.2.8. Culture, history, literature, arts & architecture
- 1.2.9. Technology-enhanced art & functional design
- 1.2.10. National identity, global orientation & tourism
- 1.2.11. Psychology, sociology & economics
- 1.2.12. Entrepreneurship & business development

2. RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION

2.1. Major evaluation criteria

- 2.1.1. Innovation & intellectual merit
 - 2.1.1.1. New theoretical concepts, approaches, methodologies, instrumentation & interventions are used to challenge & seek a shift in current knowledge & practice.
 - 2.1.1.2. The overall strategy, methodology & analyses used to accomplish the specific aims of the project are well-reasoned & appropriate.
- 2.1.2. Significance & broad impacts
 - 2.1.2.1. Basic scientific knowledge, technological concepts & capabilities, management practices, cultural, social, political & economic systems are greatly improved.
 - 2.1.2.2. Important problems or critical barriers to progress are addressed.
 - 2.1.2.3. Methods, technologies, services, treatments & practices that drive a field or market segment are changed by completion of the project.
- 2.1.3. Investigator competence
 - 2.1.3.1. The principal investigator, co-investigators, collaborators & other researchers are qualified to carry out the project.
 - 2.1.3.2. New or early stage investigators have appropriate experience & training in the field of the proposed study.
 - 2.1.3.3. The investigators have an ongoing track record of publications & other academic output that have advanced their fields.
 - 2.1.3.4. For interdisciplinary programs, the investigators have complementary & integrated expertise, & a research leadership, governance & organizational structure appropriate to the program.
- 2.1.4. Feasibility of completion in 4 years
 - 2.1.4.1. The scientific environment where the work will be performed in general is likely to contribute to the success of the project.
 - 2.1.4.2. The institutional support, equipment & other physical resources available to the investigators are adequate for the proposed project.
 - 2.1.4.3. The project will benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, e.g., access to certain natural resources, subject populations & collaborative arrangements.

2.1.4.4. The project is likely to be completed within the prescribed period.

2.2. Eligibility

- 2.2.1. All proponents & co-proponents must be PhD degree holders (or doctoral level equivalent) who are employed by UP as faculty, research faculty or researchers.
- 2.2.2. Conflicts of interest of proponents should be declared.

2.3. Some strategies or best practices to establish research culture, improve research output & research-based education

- 2.3.1. Establish time-bound research process & electronic communications.
- 2.3.2. Solicit proposals in two-stages – capsule concept proposal & full proposal.
- 2.3.3. Undertake competent external review of proposals & research results with proper nondisclosure agreements.
- 2.3.4. Provide sustained funding support (Phase 1 – 2 years; Phase 2 – 2 years).
- 2.3.5. Require competent research manpower, e.g., proponents, postdoctoral fellows, “UP Balik Research Professors” as consultants, with research track record to carry out research.
- 2.3.6. Provide funds for supplies, repair, maintenance & rental of equipment, & for analytical services fees.
- 2.3.7. Encourage international collaborations & provide opportunities for training & thesis work of MS & PhD students under a ‘sandwich’ program.
- 2.3.8. Provide research training on proposal & paper writing, & ethics (research integrity).
- 2.3.9. Plan & manage research operations efficiently & develop business or feasibility plan.
- 2.3.10. Hold regular research meetings & invite resource persons & experts to give seminars.
- 2.3.11. Prepare for regular site visits by managers & reviewers.
- 2.3.12. Complete the preliminary data that was made the basis of the proposal & produce results early in the program.
- 2.3.13. Produce international peer-reviewed quality publications, patents & other academic output.
- 2.3.14. Hold regular public symposia to present research grant awards & research results.
- 2.3.15. Prepare popular articles & education materials for GE, advanced undergraduate & graduate courses from the research results.
- 2.3.16. Seek external funding & collaboration to augment UP seed funding & expand the research.