



14th ORIC Research Committee Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on December 01, 2020

- The 14th ORIC Research Committee meeting was held online on Tuesday, the 01st December, 2020 at 03:30 pm on Microsoft Teams.
- Prof. Aamer Iqbal Bhatti, Dean Research & Innovation, presided the meeting.
- The following were present in the meeting:

• Dr. Majid Ali	Professor CE
• Dr. Abdul Rehman Kashif	Associate Prof. Math
• Dr. Nadeem Anjum	Assistant Prof. CS
• Dr. Khawar Naveed	Assistant Prof. ME
• Dr. Samiya Safdar	Assistant Prof. MS
• Dr. Mahboob Alam	Assistant Prof. Pharm

- Dr. Sahar Fazal and Dr. Umer Amir Khan, members from BS and EE Departments respectively could not attend the meeting.

- Dean Research and Innovation, Prof. Aamer Iqbal Bhatti welcomed the committee members. Subsequently, the meeting progressed as per agenda items listed below: -

Item #1 Review of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Action By

- 1.1 It was informed that no observation on the decisions taken in the 13th meeting of the ORIC Research Committee circulated amongst the members of the Research Committee on October 15, 2020 was received. Therefore, the Committee confirmed the minutes of its 13th meeting.

Item #2 Outreach of Local Pharmaceutical Industry

- 2.1 Dean Research & Innovation apprised the members about the defined roles of ORIC at CUST. He mentioned that two of the three domains, namely Research Operations and Technology, Incubation & Innovation are going well. The ORIC Business Incubation Lab is set to start its functioning with two startups “Tech Flicker” and “Flex Trackers”. He said that we have to pace up our Industrial Liaison domain with effective outreach of local industry. Dean Research & Innovation started with a brief presentation about major industries in the vicinity of CUST. He updated the members that there are three major



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types of factories in Rawalpindi and Islamabad, namely Iron and Steel, Floor Mills and Pharmaceutical industry. The spectrum of Pharma Industry with respect to R&D work is wide ranging including Electrical, Mechanical, Pharmacy and Management Sciences disciplines. The list of Pharmaceutical companies outreached by ORIC was also presented along with their focal persons and addresses.

- 2.2 Dean Research & Innovation requested members to provide their valuable feedback about how to effectively outreach the local Pharmaceutical Industry. Dr. Khawar Naveed updated the members about his contact experience with “WARAFANA Pharmaceuticals”. He was of the opinion that we need to contact and invite the representatives of local Pharmaceutical Industry on continual basis. He proposed to constitute a permanent committee having representation from respective departments for effective outreach. The mandate of the committee would be to visit local Pharma Industry on continual basis (at least once in a month) and search for their problems that can be addressed by CUST faculty and students. Dean Research & Innovation directed the members to nominate a member each from their respective departments.
- 2.3 Dr. Mahboob Alam proposed that we initially need to develop specific lab infrastructure like Animal House and High Technology Pharmaceutical Lab as recommended by the Pharmaceutical Industry representatives during their visit to CUST. The mentioned equipment can attract industry because they lack the specific testing facilities like BioAssays, Bio Equivalence Testing etc. which can be done through these facilities. Dean Research & Innovation apprised that the University administration have given consent for High Technology Lab. He directed Dr. Mahboob Alam to follow up and personally take interest in the establishment of mentioned lab. Dr. Mahboob Alam added that Pharmacy Department has started the breeding facility of certain animals for research purpose. Dean ORIC directed him to arrange a small visit for particular industry once we have a reasonable setup to demonstrate them.
- 2.4 Prof. Majid commented that company CEOs look for their benefit. If certain industry has some specific problem that can be addressed through R&D, then it will seek out help from academia and we can have mutual benefit. Dean Research & Innovation updated him that the visiting Pharma Industries to CUST actually identified some areas of collaborative work but we lack mutual confidence. We need to bridge up that gap

ORIC/Research
Committee

Dr. Mahboob
Alam

Research
Committee



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because R&D Projects would come through continuous outreach and confidence building measures. Prof. Majid Ali proposed five Final Year Projects (FYPs) from each of the EE, ME, BS, Pharm and MS Departments respectively in which collaborative work can be done with pharmaceutical industry. The initiative will not only help in knowing the shortcoming and problems of industry but will also train our students by bringing confidence in them thus increasing the probability of jobs creation. Dean Research & Innovation appreciated the floated idea and asked respective members to identify at least one project in next FYP offerings.

- 2.5 Dr. Samiya Safdar, the respective member from MS Department was of the opinion to target the industrial units and contact them frequently and look for their problems. Dr. Nadeem Anjum said that apparently CS department seems to have a supporting role but we can identify the possible collaborative areas upon meetup with industry. Dean Research & Innovation suggested him the areas like Sales, Inventory Management etc. in which CS department can collaborate with the Pharmaceutical Industry. Dr. Abdul Rahman Kashif said that although Mathematics Department is not too relevant to Pharmacy, but we will still appreciate if we can do something for effective outreach.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair as well as the participants of the meeting.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

Muhammad Raheel Anjum
Assistant Director ORIC

Prof. Aamer Iqbal Bhatti
Dean Research & Innovation