



MUAST

MARONDERA UNIVERSITY
OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY

RESEARCH POLICY

POLICY NO. RP/21/25



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OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY

TITLE	MARONDERA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH POLICY
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1.0 PREAMBLE

Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (MUASt) is a modern and unique institution of higher learning established through an Act (Chapter 25:29). The University is driven by the vision to be a leading global centre of excellence in the provision of technology driven sustainable green agricultural solutions". Underpinned by its unique CORE VALUES: Excellence, Diversity, Innovation, Ethics, Ubuntu, Integrity and Sustainability; the University aims at producing globally acceptable and competent graduates grounded in agricultural, entrepreneurial and technological skills through excellence in teaching, research and extension services, innovation and industrialization.

This policy provides guidelines and information on research issues to promote and maintain the highest level of ethical research practice, promoting high standards of scientific work and strives for excellence in applied research that withstands stakeholder scrutiny. It honours the constitutional values of human dignity, equality, social justice and fairness. MUASt also strives to promote an institutional ethos that is conducive to critical discourse, intellectual curiosity, tolerance and a diversity of views. The policy ensures that MUASt adheres to anti-corruption circulars, policies and measures as directed to the attention of the University by other agencies of the State. The policy shall also abide to growth, prosperity and inclusive development of the country in prompting good governance buttressed by transparency, accountability, integrity and the rule of law. This policy also acknowledges the responsibility to lead by example in the fight against corruption and to ethically render services with integrity.

The institution also affirms to the constitutional principles of academic freedom and freedom of scientific research. However, with academic freedom comes the responsibility to ensure that all research and scholarship is informed by the following principles:

1. honesty, integrity, trust, accountability and collegiality,
2. high scientific and ethical standards,
3. research is conducted with honest and thoughtful inquiry, rigorous analysis, and accountability for the use of professional standards, and
4. seeks to increase knowledge in ways that do not harm but which benefit society and the environment.

The cultivation of these values in the University community are advanced by the ongoing education of its members in matters of research integrity, and by adopting and following appropriate policies within which research and scholarship should be conducted, policies which all major funding agencies require universities to have in place. This Policy, therefore, establishes a general framework for the conduct of research. It is premised on individual responsibility for the selection and conduct of research, and scholarship as individual members of the University community are best positioned, through special knowledge, to be aware of both the manner in which their research, innovations and scholarly activities are being conducted and the consequences of such activities. Special responsibility rests with researchers to remain aware of the consequences of their research and to balance the potential benefits against the possibility of harmful applications. This Policy should be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with the vision of the University as a research and scholarly community committed to the principles of academic freedom,

honesty, integrity, trust, accountability and collegiality, and the idea that fair play must prevail at all times. This Policy does not replace the policies and guidelines of agencies sponsoring research or which have oversight of particular research activities.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy:

- 2.1 **'Agency'** means the funding agency, foundation, organization, sponsor or other Person, public or private, international, national, provincial or foreign, supporting in whole or in part any Research, or which has oversight of any Research.
- 2.2 **'Chairperson'** means the chair or director of a department, school, institute or centre and includes the chairs of all such units within which a Researcher undertakes Research.
- 2.3 **'Corresponding Author'** means: (i) the Researcher so identified by agreement of Research Collaborators; or (ii) in the absence of agreement, the Researcher who submits a manuscript for publication.
- 2.4 **'Data'** means the recorded information and material, both physical and electronic, commonly accepted in the relevant scientific community as necessary to validate research findings including, but not limited to, research proposals, laboratory records, progress reports, internal reports, and presentations.
- 2.5 **'Dean'** includes, as appropriate to the context, the Dean/Director of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, the Dean of Students.
- 2.6 **'Gift'** means a voluntary transfer of property without valuable consideration or benefit of any kind to the donor, or to any Person designated by the donor.
- 2.7 **'Innovation'** refers to the creation and successful implementation of new ideas and the invention achieved through the creation of tangible products or services, that benefit society.
- 2.8 **'Legal Person'** includes corporations, partnerships, associations, foundations, organizations, government agencies, and any other entity or body.
- 2.9 **'Person'** means, as the context requires, natural and Legal Persons.
- 2.10 **'Plagiarism'** means the representation of another's work, published or unpublished, as one's own or assisting another in representing another's work, published or unpublished, as his or her own.

- 2.11 **'Principal Investigator'** means the Researcher who is also identified to an Agency or, in the absence of such identification, the Researcher who has primary responsibility for the design, conduct and supervision of Research.
- 2.12 **'Regulatory Framework'** the regulations, policies and guidelines of the University concerning the conduct of Research and related matters as they may exist from time to time.
- 2.13 **'Research'** includes all forms of funded and unfunded scholarly, scientific and professional work and related activities based on intellectual investigation aimed at discovering, interpreting and revising, disseminating or publishing knowledge.
- 2.14 **'Research Agreement'** includes international project agreements, licensing agreements, Research agreements, Research contracts, Research grant applications, Research grant agreements, service agreements, shareholder agreements, clinical trial agreements, confidentiality agreements, material transfer agreements, technology transfer agreements, partnership program agreements, collaborative Research development agreements, inter-institutional Research agreements and industrial Research agreements and any document accessory to such agreements.
- 2.15 **'Research Misconduct'** includes, but is not limited to the definitions of the funding agencies for such misconduct, for example: fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, misappropriation of intellectual property rights of another, or any other conduct that constitutes a significant departure from the ethical and other standards that are commonly accepted within the relevant research community for proposing, performing, reporting or reviewing research or treating human and animal research subjects, but does not include honest errors or differences of interpretation or judgment relating to Data or Results that are reasonable in light of the circumstances in which they are made or reached.
- 2.16 **'Researcher'** means any member of the University community who engages in or supervises Research.
- 2.17 **'Student'** means a student as defined in the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

3.0 AIM

This policy aims to advance the University's mission in areas of research. The policy:

- 3.1 Ensures that the University Undertakes research, knowledge production and innovation that is guided by integrity, quality and rigour, honesty, trust, accountability and collegiality.
- 3.2 Develops and promotes organisation's ethos, research ethics, intellectual culture and an academic environment ideal for critical thinking, critical discourse, and tolerance of divergent views.

4.0 PURPOSE OF POLICY

- 4.1 The purpose of the policy is to create an environment conducive for quality, innovative and relevant research, where researchers, research associates and students can attain their full potential in research to take leading roles in their research areas nationally and globally.

5.0 SCOPE

- 5.1 This policy applies to all research conducted by a researcher at MUASt, research associates of the University and research from collaborative programmes implemented by MUASt and researchers from other Universities and institutions, and is guided by academic freedoms. Thus, researchers have the freedom to exchange ideas, apply theories, paradigms and publications of their choice, network and associate while adhering to relevant standards and as prescribed by relevant professional codes and internationally accepted ethical guidelines.

6.0 POLICY OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH AT MUASt

- 6.1 The objectives of the research policy are to;
- 6.1.1 Develop a MUASt research agenda and policy framework aligned to strategic focus areas that are informed by national priorities, as informed by Education 5.0.
 - 6.1.2 Promote the University's standing as a research institution
 - 6.1.3 Develop and nurture developing and emerging researchers to become proven researchers of global stature
 - 6.1.4 Promote the dissemination and foster theoretical and policy impact of research findings through publication in accredited journals, books and book chapters, and peer-reviewed working papers and conference proceedings
 - 6.1.5 Foster the use of researchers' findings in teaching, learning, innovation, industrialisation, and community engagement in under and postgraduate studies and practice.

7.0 RESEARCH THEMES

- 7.1 The University promotes and advocates for research that is aligned with the research themes shown in Figure 1.
- 7.2 However, other researches that do not necessarily fall within any of the research themes shown in Figure 1 is still important but should be related to the broad agrarian studies in line aligned with the University's mandate.

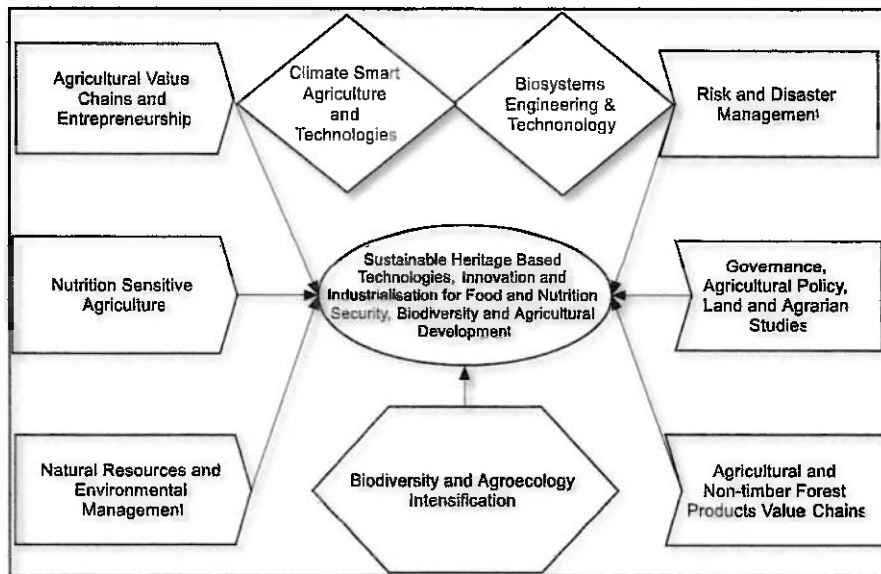


Figure 1. MUAST Research Themes.

8.0 RESEARCH PRINCIPLES

- 8.1 Research is a human activity and this implies that it is value-laden based on preconceptions informed by social, political, cultural, ideological and gender influences. The construction of theories and analysis of data is therefore influenced by these preconceptions to inform findings.
- 8.2 Research is communal based on a network of scholars who influence the paradigms within which research is undertaken in and across disciplines and/or subjects. Research may be multi-inter-transdisciplinary covering varied fields and subjects.
- 8.3 Research is theory-dependent. Dominant theories influence paradigms in different fields. Hence, research includes basic, applied, strategic and reflexive scholarly activities.
- 8.4 Research informs our understanding of the workings of the world.
- 8.5 Research is underpinned by creative, innovative, systematic and original work of the researcher.
- 8.6 *Appropriate citation of sources to avoid plagiarism, piracy or falsification of research results is prioritised in research.*
- 8.7 Research conducted by MUAST researchers, research associates and students must comply with the MUAST Policy on Research Ethics and be guided by under and postgraduate regulations.
- 8.8 Research involving MUAST employees, research fellows, students and/or data must comply with the MUAST policy for conducting research involving MUAST employees, students or data.

9.0 MUAST SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH

- 9.1 All research activities sanctioned by MUAST are supported to achieve the researcher's objectives.

- 9.2 MUAST supports researchers, academic associates and students to promote the University research output profile, increasing research outputs as well as under and postgraduate education.
- 9.3 MUAST provides the necessary infrastructure required for research. This includes office space, library facilities, laboratories, land, irrigation and greenhouse facilities, ICT and services, publication of journal articles, research ethical clearance and other administrative support services.
- 9.4 MUAST may grant study leave in accordance with the HR policy on study leave.

10.0 MANAGEMENT OF RESEARCH

- 10.1 The management of research at MUAST will adhere to provisions of corporate governance framework as laid out in the University statutes and adhere to the Public Entities Corporate Governance Act.
- 10.2 The management of research fosters zero-tolerance policy to corruption and promotes gender equity in all processes and procedures.
- 10.3 The overall responsibility for quality management of research at MUAST rests with the Senate.
- 10.4 Senate delegates authority to the Senate Research and Postgraduate Degrees Committee (SRPDC) which oversees research in various research institutes and faculties.
- 10.5 Research institutes and faculties manage research under the supervision of the SRPDC.
- 10.6 Research outputs by under and postgraduates form a key component of the research outputs for the University. The recruitment of these students is therefore central to the achievement of the research targets for the university.

11.0 BASIC OBLIGATIONS

- 11.1 The primary responsibility for the selection and conduct of Research shall rest with the Researcher and to this end he or she shall:
 - 11.1.1 maintain the highest standards of honesty, integrity and ethical behaviour in all Research
 - 11.1.2 familiarize himself or herself with and abide by the Regulatory Framework and the regulations, policies and guidelines of any Agency relevant to his or her Research;
 - 11.1.3 not misrepresent his or her academic, professional or employment credentials or experience;
 - 11.1.4 obtain necessary approvals including, but not limited to, ethics, protocol and standard operating procedure approvals, before engaging in a Research activity for which prior approval is necessary; and
 - 11.1.5 use scholarly and scientific rigor and integrity in obtaining, recording and analysing data, and in reporting and publishing results.
- 11.2 The University shall take reasonable measures to ensure that Researchers are made aware of, and kept informed of changes to policies relevant to Research.
- 11.3 In the case of collaborative or team Research, the Principal Investigator shall take reasonable measures to ensure that the members of the Research group or team are

aware of and comply with the Policy and any Regulatory Framework relevant to the Research being undertaken.

- 11.4 The relevant offices, e.g. Research and Postgraduate Studies, and Research directors, shall put in place reasonable measures to ensure that Students who may engage in Research are aware of:
 - 11.4.1 their obligations in respect of academic integrity and the ethical conduct of Research;
 - 11.4.2 the Regulatory Framework relevant to their Research.
- 11.5 A supervisor of Students engaged in Research shall take reasonable measures to:
 - 11.5.1 ensure that the students have been advised of their obligations in respect of academic integrity and the ethical conduct of Research;
 - 11.5.2 ensure that the students have received a copy of the Regulatory Framework relevant to their particular Research;
 - 11.5.3 ensure that both parties complete and sign a memorandum of understanding outlining the roles and responsibilities of the supervisor(s) and the student in the research project;
 - 11.5.4 provide the students with a copy of any Research related documents which the students have been asked to sign; and disclose to the students any special conditions concerning such matters as constraints on publication, limitations on future use of Data, and ownership of intellectual property that may influence a student's decision to participate in the Research.
- 11.6 A Researcher engaged in Research external to the University and which is not part of her or his academic duties shall act with integrity and adhere to the highest ethical standards, ensuring that such activities do not tarnish the University name.
- 11.7 A Researcher shall ensure that publications do not misrepresent data or images and that the nature and purpose of any image manipulation is explained.
- 11.8 A Researcher shall comply with the accepted practice of his or her discipline relating to the publication of Research including those constraining:
 - 11.8.1 the submission of manuscripts to two or more journals; and
 - 11.8.2 the duplicate publication of Data or a manuscript.
- 11.9 A Researcher shall not enter into or participate in any arrangement whereby an Agency or Person with a vested interest in the findings of Research may:
 - 11.9.1 suppress any findings of the Research; or
 - 11.9.2 withhold information that may have a bearing on the interpretation of the findings.
- 11.10 Section 4.7 shall not override the rights of human subjects of the Research.
- 11.11 A Researcher normally shall not enter into an arrangement with a Person to write or contribute to a publication without the Researcher's contribution being publicly acknowledged. Such an arrangement is only acceptable if the Researcher, if so requested, is prepared to be publicly associated with the publication.
- 11.12 Subject to section 9.9, a Researcher shall acknowledge his or her affiliation with the University in all publications resulting from Research undertaken while being a member of the University community.
- 11.13 A Researcher who is no longer a member of the University community shall cease to indicate in publications, other than those resulting from Research performed while

a member of the University community, his or her affiliation with the University in the absence of prior written approval of the Chairperson.

12.0 RESEARCH DATA

- 12.1 A Researcher shall collect Data concerning human and animal subjects in accordance with the Regulatory Framework and obtain ethical approval governing the use of such subjects.
- 12.2 A Researcher shall respect the laws governing access to personal information and privacy in his or her collection and use of Data.
- 12.3 A student may engage in Research in which the use of certain kinds of Data, in the custody of a government or Person, is restricted provided that:
 - 12.3.1 the eventual publication of Research based on the Data is permitted; and
 - 12.3.2 subject to section 10.3.1, any delay in publication does not exceed one (1) year.
- 12.4 A request by a third party for a delay in publication of Research undertaken by a Student for his or her thesis that exceeds one (1) year may be agreed to only in exceptional cases and shall require:
 - 12.4.1 the written consent of the student; and
 - 12.4.2 the written approval of (a) the Vice-Chancellor or his/her appointee; following recommendation by the Deans of Faculties/Research and Postdoctoral Studies.
- 12.5 A Researcher shall not use or publish Data which he or she knows to be or has reasonable grounds to believe are, false or of unknown provenance unless it is so identified.
- 12.6 A Researcher shall organize his or her Data in a manner that allows for its verification by third parties.

13.0 RETENTION OF RESEARCH DATA

- 13.1 A Researcher shall retain Data in conformity with best practice in his or her discipline and for:
 - 13.1.1 the period specified by the Agency supporting the Research; or
 - 13.1.2 in the absence of an Agency specification, a period of seven (7) years from publication of the Data.
 - 13.1.3 acceptable storage facilities include University network drives; Portable Devices; Cloud Storage; Dedicated Research Data Storage Repositories.
- 13.2 Each department or research unit shall establish procedures appropriate to its needs for the retention and recording of Data.
- 13.3 Data shall be retained by a Principal Investigator or the department or research unit in which they were generated as agreed to by the Principal Investigator and his or her Chairperson.
- 13.4 A Researcher who ceases to be a member of the University shall deposit his or her Data with the department or research unit where the Data were generated unless alternative written arrangements are made with his or her Chairperson.

13.5 In the event that Data obtained from a limited access database or under a Research Related Agreement cannot be retained by a Principal Investigator, the Principal Investigator must provide the Chairperson in writing with the location of the Data or the limited-access database.

14.0 ACCESS TO RESEARCH DATA

14.1 Subject to exceptions based on a duty of confidentiality, the Secrecy Act and the laws respecting intellectual property and access to information, a Researcher shall make his or her Data available after publication to an Agency or established scientific or scholarly journal presenting a reasonable and legitimate written request to examine the Data.

14.2 Where there is a disagreement between the Researcher and the Agency or journal requesting the Data, the disagreement shall be referred for resolution:

14.2.1 first to the Chairperson;

14.2.2 then, if necessary, to the Dean; and

14.2.3 finally, if necessary, to the Office of the Vice-Chancellor or his appointee.

15.0 COLLABORATIVE DATA

15.1 Research collaborators, at the commencement of their collaboration, shall make all reasonable efforts to reach agreement, preferably in writing, that is consistent with the law and the Regulatory Framework relating to intellectual property, on their rights to, and future use of, Data.

15.2 In the absence of an agreement between Research collaborators, their rights to and future use of the Data shall be governed by the law and the Regulatory Framework relating to intellectual property.

15.3 In the event that a dispute should arise between Research collaborators concerning rights to and future use of the Data, the University shall assist in facilitating the resolution of dispute in accordance with section 6.5.

16.0 USE OF OTHERS' WORK

16.1 A Researcher shall not knowingly engage in Plagiarism.

16.2 Upon the demonstration that a Researcher has engaged in Plagiarism, it shall be presumed that the Researcher did so knowingly and he or she shall bear the burden of rebutting the presumption by evidence satisfying the Person or body investigating the matter that no such knowledge existed.

16.3 A Researcher shall obtain the prior permission of another Person before using, even with proper attribution, the unpublished work or Data of the other Person.

16.4 Notwithstanding section 5.3, where a Researcher has obtained access to unpublished information, concepts or Data through access to confidential information or documents, including material obtained by the Researcher as part of processes such as peer review, the Researcher shall not use such information, concepts or Data without the prior written permission of the author.

16.5 A Researcher shall not enter into, or participate in, any arrangement whereby an Agency or other Person may have exclusive use of, or access to, the Data of a

Research collaborator, whether with or without proper attribution, without the Research collaborator's prior written informed consent.

- 16.6 A Researcher shall use archival material in accordance with the rules of the archival source.

17.0 COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

- 17.1 A Researcher shall recognize in an appropriate form or manner in his or her publications the substantive contributions of all Research collaborators including Students.

17.2 Authorship

17.2.1 A Researcher shall ensure that authorship of published work includes all those and only those who have made significant scholarly contributions to the work and who share responsibility and accountability for the results.

17.2.2 A Researcher shall ensure that where a co-authored publication is based primarily on the work of a Student, including a dissertation or thesis the student is granted due prominence in the list of co-authors in accordance with the established practices of the discipline.

17.2.3 In the absence of an agreement between Research collaborators, the following rules shall govern the order of attribution of authorship:

17.2.3.1 authorship shall be attributed to all those Researchers who have made significant scholarly contributions to the work and who share responsibility and accountability for the results;

17.2.3.2 attribution of authorship shall be determined according to:

- i. the quality and quantity of a Researcher's contribution;
- ii. the extent of a Researcher's responsibility and accountability for the results; and
- iii. the best practices of the discipline;
- iv. have substantial contribution to the research work/article.

17.2.3.3 the order of attribution of authorship shall not be affected by whether a Researcher was paid for his or her contribution or by his or her employment status.

17.2.4 A person who provides only administrative and/or managerial services to a collaborative Research endeavour shall not qualify for co-authorship.

17.3 Responsibilities of Corresponding Author

17.3.1 Prior to the submission of a manuscript for publication, the Corresponding Author shall:

17.3.1.1 ensure all persons who are entitled to co-authorship are included as co-authors;

17.3.1.2 make a reasonable attempt to obtain the consent of the co-authors to the order of attribution of authorship;

17.3.1.3 ensure that persons who have made useful contributions to the Research which do not qualify them for co-authorship, are appropriately acknowledged in accordance with the standards of the discipline and the publisher;

- 17.3.1.4 provide each co-author an opportunity to comment on the manuscript prior to its submission for publication; and
- 17.3.1.5 provide each co-author with a copy of the manuscript submitted for publication.

17.4 Ownership of Intellectual Property

- 17.4.1 Subject to section 6.4, Research collaborators shall endeavour to reach an agreement, consistent with the Regulatory Framework concerning the allocation of intellectual property.
- 17.4.2 Subject to section 6.4, in the absence of agreement between Research collaborators, the allocation of copyright shall be governed by the law and the Regulatory Framework relating to intellectual property.
- 17.4.3 In the event that an external Person has an interest in the Research, the Research collaborators, the University and such Person shall, following negotiations with the Office of Technology Transfer, establish by contract:
 - 17.4.3.1 ownership of intellectual property arising out of any Research Related Agreement;
 - 17.4.3.2 the rights and obligations of the parties to seek patents; and
 - 17.4.3.3 the entitlement of the parties to share in any associated royalties.

17.5 Disputes Resolution in Collaborative Research

- 17.5.1 The University shall assist in facilitating the resolution of disputes between Research collaborators (“the disputants”), in accordance with section 6.5. The University, however, has no obligation to ensure that such disputes are resolved.
- 17.5.2 Disputants shall first seek to resolve their dispute amicably between themselves using the good offices of the Principal Investigator if he or she is not a party to the dispute.
- 17.5.3 In the event that an amicable resolution of the dispute is not or cannot be achieved in accordance with section 6.5, the disputants shall refer the dispute to the Chairperson or the Dean of the faculty, if it is one without departments, who shall attempt to resolve the dispute. The Chairperson or Dean, as the case may be, may appoint a senior member of the academic staff of the department or Faculty to act in his or her stead.
- 17.5.4 In the event that the dispute is not resolved in accordance with section 6, the disputants shall seek the assistance of the Pro-Vice Chancellor in achieving a resolution. The Pro-Vice Chancellor or an Appointee may appoint a senior member of the academic staff to act in his or her stead.
- 17.5.5 The Pro-Vice Chancellor, or his Appointee, may assist the disputants in selecting an internal or external mechanism for the resolution of their dispute on the understanding that their involvement in any of these processes is without prejudice to the disputants’ rights in any subsequent internal or external process.
- 17.5.6 Notwithstanding section 6, in the event that a resolution acceptable to the disputants is reached:
 - 17.5.6.1 it shall be acknowledged by them in writing and in sufficient detail to allow for its implementation; and

17.5.6.2 it shall be deemed to be final and the disputants thereby waive any further internal and external recourse based on the facts having given rise to the dispute.

17.5.7 Sections 6.5.1 through 6.5.6 do not apply to disputes that may arise because of alleged Research Misconduct or disagreement as to the ownership of intellectual property rights which disputes shall be resolved respectively in accordance with the Regulatory Framework relating to:

17.5.7.1 the investigation of research misconduct; and

17.5.7.2 intellectual property.

18.0 RESEARCH FUNDS

18.1 A Researcher shall ensure that all research funds administered by him or her are used with honesty, integrity and accountability.

18.2 Researcher, and those with oversight of funds and their use, shall comply with the Regulatory Framework and applicable Agency policies and guidelines relating to the management and disbursement of funds and reimbursements for expenses.

18.3 A Researcher shall not approve payment from any Agency or University funds to, or the use of any University personnel or any University administered resources, services or materials for, a Person developing or using a Researcher's invention, software or other discovery unless such payment or use is expressly authorized in writing by the Agency and the University.

18.4 A Researcher shall acknowledge, in all published works resulting from his or her Research, all Agencies and other public and private funding sources, which supported his or her Research.

18.5 Administration of Research Funds

18.5.1 Administration Fee

An administration fee of 10% of the Research funds shall be retained by the University unless a different percentage is agreed upon by both parties in the MOU (*refer to the MUASt Financial Regulations*).

18.5.2 Bank Account

A pool account for all projects shall be used to manage all the funds unless the Donor requires through the MOU that a separate account be opened specifically for the Research project.

18.5.3 Budgetary Control

Votes for each Research project shall be opened according to the budget lines stipulated in the MOU. The budgets shall be monitored to avoid unauthorised spending or overspending. Virements shall be allowable across budget lines only after they have been approved by the Donor.

18.6 Financial Reports

18.6.1 The financial statements shall be prepared and submitted by the Bursary department of the University in their own format. However, the Donor has the right to stipulate the format of the report and the time intervals for submission, that is, monthly, quarterly and so on.

18.7 Financial Audits

The financial statements shall be audited by the auditors of the University unless the Donor stipulates in the MOU that they be audited by their own auditors.

18.8 Disposal of research assets/equipment upon completion of the project.

18.8.1 The resources acquired during the lifespan of the project shall remain with the project until its completion, upon which it shall be disposed as stipulated in the MOU.

18.8.2 In the case the university retains all the research equipment and assets, the reallocation of project resources at the end of the project shall give priority to the researchers/department/school in which the project resided, in conjunction with the University's property disposal policy.

19.0 RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS

This section shall be read in conjunction with the Research Ethics Policy.

19.1 A Researcher conducting Research involving human subjects shall:

19.1.1 conduct such Research in accordance with the highest ethical standards;

19.1.2 respect the legal and moral rights of the persons who are the subjects of the Research;

19.1.3 comply with the Regulatory Framework governing such Research; and

19.1.4 the researcher(s) should get approval from the University Research Board (URB) and the Medical Research Council of Zimbabwe (MRCZ) for any research studies involving humans. However, in the case where one board approves and one does not grant approval of the research, the decision of the MRCZ supersedes that of the URB.

19.2 A Researcher shall not use the premises, facilities or publications of the University to recruit in any manner a member of the University community as a participant in medical testing or in clinical trials involving human subjects related to non-University Research projects.

19.3 A Researcher shall obtain the prior approval of a research ethics board before engaging in self-experimentation involving any element of risk to the Researcher whether or not the Researcher is the sole or one of the human subject participants.

19.4 A Researcher shall not accept any personal benefit (including a bonus or milestone payment) for:

19.4.1 enrolling a particular number of patients or for meeting a deadline in recruiting human subjects;

19.4.2 a particular number of human subjects successfully completing the study or trial or for successfully completing it within a specific timeframe;

19.4.3 assessing potential recruits for a study or a clinical trial in which the Researcher is involved.

20.0 RESEARCH INVOLVING ANIMALS

This section shall be read in conjunction with the Research Ethics Policy.

- 20.1 A Researcher conducting Research involving animals shall:
- 20.1.1 conduct such Research in accordance with the highest ethical standards; and
 - 20.1.2 comply with the Regulatory Framework, including the policies and guidelines of the SPCA on Animal Care.

21.0 UNAPPROVED RESEARCH

- 21.1 A Researcher shall not enter into any arrangement with any Person to conduct any Research under the auspices of the University, or on university premises or using Students, academic, administrative or support staff, or University resources or facilities on the understanding that the conduct of the Research is to be kept secret.

22.0 HAZARDOUS RESEARCH

- 22.1 A Researcher proposing to engage in Research activities that pose a recognizable inherent risk of accidental injury to persons or property shall:
- 22.1.1 comply with the Regulatory Framework governing the conduct of such activities;
 - 22.1.2 obtain all necessary approvals before accepting delivery of hazardous materials, or embarking on the activities in question; and
 - 22.1.3 prior to the commencement of the activities, notify those who it is reasonably foreseeable may be placed at risk.
- 22.2 A Researcher engaged in a Research activity which poses a significant recognizable inherent risk of physical injury to persons or property who has reasonable cause to believe that injury to person or property has occurred or is imminent shall:
- 22.2.1 take appropriate measures to address the situation in accordance with the University's emergency policies and guidelines; and
 - 22.2.2 report the incident or potential threat to the Researcher's Chairperson.

23.0 COMMERCIALIZATION OF RESEARCH

- 23.1 Without prejudice to the rights of a Researcher's collaborators or sponsors of Research, a Researcher shall not be obliged to seek commercial development of his or her invention, software or other discovery. The University shall respect the decision of a Researcher not to commercialize his or her invention, software or other discovery.
- 23.2 Researcher who elects not to seek the commercial development of an invention, software or other discovery may, in accordance with the Regulatory Framework governing intellectual property, permit its commercial development by his or her collaborators.
- 23.3 A Researcher who elects to develop an invention, software or other discovery or to become involved directly in its commercial application shall comply with the Regulatory Framework governing intellectual property.

24.0 NEGOTIATION OF RESEARCH RELATED AGREEMENTS

24.1 All Research Related Agreements must be approved and executed according to the Regulatory Framework relating to the conclusion of such agreements.

25.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

25.1 A Researcher shall comply with the Regulatory Framework governing conflicts of interest, and consulting activities.

25.2 Researcher shall disclose to all relevant Persons (including other institutions, Agencies, conference organizers and participants, and journals and publishers) any conflict of interest that might influence such Persons' decisions such as whether a Researcher should be asked:

25.2.1 to review Research proposals, funding applications or manuscripts;

25.2.2 to test inventions, software or other discoveries;

25.2.3 to present Research results; or

25.2.4 to be permitted to undertake Research sponsored by outside Persons.

26.0 RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

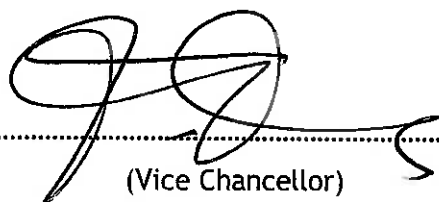
26.1 Any action that is inconsistent with integrity, honesty or the Regulatory Framework, including this policy, may constitute a disciplinary offence and, where appropriate, shall be investigated in accordance with the Regulatory Framework relating to the investigation of research misconduct or, where appropriate, the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

26.2 Nothing in the provisions of this policy is intended to impugn a Researcher for honest errors or for differences of interpretation or judgment relating to Data or results that are reasonable in light of the circumstances in which they are made or reached.

27.0 REVIEW OF POLICY

27.1 This policy shall be reviewed after 4 years.

Approved:



(Vice Chancellor)

Date: 15/07/2025