MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH AGENDA
2023-2028

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Approved by the Mountains of the Moon University Senate

Signature

Name

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PREFACE

This is the first edition of the Mountains of the Moon University Research Agenda. It has been produced from a series of meetings and consultations that have been made within and outside the University. Certain areas of the Agenda outlined herein ought to be read as evolving in relation to policy formulation in other areas of the University.

CONTENTS

1. THE NEED FOR UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AGENDA

This document summarizes the Mountains of the Moon University Research priorities for the next 5 years from 2023 to 2028. The development of the university research agenda arises from the need to have a guiding document to help spearhead research at the University. The need for a progressive Research agenda arises from a number of factors:

1. The diminishing resources for research at the University and national level,
2. Lack of a comprehensive University Research Agenda at present.
3. Significant changes in the priorities and policies of major funding agencies both in government and private sector,
4. Stiff competition for staff seeking research funds across individual and faculty interests and lack of guidance and clear-cut priorities.

Together, these factors if not addressed will retard the overall research productivity at the University

and, therefore, the need to have a consistent agenda with the desire to motivate staff, sustain and improve research productivity and competitiveness at national and international levels.

The agenda will achieve this through identifying flagship projects at MMU and consolidating a research culture at the University by:

1. Ensuring a significant annual allocation of funds to the University Research Budget for the themes of the Research Agenda.
2. Deliberate moves to motivate researchers at the University pursue additional external funding for the
3. Deliberate efforts to attract substantial external funds from donors (private sectors and donor agencies) to the University.
4. Promote a conducive environment for collaboration in research for both national and international research partnerships.

2. RESEARCH AGENDA DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The processes followed the provisions of the MMU research policy section 5.1.3 on Faculty Research Thematic areas

i) The Faculty Research Committee in consultation with the staff shall develop a 3 year Research Thematic areas that will feed into the University Research Agenda.

ii) All Faculty research Thematic areas shall put into consideration the national development priorities and Faculty research priorities as identified by the staff in the Faculty.

iii) The Faculty Research Thematic areas shall reflect both basic and applied research.

iv) The Faculty research Thematic areas submitted shall fall into three sections namely:

    a. Rationale or over view

    b. Aim of research thematic area

    c. Major research themes and cross cutting issues

d. List of topics and contexts of possible investigation. The topical list follows the format of the major theme areas noted in (c).

v) Once the Faculty Research thematic area is approved by the School Board it shall be presented to the Committee of Graduate Studies and Research for approval.

Additionally, this research agenda has been developed tailored to the Mountains of the Moon University Strategic plan and the University Research Policy. Also this research agenda has been aligned to the Uganda National Development plan III, The Uganda Vision 2040, The EAC Vision 2050 The Africa Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

3. THE MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON UNIVERSITY PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS 2023 TO 2028

3.1 Agriculture, Tourism and Environmental Sciences

1. Crop Productivity and value chain management in a changing environment.
2. Livestock Resource Development.
3. Sustainable aquaculture technologies
4. Agro-ecology, Biodiversity, Wildlife conservation and natural resources management.
5. Integrated water resources management.
6. Agriculture and natural resource economics.
7. Indigenous farming systems, farmer livelihoods and social inclusion in agriculture value chains.
8. Food systems and Nutrition.

3.2 Health Sciences

1. Maternal and Child health.
2. Healthcare service delivery.
3. Emerging Infectious and non-infectious diseases.
4. Health education and promotion.

3.3 Science, Technology and Innovations

1. Mathematical modeling and data science
2. Ionizing and non-ionizing radiation physics
3. Artificial intelligence and ICT for development.

3.4 Education and pedagogy

1. Education Policy: Analysis, Formulation and Implementation.
2. Special needs education.
3. Education for sustainable development.
4. Education Pedagogy and E-learning

3.5 Business and management Sciences

1. Green supply chain management and performance.
2. Economic and finance policy.
3. Strategic Business Development and management.

3.6 Humanities, arts and social sciences

1. Nationalism and politics.
2. Gender and development.
3. Peace, conflict and migration.
4. Social and community development.
5. Human resource management studies.
6. Governance and human rights.

4. CONCLUSION

The research thrusts presented in this research agenda are quite broad and this is intended to promote multi-disciplinarily in addressing research problems and also build research capacity in the identified areas. The University's resources both internally generated and those sourced from funding agencies and development partners will be directed towards these priority areas of focus. However, researchers are free to source funding to address their research interests that are outside of the university priority areas