



SMU SIKKIM
MANIPAL
UNIVERSITY

Established under Govt. of Sikkim, Act 9 of 1995, recognised under 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956

Office of the Directorate of Research

Gangtok – 737102, Sikkim

Ref. No.: SMU/DoR/Research/2025/155

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OFFICIAL DISCLOSURE

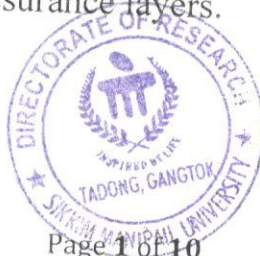
Subject: SMU Research Committees in alignment with UGC-Prescribed Committees under the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for the Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022.

In compliance with the provisions of the *University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for the Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022* and the *UGC Guidelines on Public Self-Disclosure by Higher Education Institutions, 2024*, the details on the Constitution and Functions of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC), Department Research Committee (DRC), Institute Research Committee (IRC) and University Research Committee (URC) is hereby disclosed for admission to the Ph.D. Program of Sikkim Manipal University (SMU).

This disclosure is in accordance with **Section 2 and sections 9.1, 9.2 & 9.3 of SMU Ph.D. Regulations (2024)**

SMU Research Committees with UGC-Prescribed Committees

SMU has adopted an enhanced framework that includes both DRC and RAC at the Department level, an Institute Research Committee (IRC) at the Institute level, and a University Research Committee (URC) at the University level, to ensure stronger academic oversight, transparency, and compliance with UGC norms, while incorporating additional quality assurance layers.



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Equivalence Mapping Between UGC-Prescribed and SMU Research Committees

Level	SMU Research Committee	Functional Equivalence / Remarks
Department Level	Department Research Committee (DRC)	Performs all functions prescribed by the UGC's Doctoral Research Committee — screening applications, conducting interviews, approving supervisors, recommending research topics, and prescribing coursework.
Department Level (Scholar-specific)	Research Advisory Committee (RAC) (distinct from DRC, functioning under it)	Functions exactly as per UGC's RAC definition — monitors the progress of each registered scholar through six-monthly reviews, recommend continuation/modification of research, and provide guidance on methodology and publication ethics.
Institute Level/ University Level	Institute Research Committee (IRC)	Intermediate academic body consolidating recommendations from departmental DRCs/RACs; ensures uniformity, quality assurance, and compliance at the institute level before forwarding to the University Research Committee.
	University Research Committee (URC)	Apex statutory body overseeing all research programmes, policy framing, registration approval, and ensuring compliance with UGC Ph.D. Regulations.
Ethical Oversight (Institute Level/ University Level)	SMU has Institutional Ethics Committee (recommended by UGC & ICMR)	Ensures adherence to research ethics, plagiarism policies, and integrity standards as per UGC and national guidelines such as ICMR.





Summary Note

Sikkim Manipal University (SMU) maintains a comprehensive, multi-tier Ph.D. governance structure that fully incorporates and extends the UGC's prescribed framework.

(a) **At the department level**, both DRC and RAC are constituted in accordance with UGC norms to separately address admission/registration functions and ongoing scholar monitoring.

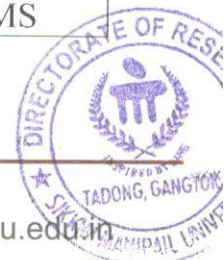
(b) **At the institute level**, the IRC serves as a coordination and quality assurance mechanism — an additional layer established by SMU to strengthen research oversight.

(c) **At the university level**, the URC serves as the statutory apex authority ensuring institutional compliance with the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for the Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022*

The following sections present the composition of the University Research Committee (URC), Institute Research Committee (IRC), and Department-level consisting of Department Research Committee (DRC) / Research Advisory Committee (RAC) of Sikkim Manipal University, in sequential order.

1. Composition of University Research Committee (URC)

Sl. No	Members of URC
1.	Dr. G. K Prabhu, Vice Chancellor, SMU
2.	Prof (Dr) Karma Sonam Sherpa, Registrar, SMU
3.	Prof (Dr) Muralidhar V Pai, Pro-VC, SMU & Dean, SMIMS
4.	Prof (Dr) Savitha G Kini, Director, SMIT
5.	Prof (Dr) Keerthilatha M Pai, Controller of Examinations, SMU
6.	Prof (Dr) Kalpana Sharma, Director, DoR, SMU
7.	Prof (Dr) Bidita Khandelwal, Former Director, DoR, SMU.
8.	Prof (Dr) Sangeeta Jha, Associate Director (A), SMIT
9.	Prof (Dr) Sanjiba Dutta, Associate Dean(A), SMIMS
10.	Prof (Dr) Luna Adhikari, Associate Dean (Research), SMIMS
11.	Prof (Dr) Chandrasekhar Bhuiyan, Associate Director (Research), SMIT
12.	Prof (Dr) Ashish Pradhan, Prof & HOD, Dept. of Pediatrics, SMIMS

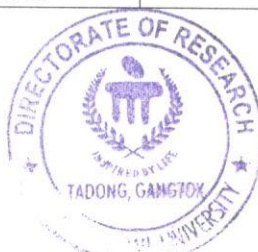




2. Composition of Institute Research Committee (IRC)

a. Composition of Institute Research Committee (IRC)/SMIT

Sl.No	Present Members	Position in Committee	Tenure
1.	Dr. Savitha G Kini, Director, SMIT	Chairman	Ex- Office
2.	Prof. (Dr.) Chandrashekhar Bhuiyan, Associate Director (Research)	Member Secretary	Ex- Office
3.	Prof. (Dr.) Sangeeta Jha, Associate Director (Academics)	Asst. Member Secretary	Ex- Office
4.	Prof. (Dr.) Samerjeet Borah, HOD, CA Dept.	Member	Oct 15, 2025 to Oct 14, 2028
5.	Prof. (Dr.) G.C. Mishra, HOD, Physics Dept.	Member	Oct 15, 2025 to Oct 14, 2028
6.	Prof. (Dr.) Biswaraj Sen, HOD, IT Dept.	Member	Oct 15, 2025 to Oct 14, 2028
7.	Dr. Bikash Sharma, HOD, ECE Dept.	Member	Oct 15, 2025 to Oct 14, 2028
8.	Dr. Biswajit Deb, Mathematics Dept.	Member	Oct 15, 2025 to Oct 14, 2028
9.	Dr. Om Prakash Singh, HOD AI&DS Dept.	Member	Oct 15, 2025 to Oct 14, 2028
10.	Prof. Somenath Chatterjee HOD, CMSNT	Member	Oct 15, 2025 to Oct 14, 2028
11.	Dr. Dhruva Kumar, Department of ME	Member	Oct 15, 2025 to Oct 14, 2028
12.	Dr Sarmat Mukherjee, Department of Mgt. Studies	Member	Oct 15, 2025 to Oct 14, 2028





b. Composition of Institute Research Committee (IRC)/SMIMS

Sl No.	Present Members	Position in Committee	Tenure
1.	Dr. Muralidhar V Pai, Dean, SMIMS	Chairperson	Ex- Officio
2.	Dr. Luna Adhikari Associate Dean- Research	Member Secretary	Ex- Officio
3.	Dr. Dhruva Kumar Sharma Asst. Prof. Pharmacology	Asst. Member Secretary	Ex- Officio
4.	Dr. Nikita Joshi Sonowal, Principal, SMCPT	Member	Oct 15, 2025 to Oct 14, 2028
5.	Dr. Mohonish N Chettri, Prof, HoD Dept. of ENT	Member	Oct 15, 2025 to Oct 14, 2028
6.	Dr. Ashish Pradhan, Professor & Head Deptt. of Paediatrics	Member	Oct 15, 2025 to Oct 14, 2028
7.	Dr. Polly Lama, Professor, Anatomy	Member	Oct 15, 2025 to Oct 14, 2028
8.	Dr. Harshavardhan Sampath, Associate Prof. Psychiatry	Member	Oct 15, 2025 to Oct 14, 2028
9.	Dr. Geeta Soohinda, Associate Prof. Psychiatry,	Member	Oct 15, 2025 to Oct 14, 2028
10.	Dr. Barkha Devi, Associate Professor, SMCON	Member	Oct 15, 2025 to Oct 14, 2028
11.	Dr. Shraddha Deokota, Assistant Professor Dept. of Community Medicine	Member	Oct 15, 2025 to Oct 14, 2028
12.	Dr Pawan Kumar Yadav, Lecturer, Dept of Community Medicine	Member	Oct 15, 2025 to Oct 14, 2028





3. Composition of Departmental DRC / RAC

3 (a) Department Research Committee (DRC)

Sl. No.	Members	Position in Committee
1.	Head of the Department as the	Chairperson
2.	Department Research Coordinator	Member Secretary
3.	Minimum of two senior faculty members of the Department	Tenured: From Registration till the submission of the Thesis by the Scholar
4.	Minimum of two faculty members of other Departments	Tenured: From Registration till the submission of the Thesis by the Scholar
5.	All research Supervisor / Co-Supervisor(s) as special invitees.	Tenured: From Registration till the submission of the Thesis by the Scholar

3 (b) General Composition of Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

As per the *UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for the Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022* and the Sikkim Manipal University (SMU) Ph.D. Regulations, the following table outlines the general composition of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) constituted for each Ph.D. scholar at the Department level to ensure compliance with UGC norms while maintaining additional academic rigor through inclusion of subject experts from within and outside the department.

Sl. No.	Designation / Position	Status in Committee	Remarks / Role Description
1	Head of the Department (HoD)	Chairperson (Ex-officio)	Chairs all RAC meetings; oversees adherence to departmental and UGC research norms; ensures implementation of





			recommendations and submission of progress reports to DRC/IRC.
2	Ph.D. Supervisor	Co-Chair & Secretary (Ex-officio)	Acts as Member Secretary; convenes meetings, maintains minutes and progress reports; submits updates to the DRC.
3	Co-Supervisor (if any)	Member (Ex-officio)	Provides additional supervision; participates in RAC meetings and supports interdisciplinary guidance.
4	Member 1 – Subject Expert (Internal)	Member	Faculty from the same department or school with relevant expertise provides academic input and evaluates research direction.
5	Member 2 – Subject Expert (External / Interdisciplinary)	Member	Faculty or researcher from another department or institute within or outside SMU, with relevant or allied specialization.
6	Member 3 – Additional Expert (Optional)	Member (Optional)	May be co-opted based on research topic or interdisciplinary requirement, subject to approval by the DRC/HoD.



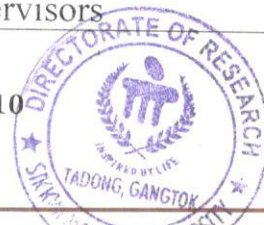


Notes:

1. The RAC shall be constituted for each Ph.D. scholar immediately after provisional registration, in line with UGC Regulation 10.2 (2022).
2. The Supervisor shall act as the Convener/Member Secretary and maintain records of RAC meetings.
3. The RAC shall meet at least twice a year to assess progress and recommend continuation or modification of research work.
4. Recommendations of the RAC shall be recorded and forwarded to the Department Research Committee (DRC) for review.
5. Any change in Supervisor or Co-supervisor shall automatically update the RAC composition accordingly.
6. The RAC members of the department of IT, SMIT, SMU is presented in this section as a sample document.

RAC (Research Advisory Committee): IT Department, SMIT

Name	Supervisor(S)	Research Advisory Committee (RAC)
Vaibhav Yadav 202210014	Dr. Barnali Dey, (Co-Chair & Member Secy-Ex-officio) Dr Saumya Das, Brainware, (Ex-office) Dr Udayan Baruah BSSRU, ASSAM (Ex-office)	Dr Biswaraj Sen (HOD-IT), (Chairman & Ex Officio) Dr Barnali Dey (Co- Chair & Member Secy-Ex-officio) Dr Palash Ghosal (Tenured: From Registration till the submission of the Thesis by the Scholar) Dr Samarjeet Borah (External) (Tenured: From Registration till the submission of the Thesis by the Scholar) Dr OP Singh (External) (Tenured: From Registration till the submission of the Thesis by the Scholar) Dr Moumi Pandit (R&D Representative) (Tenured: From Registration till the submission of the Thesis by the Scholar) Supervisors

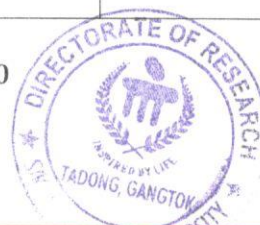




Kishor Chettri 202310033	Dr. Palash Ghosal, (Co- Chair & Member Secy-Ex-officio) Dr. Biswaraj Sen, (Chairman & Ex Officio) Dr. Rupert Anand, Yumlembam, (Ex-office) College of Horticulture, CAEPHT, Sikkim	Dr Biswaraj Sen (HOD-IT), (Chairman & Ex Officio) Dr Palash Ghosal, (Co- Chair & Member Secy-Ex-officio) Dr Barnali Dey (Tenured: From Registration till the submission of the Thesis by the Scholar) Dr Samarjeet Borah (External) (Tenured: From Registration till the submission of the Thesis by the Scholar) Dr Kalpana Sharma (External) (Tenured: From Registration till the submission of the Thesis by the Scholar) Dr Santanu Gupta (External) (Tenured: From Registration till the submission of the Thesis by the Scholar) Dr Moumi Pandit (R&D Representative) Supervisors
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4. Composition of Institutional Ethics committee (IEC):

Sl. No	Member Present	Position in Committee
1.	Dr. Bisu Singh, Asst Professor, Zoology, Sikkim University	Chairman
2.	Dr. Rubi Dey, Professor, Physiology, SMIMS	Member Secretary
3.	Dr. Karma G Dolma, Assoc. Prof, Microbiology, SMIMS	Scientific Member/ Asst Member Secretary
4.	Dr. Parvati Nandy, Prof. & Head, Medicine, SMIMS	Clinician
5.	Dr. Karma Doma Bhutia, Consultant Microbiologist New STNM Multispecialty Hospital, Sikkim.	Medical Scientist
6.	Dr. Supratim Dutta, Prof & HOD, Pharmacology, SMIMS	Medical Scientist





7.	Dr. Samrat Singh Bhandari, Prof, Psychiatry, SMIMS	Clinician
8.	Mr. Abhimanyu Nepal, Sikkim Divyang Sahayata Samit	Social Scientist
9.	Dr. Shankar Swarup Das, Assistant professor (SG), FMPE Department, CAEPHT (Central Agricultural University), Ranipool, Sikkim	Member
10.	Prof. Satyananda Panda, Head, Dept. of Psychology, Director, FYUG-NEP 2020 (SU), Sikkim University,	Member
11.	Miss Parvin Manger, Advocate, High Court of Sikkim	Legal Expert
12.	Mrs. Manorama Rawat, Teacher, Baha'i Senior Secondary School Saramsa, Sikkim	Lay Person
13.	Mrs. Sunita Sahu, Assistant Professor Harkamaya College of Education.	Lay Person
14.	Dr. Saumen Gupta, Assoc Prof, SMCPT	Member /Representative SMCPT
15.	Mrs. Reshma Tamang, Prof. SMCON	Member /Representative SMCON

Reference No. SMIMS/ ADMO/2023/159 dated 12/07/2023; signatory: Dean, SMIMS

All concerned are requested to take note of the above equivalence for reference, implementation, and submission to the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Sd/-

Director
Directorate of Research
Sikkim Manipal University, Gangtok

