

Research Promoting Guidelines for the College of Government, Rangsit University, Thailand

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Abstract

Considering that researches are perceived as the main mission for every universities in Thailand, a key performance indicator representing performance quality of relevant agencies, as well as an assessment factor for world leading university ranking programmes. None the less, there are no clear guidelines set by the College of Government, Rangsit University with respect to the internal practices towards the promotion of research activities. Accordingly, this study aims to (i) examine all researches context and research promotion policy found within the College of Government, Rangsit University; (ii) conduct a strength-weakness analysis; (iii) analyse experiences and lessons learned of other institutes; and lastly; (iv) provide applicable recommendations, based on literature reviews of both primary and secondary materials, for the College. From the research findings, it is discovered that (i) supports given by the University have, in general, led to a higher number of research publications, however, more could still be achieved should they had utilised the support programme more effectively; (ii) despite the College's research support programme including its fostering environment and favourable organization culture, a lack of research initiatives as well as limited number of competent staffs are essentially main challenges that restrict possible research potentials; (iii) the challenges faced by either the College or Rangsit University are also present amongst other institutions, of which they have laid down relevant guidelines aiming to promote research publications; (iv) there are three steps that the College could undergo, as an ad hoc response, the College should provide greater research incentives and more supporting environment for its academics, followed by creating appealing conditions to encourage publications and disseminations, and lastly as an ultimate long run solution, practical strategy and systematic regimes should be put in place.

Keywords: research promoting, College of Government Rangsit University, world university rankings

1. Research Importance

As "research" is considered one of the four main missions (Note 1) set across all universities in Thailand, a key performance indicator upon assessing education quality by relevant authorities, for example, the Office of the Higher Education Commission (OHEC) and the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (Public Organisation) (ONESQA), as well as an attributing factor taken into account when conducting world university rankings by many leading organizations such as Times Higher Education World University Rankings (2014), of which 60% weight is given to research factor. To be more specific, 30 per cent weight is derived from acknowledgements and revenues received from research publications, another 30 per cent weight is given to research uses as references, and around 7.5 per cent weight is comprised of factors concerning overall image perceived by the public worldwide including aspects of academic staff, students, and researches. Evidently, it can be said that almost 2 out of 3 (Note 2) assessment criteria rest upon the element of research, therefore, this can be generally assumed that universities that do not reach the requirement of having a minimum of 200 research publications over the course of 5 consecutive years would then automatically be disqualified from entering Times Higher Education World University Rankings. This is relatively similar to practices carried out by QS World University Rankings (2014) where great emphasis has also been given to research factor by