



Office of the Vice President for Research
Research Sector



2014

Kuwait University



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Research Sector
2014*



Research Chair

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Research Sector

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Research Chair

Introduction

The conceptual basis for the establishment of Research Chair as a new program, is driven by the need for enhancing the domain of scientific research at Kuwait University, and benefitting from new knowledge and outputs of scientific, social and human value. Visualized as a capacity building endeavor, the program aims at strengthening the foundations of research at Kuwait University, through faculties increased predilection to high quality research to achieve distinguished outputs. Given this ultimate purpose, RS efforts are directed at continuous development of scientific research as a sustained effort towards achieving scientific distinction, so that KU assumes international recognition and status among world class universities.

Viewed in global context, ‘Research Chair’ is a widely prevalent idea, with thousands of ‘Research Chairs’ existing in United States and Canada, and more than 50 in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Many US and international universities invariably announce availability of ‘Research Chairs’ backed

by attractive offers, to entice distinguished scientific minds to develop their research strengths, and expedite the process of development towards attaining scientific excellence. RS proposed program of establishing 'Research Chair' at Kuwait University is a conscious step in this direction, to elevate institutional scientific capacity and potential towards attaining global recognition, and to place KU among the league of elite, world-class universities.

1. Objectives

The position of 'Research Chair' at KU is aimed at:

- A. Enhancing *basic, applied* and *experimental* research in all specializations and disciplinary streams.
- B. Energizing a steady and sustained movement of scientific research across faculties towards creating a congenial environment for scientific *innovation, creativity* and *discovery*.
- C. Attracting outstanding *research expertise* from distinguished, and world renowned universities.

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- D. Expanding the sphere of *linkages, connectivity* and *communication* between KU and world class universities.
- E. Stimulating faculties increased interest in pursuing scientific research through the provision of such attributes as *resource support* and *incentives*.
- F. Developing *researchers* and *graduate students* *contact* with international experts, to benefit from diverse expertise and knowledge.
- G. Developing *General Facility* projects through the provision of 'Research Chair' for each project.
- H. Overseeing scientific exposure of KU research *policy, programs, activity* and accomplishments to boost KU's international recognition and visibility.
- I. Coordinating with diverse *research sectors*, beyond KU, such as KFAS, to accomplish the goals and objectives of 'Research Chair', and ensuring the program's successful establishment.
- J. Elevating KU's international performance *ranking*.

2. Conditions of Employment

A prospective candidate for 'Research Chair':

- A. Should be well-reputed, and possess sound health to fulfill his professional responsibilities.
- B. Should be a full professor from accredited universities, approved for Kuwait University scholarship.
- C. Should have a remarkable track record of scientific research, with published research in international journals of impact factor, as per the Journal Citation Ranking (JCR) ratings.

3. Nomination Criteria

- A. A potential candidate for the position of 'Research Chair' is nominated by the Departmental Scientific Council.
- B. Nomination is allowed to be made by Faculty Vice Dean for Research (VDR), or anyone on his behalf, on General Faculty projects, with the condition that the nominee presents a work plan and suggestions for research projects.

- C. A candidate's nomination should have the Faculty Council's approval.

4. Employment Procedures

- A. The concerned Faculty Dean forwards the nominee's application to the Vice President for Research (VPR).
- B. RS Implementation Committee examines applications of all nominees to ensure adherence to the set conditions and criteria, and shortlists the selected candidates, based on institutional research priorities.
- C. The shortlisted candidates are forwarded to KU President for requisite review and approval, following which the approved applicants are transferred to Administrative Affairs for issuing the employment decree by the Secretary General.

5. Employment Duration

- A. A 'Research Chair' appointee starts his responsibilities from the beginning of the academic year. The appointment is for a maximum period of two years, renew-

able for a third year only, based on need and evaluation of the appointee's performance by RS Implementation Committee.

- B. The nomination and application for 'Research Chair' are accepted from faculties from January 1st of each year.

6. Financial Package

- A. The holders of 'Research Chair' are treated at par with Faculty Members as regards entitlement to salary, accommodation and travel tickets.
- B. The package includes 30 days paid annual leave.

7. General Regulations

- A. A total of 10 positions of Research Chair are available during each academic year. This number is subject to reformation by the Funding Committee, if necessary.
- B. It is not permissible to assign teaching responsibility to the holder of 'Research Chair'.

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- C. Kuwait University regulations are applicable to 'Research Chair' appointees concerning the matters not specified above.

