



Office of the Directorate of Research

Gangtok – 737102, Sikkim

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

Date: 30.10.2025

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.





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 |

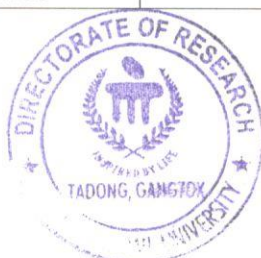




2. Composition of Institute Research Committee (IRC)

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 |





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| | | | 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 |





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|-----------------------------|--|---|
| 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 |
|-----------------------------|--|---|

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 |





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|-----|---|------------------------------|
| 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
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Sikkim Manipal University, Gangtok

