



"Gollis University Empowers its Students as Professional Leaders Committed to Making a Positive Difference"

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GOLLIS UNIVERSITY- HARGEISA

Non Profit, Private University recognized by the MOE&HE

GOLLIS UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INSTITUTE (GURI)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In this concept document, Gollis University- Hargeisa is proposing the establishment of a research institute; Gollis University Research Institute, which is intended for the purpose of running of research programs and research related activities.

This concept document provides a profile of Gollis University and reviews the concept of research, and our needs for research and the rationale for establishing a research institute. It further reviews the nature and operations of the proposed Gollis University Research Institute and its objectives.

The document also reviews the various activities envisaged for the proposed institute. These include Gollis University based academic research programs, external research in fifteen thematic clusters, basic research, research in development and policy, research publications and e-documentation, policy oriented research, evidence-based policy formulation, research clearinghouse in the region and research forums. The benefits expected from the establishment of the institute are also reviewed.

1.0. PREAMBLE

This concept document exemplifies the need for the development of a research institute to correspond to the need to expand our frontiers of knowledge in Somaliland. The proposed Institute can enhance capacity of researchers by imparting new knowledge, skills, work ethics and professionalism in the research profession, provide a forum for research and eventually contribute to the overall development of Somaliland.

The Institute will create a forum for the exchange and critical appraisal of contemporary, fundamental and applied research in the region on various issues, as well as a mechanism for policy makers and practitioners to feed into and positively influence development in various spheres. It is intended that the institute will also nurture young research scientists in the region.

5.0. BENEFITS FROM PROPOSED GOLLIS UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The following are the expected benefits from the proposed Gollis University Research Institute.

- a) The institute will enhance capacity-building, information exchange, the promotion of cooperation in research and training in the region.
- b) It will provide professional placements for Gollis university faculty members, visiting faculty, students who are degree candidates, doctoral research students, postdoctoral fellows and independent scholars.
- c) The institute will solicit for staff development positions, bursaries, research studentships, postdoctoral scholarships for Gollis University students and faculty.
- d) Its programs will lead to personal and academic growth and development of Gollis University students and faculty.
- e) It will provide an academic linkage between the departments/faculties of Gollis University, other universities, the community, industry and other stake holders.
- f) It will bridge the major gaps existing between the needs of practitioners and researchers
- g) The Institute will enhance the Gollis University vs Somaliland community interphase and benefit the government of Somaliland through policy formulation particularly in its ministries and agencies
- h) The institute will enhance research collaboration among key universities in the region on specific issues academic and research issues.

6.0. CONCLUSION

Research is fundamentally a very resourceful enterprise, with the most productive aspect being the ability to formulate challenging and interesting problems and ultimately striving to discover viable solutions. We have to talk about our research needs in a way that stimulates unlimited possibilities. We must see ways to expand our limits and explore new frontiers of knowledge. There is no doubt that there are many areas of our field were left unexplored through research questions more so in our region.

1.1. Profile of Gollis University.

Gollis University is one of the leading universities in the region. It was founded in 2004 as a non-profit institution, opened to students for enrollment in 2005, and was upgraded to university status in 2006. The University has its main campus in Hargeisa, the capital of Somaliland, which serves the entire Hargeisa and outlying regions, and satellite campuses in Buroa and Berebera. Gollis University is presently running a variety of academic programs through its engineering, medical & allied sciences, agriculture, management science, information technology, law & sharia, criminal justice, and education faculties. In addition to these existing faculties, a new faculty of a behavioral & social sciences has been established.

The mission of Gollis University is "to empower students as leaders through professionally oriented higher education programs addressing the needs of the country and enhancing the employability of its graduates". To achieve this, Gollis University has developed a student-centered intellectual environment that supports academic inquiry, cultural and global awareness, civic responsibility, moral growth, and leadership development. Gollis University is thus committed to excellence and fosters an environment that enables students acquire lifelong intellectual growth as well as fulfilling their career aspirations.

Gollis University has realized its obligations to the Somaliland community by helping the Government of Somaliland achieve some of its national development priorities in various fields among them education, law and order, engineering technology (telecommunication, low-cost housing and road construction etc), skill developments, economic growth, and community infrastructure. The efficacy of this university vs community interphase is evident in a number of areas. Its engineering programs are preparing students to contribute to the expansion of knowledge to address regional, national, and local needs in telecommunication, civil, structural, geotechnical, environmental and water resources. Its management and information technology programs address the needs of our business community in the changing world of entrepreneurship and informational technology. Programs in agriculture are oriented towards resolving the agricultural need of Somaliland with specific focus on animal husbandry and arid lands farming. Its behavioral and social programs are intended to address the various intra and inter personal issue and the attendant social-cultural issues in the region. Their overall output is enhancement of personal growth and development and the capacity to understand the various social issues and provide the impetus for intervention in the various psych-social problems such as conflicts, crime, gender violence etc. Similarly its medical and related health sciences programs are addressing the capacity development gaps in the health care fields. In all Gollis university programs aspire to serve the republic of Somaliland by providing training and education that will benefit the planning,

design, construction and maintenance of the public and private infrastructure and the provision of services necessary for national development.

In an effort to internationalize its programs and enhance the learning opportunities available to its faculty and students Gollis University has established links with globally recognized and accredited higher education institutions. These include; Cambridge University (UK), Royal institute of technology (Sweden), Lugansk Agrarian National University (Ukraine), and regional institutions such as Makelle University, University of Nairobi, Kenyatta University and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology. In the field of Medicine and engineering, Gollis University has established links with a consortium of universities in China, Philippines and Central America.

1.2. What is research?

What do we mean by "research"? In the earlier days research was defined as "an original contribution to knowledge" and was mostly in the context of the world of scholarship with the purpose of deepening understanding within the academic disciplines. It had little linkage to contributions to the field of practice. For example; a researcher studying conflicts in Africa at that time was more concerned about scholarship - not about application of the resulting knowledge into the practice of conflict management and resolution. This has however now changed and there is now a very close interrelationship between the academic work of the conflict analysis, the practical work of conflict management and resolution and the development of policy on the same.

Research can be defined as "an enquiry which is soundly based in terms of its methodology and which adds something of value to our knowledge base or to our professional practice or to our policy development".

There are five types of research;

- a) Research in academic environments which contributes to our knowledge base.
- b) Research carried out by the practitioner researcher and being of value in the practitioner's working environment.
- c) Research which contributes to service innovation and service development.
- d) Research linked to evidence-based policymaking. This is the latest and most prevalent research type conducted to inform policymaking
- e) Some of consultancy, commentary and developmental activities may in a very broad perspective be included under the "umbrella" of research.

1.3. Why Do We Need Research?

4.4. Research in Development and Policy

Gollis University Research Institute will be involved in the research focused on service innovation, service development and evidence-based policymaking

4.5. Research Publications and E-documentation

Gollis University Research Institute will promote, publish and ensure access to research based information and data that will help policy makers and other key stakeholders in developing various policies and programs. The Institute will also provide students, young researchers and interested people in the region with access to contemporary theoretical discourse, methodological approaches in various issues and their applications in the region. It will also develop educational books, videos, and other media using simple, easy to understand language to teach methods and principles for designing and disseminating research.

4.6. Policy-Oriented Research

Gollis University Research Institute may collaborate with researchers and competent NGOs to undertake policy-oriented research in areas where there are proven gaps and provide information necessary for the development of responsive evidence-based policies and programs. Issues to be addressed will be identified in consultation with relevant partners including Somaliland government ministries, NGOs, other academic institutions and stake holders.

4.7. Evidence-Based Policy Formulation

The institute will contribute to strengthening the linkages between policies and program formulated in various issues. It will provide sector wise and regional wise mechanisms linking research to policy formulation and bringing together knowledge and experiences from the various sectors and countries of the region so as to draw lessons and identify areas of common action and policy formulation.

4.8. Research Clearinghouse in the Region.

The Institute will collect, house, and disseminate various research data and documentation. It will create databanks of researches conducted various thematic areas in Gollis University and in the region.

4.9. Research Forum

- f) To advance, promote, and support interdisciplinary research.
- g) To provide a forum for scholarly discourse for students, faculty and community

4.0. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

4.1. University based Academic Research Programs

Gollis University Research Institutewill coordinate and oversee research activities in all the faculties of Gollis University. This includes research studies conducted by graduating students in the various faculties.

4.2. External Research:

The Gollis University Research Institutewill be involved in external research activities falling under the following fifteen thematic clusters:

1. Education, curriculum development and delivery
2. Healthcare, nutrition & populationissues
3. Macroeconomics, entrepreneurship and growth
4. Social Protection and community development
5. Historical, social cultural, religious and geo-political issues
6. Agriculture & Rural Development
7. Environment and climate change
8. Regional Integration
9. Renewable energy
10. Millennium Development Goals
11. Industrialization, scientific and technological innovations
12. Gender, Women, youth and Children issues
13. Conflict management and resolution
14. Governaceand decentralization
15. Public Safety, security, Law and Order

The above clusters are subject to review and may for now be taken as pointers to the focus of GURIin regard to its external research component.

4.3. Basic Research Projects

These will include

1. Base line surveys
2. Feasibility studies
3. Impact /Terminal assessments
4. Opinion surveys etc

There are four basic reasons why we need research. These include the needs to; increase our knowledge and understanding through research-based teaching, provide the evidence to reinforce and inform policy and decision-making, advance professional practice and strengthen service development and, generate and test new ideas which can then lead to service innovation, improvement and development.

A lot of what we do in our daily lives is based on common sense, what we have learnt from others or what we have learnt through personal experience or observation. Common sense is however not the best approach and sometimes there are conflicting theories about what is best or what works in a particular situations. Moreover, what works in one situation or for one condition might be ineffective or even dangerous in another, or when combined with other measures. Common sense approaches may overlook the impact of external factors which may contribute to what is observed. In all fields there are gaps in knowledge and theories. This underscores the need for research.

Various professional and practitioners cannot afford to take risks in most of their endeavors and thus need research to first prove that solutions are safe and effective. Carefully organized and controlled research enables researchers to test and compare different theories and approaches, explore different methods and learn from other people's experience. It also enables them to rule out or at least consider external factors which might influence their results.

Further this is perspective there are many of our today's cutting-edge innovations and discoveries that are a result of creative collaborations between university researchers and external industry or government organizations. Research may therefore provide an ideal environment for interdisciplinary academic discourse and research and enable researchers to focus on technologies critical to the advancement of society.

A review of the state of research in Somaliland and perhaps in most of the African countries is indicative of the urgent need for establishment of research forums through which our academicians can contribute to nation building and development. It has been argued elsewhere that our regions are one big field research laboratory in which the world of academia can test their theories on prevailing complex phenomena. This perhaps explains why researchers in the developed world have a strong affinity for research projects in the region.

It is therefore imperative that our local institutions should step in to remedy this situation by establishing home grown research institutes and developing viable research programs/projects for Somaliland and the region. The initiative by Gollis University is

therefore very timely and is destined to have a positive impact in the development of academic scholarship and research based policy in the region.

1.4. What is a research Institute?

A university research institute is basically defined a multidisciplinary center that is engaged in research activities that may involve more than one college/faculty and is subject to the direct administrative supervision of the University President or a designee. The research institute is established to advance, promote, and support research, especially interdisciplinary research, including outreach activities and technology transfers to the private sector as well as informing policy to the public sector.

A research institute may at times develop and offer interdisciplinary taught programs, as long as the program meets the general requirements established for other university degree programs and has the necessary authority for establishing such a taught program with a requirement that such programs be cross listed in their respective parent faculty/college. The institute may also develop and conduct programs servicing academic disciplines or professions, government agencies, businesses enterprises, public and private institutions, and the community.

2.0. PROPOSED GOLLIS UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

In an attempt to bring Somaliland's research and education and sectors into line with world leaders, Gollis University is planning to establish and run a new type of institution in Somaliland: the Gollis University Research Institute (GURI). This will involve creations of partnership with other universities and associated international research institutes, Somaliland community, and stake holders. Gollis University Research Institute will be responsible for the translation of advances in the academic into research into practice. The proposed institute will be hosted in the Gollis University-Hargeisa Campus and may also develop smaller affiliated satellite centers in the other Gollis University campuses and associate institutions in the region.

The Institute will be run by an executive officer who will be a Director, appointed by the university. The Director will report administratively to the University Governing Council/President of the university. The director will work with a Gollis University Research Steering Committee with members drawn from the various faculties/departments, university administration, and stake holders. This committee will be charged with the development of the Institute policies. The staff of the institute will include the research faculty, other faculty members and staff from university

departments, research scientists, research associates and assistants, clerical/technical support, and such other personnel as may be needed to carry out the institute's mission. The primary responsibility of the staff in the institute shall be to conduct basic and applied research in select areas, to obtain extramural funding in support of the research, and to develop commercially significant products, services and processes.

In order to support the Institutes activities, Gollis University will provide funding as per its development planning and will solicit grants from the Somaliland government and donor partners. The Institute may receive contributions from international institutions of higher learning, NGOs and private institutions particularly those engaged in research, policy development and documentation, as well as specific programs. Funding may also originate from research grants to faculty members with research interests in specific fields. GURI will also undertake commissioned research projects for governmental, international and local non-governmental agencies, institutions and business enterprises.

Within the university set up, Gollis University Research Institute will encourage the development of academic programs and will be involved in the teaching of research courses. This will however respect the dictum that teaching is solely the responsibility of academic departments and that all courses and degree granting programs must be integrated into and administered through the existing departmental/faculty structures. It will supervise and oversee the research undertaken in all the faculties of the university and where necessary support the students and faculty.

3.0. OBJECTIVES OF PROPOSED GOLLIS UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The main objective of the proposed Gollis University Research Institute is to provide various research services for the University and Somaliland region.

3.1 Specific Objectives

- a) To train researchers in various fields disciplines.
- b) To provide a forum for the application of academic knowledge in researching for solutions to various community problems in Somaliland.
- c) To establish a pool of research scientists ready to enhance professionalism by researching on the major social-cultural, geopolitical, environmental and economic issues in reference to the development of Somaliland.
- d) Understand the role of knowledge of research in the various Gollis University academic programs including; law, education, criminal justice, management, IT, behavioral and social sciences, engineering technology and medicine.
- e) To enhance the research activities of our faculty and students, and which will contribute to the scholarly environment of the Gollis University.