VERŻJONI ELETTRONIKA

L.N. 159 of 2015

EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

STATUTE FOR THE CENTRE FOR MOLECULAR MEDICINE AND BIOBANKING

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred upon him by articles 74(5) and 75(6) of the Education Act, the Chancellor of the University of Malta has promulgated the following Statute made by the Council of the University of Malta in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by articles 72(h), 75(2) and 77(c) of the said Act:

Citation

1. This statute may be cited as the Statute for the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Biobanking.

Interpretation

2. In this Statute, unless the context otherwise requires:

"the Board" shall mean the Board of the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Biobanking; and

"the Centre" shall mean the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Biobanking.

Establishment

3. The Centre for Molecular Medicine and Biobanking is hereby established as an institution within the University of Malta.

Objectives and Functions

4. The aims of the Centre shall be:

(a) to conduct academic programmes in the discipline of Molecular Medicine and BioBanking;

(b) to store human and other biological samples and associated data with suitable informed consent and ethical approval according to best practices;

(c) to provide continuous education both at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels within the scope of the Centre subject to the Statutes, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the University;

(d) to provide advanced molecular diagnostic services in the health and related sectors;

VERŻJONI ELETTRONIKA

(e) to work alongside/ collaborate with European and international institutions with the aim to enhance the profile of the Centre within the regional, European and international research area, in areas related to biobanking and biomolecular resources;

(f) to engage in knowledge transfer and awareness raising initiatives on biobanking and biomolecular resources with companies, organisations and other institutions outside the University to promote best-practice (e.g. to promote a more efficient use of biomolecular resources; to promote better sample and data sharing);

(g) to disseminate acquired knowledge through online media, publications, seminars, conferences and teaching programmes; and

(h) to represent the University of Malta as the BBMRI.MT node within the structure of the BioBanking and BioMolecular Research Infrastructure of the European Union.

Governance

5. The Centre shall be governed by a Board that shall consist of the following:

(i) Chairman: Rector or his delegate;
(ii) Vice-Chairman: Director of the Centre;
(iii) up to two persons appointed by the Council of the University;
(iv) a person appointed by the Senate of the University;
(v) up to two persons nominated by the Ministry of Health and approved by Council of the University;
(vi) an academic from the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery;
(vii) an academic from the Faculty of Health Sciences;
(viii) an academic from the Faculty of Science;
(ix) up to two representatives of the students registered within the Centre;
(x) up to two representatives of academic staff lecturing or conducting research within the Centre; and
(xi) up to five scholars of repute to be recommended by the Board and approved by Senate of the University.

The Registrar or his delegate shall act as Secretary to the Board.

6. All members of the Board, other than those appointed *ex officio,* the two representatives of the academic staff and the two representatives of the students shall be appointed for a period of one year, renewable for up to four years. A retiring member will be eligible for re-appointment.

7. The functions of the Board shall be:

(a) to govern the affairs of the Centre, subject to the provisions of these statutes and of such regulations, policies or directions as may from time to time be approved by the Council and the Senate;

VERŻJONI ELETTRONIKA

(b) to decide the policy of the Centre, to supervise its activities and administration, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Board may:

(i) approve business plans and annual estimates of revenue and expenditure of the Centre for consideration and approval by the Council;

(ii) with the written concurrence of the Rector enter into agreements with third parties for funding of the Centre or of particular activities;

(iii) publish an annual report;

(iv) enrol the Centre in associations or institutions sharing similar aims and interests;

(v) propose Regulations and Bye-Laws to the Senate;

(vi) require from staff members of the Centre the production of reports on academic matters, including the curricula of courses of study, qualifications for admission to courses, examinations and certificates of attendance or qualification;

(vii) recommend to the Council the creation or abolition of academic and non-academic posts in the Centre;

(viii) propose for approval to the Senate, Board of Studies and Boards of Examiners for undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

Appointment of Director and Staff

9. The Centre shall have a Director and Staff:

(a) the Director of the Centre shall be appointed according to the procedure for the appointment of Directors of Institutes and Centres as approved by the Council of the University, for a duration of one year, with the possibility of renewal annually subject to established performance criteria, the needs of the Centre and the needs of the University, for a total period not exceeding four (4) years; and

(b) the staff of the Centre shall be appointed by the University according to the usual practice.

Duties of the Director

10. The duties of the Director/Vice-Chairman of the Centre shall include:

(a) promoting the development and implementation of the academic programmes of the Centre;

(b) compiling and submitting to the Registrar of the University by not later than the end of December of each academic year, an updated comprehensive prospectus of the content;

VERŻJONI ELETTRONIKA

(c) descriptions of all current and projected study-units offered by members of the Centre as per guidelines established by the Programme Validation Committee;

(d) ensuring that the study-units offered by the staff members of the Centre are delivered in accordance with the advertised programme of studies; the Director must ensure that lecturing staff under his remit deliver all lectures, seminars, tutorials and laboratory sessions assigned to them respectively, at the time and venue advertised in the official timetable, and that any deviations thereof are formally registered, and the students duly notified in good time;

(e) delivering and implementing the strategic plan of the Centre under the guidance of the Board;

(f) administering the Centre in full consultation with the members; monitoring and approving requests for leave of absence of members of the Centre; maintaining records of all leave taken by members and to pass on these records to the Director of Human Resources Management and Development upon request;

(g) promoting students' academic and personal welfare, providing first-line support to students with any difficulties they may encounter during their studies related to the activities of the Centre;

(g) monitoring the running of examinations at the Centre and ensuring that all assessment and examination results are submitted to the Registrar by not later than the end of March, July and September, provided that the results are submitted to the respective Chairman of the Board of Examiners within following deadlines:

- January session – by the end of the third week of March;
- May/June session – final year results by not later than two working days prior the final year degree classification board but in any case not later than end of the third week of July, other results as early as possible but not later than the end of the third week of July;
- September session – by the end of the third week of September.

(h) encouraging and facilitating co-operation with other universities and other institutions;

(i) chairing meetings of the Board in the absence and with the permission of the Chairman;

(j) ensuring and facilitating the further development and training of academic and non-academic staff;

(k) participating at any meeting of the University congruent with the post;

(l) representing the Centre during official functions of the University;

VERŻJONI ELETTRONIKA

(m) compiling and submitting to the Secretary of the University by the end of September of each academic year, an annual report outlining the activities of the Centre for the outgoing year, which should include, amongst others, information that may be requested by the Secretary: a comprehensive list of recent publications of all members of the Centre; a synopsis of all projects involving members of the Centre which are wholly or partially externally funded; a list of all conferences/seminars/meetings attended abroad by members of the Centre during term time; and an outline of the Centre's collaboration with third parties including local industry, Government or civil society at large;

(n) compiling and submitting to the Director of Finance of the University by not later than end of May of each academic year budgetary estimates for the following year including a manpower plan for the Centre, to cover the projected teaching, research and administration workload of the Centre, and based on the projected workload for each Resident Academic member of staff of the Centre and Visiting Teaching Staff;

(o) monitoring the performance of the non-academic staff attached to the Centre;

(p) authorising the Centre's procurement of equipment; ensuring that the resources assigned to the Centre – whether human or other – are utilized fully and efficiently; and

(q) performing other duties which may be assigned by the University from time to time.

11. The Director moreover:

(a) is to report directly to the Chairman of the Board governing the Centre and shall collaborate with all senior administrative officers of the University;

(b) shall normally be a Resident Academic engaged with the University on a full-time basis for the duration of his tenure as Director of the Centre. If the Centre is engaged in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programmes of study, then the Director must be engaged with the University as a Resident Academic on a full-time basis;

(c) should not be engaged in any other activity outside the University which may be in conflict with, or distract him from, his duties at the University;

(d) is expected to be present on campus or any designated University of Malta site at least during normal office hours from Monday to Friday throughout the year subject to the exigencies of an academic in accordance with the University's practices and needs and subject to normal leave entitlement and public holidays as provided for at law; should his absence be necessary and justified he must ensure that he is contactable through the secretarial staff of the Centre;

VERŻJONI ELETTRONIKA

(e) shall not give access to any information to any third party that is not associated with the University of Malta, about any work or data that relates to tasks conducted at the University of Malta without the prior approval of the University of Malta; all work carried out within the Centre must be treated according to Maltese data protection legislation; and

(f) is to abide with the statutes, regulations, bye-laws and policies of the University of Malta, which are in force now or will become effective in the duration of his tenure.

The Treasurer

12. The Director of Finance of the University shall be the Treasurer of the Centre.

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