

Ph.D. REGULATIONS

2023



APPROVED ON: _____

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APPROVED BY _____

MEETING OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS, HELD ON _____

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University of South Asia

Ph.D. Regulations

In the exercise of powers vested in it, under Section 23 of the University of South Asia Act, 2005, the Board of Governors on the recommendations of the Board of Advanced Studies and Research and the Academic Council, has framed the following Regulations.

1) Title and Commencement

- a) These Regulations shall be called “University of South Asia Ph.D. Regulations 2023”.
- b) These shall come into force at once with immediate effect.

2) Definitions

- a) In these Regulations, unless the text or the context otherwise requires:
 - i) “University” means the University of South Asia.
 - ii) “Vice-Chancellor” means the Vice-Chancellor of the University.
 - iii) “Dean” means Chairperson of the Board of Faculty.
 - iv) “Head of the Department” means the Head of teaching department.
 - v) “Student” means a person admitted in the Ph.D. Program of the University.
 - vi) “Scholar” means a student of Ph.D. Program who has completed his Ph.D. course work and has started his research work after the approval of Research Proposal.
 - vii) “Supervisor / Co-supervisor” means a person holding Ph.D. degree in the relevant field and having capability to supervise the research and appointed under these Regulations according to the criteria prescribed by HEC.
 - viii) “Internal Examiner” means such examiner appointed under these Regulations.
 - ix) “External Examiner” means such examiner from outside the University to be appointed under these Regulations.
 - x) “BASR” means the Board of Advanced Studies and Research of the University.
 - xi) “Academic Council” means the Academic Council of the University.
 - xii) “Faculty” means the Faculty in which a student of Ph.D. is registered.
 - xiii) “FRAC” means the Faculty Research Advisory Committee, constituted under these Regulations.
 - xiv) “CEC” means Comprehensive Examination Committee constituted under these Regulations.
- b) The terms defined here and not defined herein shall have the meaning assigned to them in the University of South Asia, Act 2005.

3) Faculty Research Advisory Committee

The Faculty offering Ph.D. programs in its Departments shall constitute a Faculty Research Advisory Committee (FRAC) comprising of following members holding Ph.D. degree:

- a) The Dean of the Faculty (Convener)
- b) Head of Relevant Department
- c) All faculty members holding doctoral degree of the relevant field

4) Functions of FRAC

- a) To help in operations from admission to final thesis submission.
- b) To adopt a suitable criterion for admission, accept, scrutinize and evaluate the applications for shortlisting the candidates to be called for admission test/interview.
- c) To make the entry test paper (if required), conduct the test, evaluate the test papers and conduct interviews, determine the merit and recommend admissions for approval of the Dean.
- d) To permit & review presentation of research proposals (synopsis) of research scholars after successful completion of their course work.
- e) To review the research proposal, topic of research, allocation of the research supervisor/co-supervisor for the approval of BASR and periodically review the progress of the research work.
- f) To take up any other matter or issue related to PhD Program including admission, periodic assessment, supervisor/co-supervisor, research facility or faculty development etc.

5) Admission Eligibility

- a) MPhil/MS (or equivalent degree with 18 years of education) from any HEC Recognized University with minimum 3.0/ 4.0 CGPA in semester system and/or 60% in annual system.
- b) In case of foreign degree, if the CGPA/Grade is not mentioned on the transcript, the applicant must produce equivalent weightage from the parent university.
- c) The applicants holding foreign degrees shall provide equivalence degree certificate from HEC.
- d) The students having strong demonstrated pursuit for PhD degree, but their CGPA is below 3.00 (out of 4.0 in the semester system) or Second Division (in the annual system) in the most recent degree obtained, may be admitted to a PhD program fulfilling the following requirements:
 - i) Shall have studied additional courses of 9-12 CH of level 7 and have scored minimum 3.00 out of 4.00 GPA as recommended by FRAC. And
 - ii) The FRAC is satisfied that the applicant's knowledge of primary area (level 7) has sufficiently prepared him or her to undertake the course of studies of the doctoral program.
 - iii) These requirements shall be in addition to any other requirement set in this policy for admission to a PhD program
 - iv) Faculty Research Advisory Committee (FRAC) of discipline concerned may add special eligibility conditions if necessary.

6) Intra-disciplinary Qualifications *

Intra-disciplinary admissions shall be allowed, if:

- a) The applicant has a strong interest in pursuing a PhD degree in a different discipline.
- b) The applicant has passed GRE-Subject/ Equivalent Test ** with minimum 50% marks in the discipline of admission and has taken 6-9 CH of deficiency courses of level 7 as recommended by FRAC.
- c) The FRAC is satisfied that the applicant's knowledge of the primary area (level 7) has sufficiently prepared him or her to undertake the course of study of the doctoral program (or, in the opinion of the admissions committee, the preparation can be deemed satisfactory by taking a few additional courses after starting the program).

7) Admission and Registration Procedure

- a) The applicant shall apply in response to advertisement for admission on the prescribed form along with a proposed research idea/statement of purpose to the admission office along with two recommendation letters or the names of two referees from relevant field, used to ascertain the preparedness and interest of the applicant.
- b) **Admission Test**
 - i) Have passed test from third party testing bodies recognized by HEC for conducting GRE/GAT/HAT General for PhD programs, with the passing score of 60%. OR
 - ii) University developed test equivalent to GRE/GAT/HAT General, with the passing score of 60%.
 - iii) In addition to the above, the university may conduct subject test for admission in PhD programs, if required.
 - iv) The GRE general or subject test result shall not be more than two (2) years old at the time of admission.
- c) FRAC shall scrutinize the applications duly assessing the academic qualifications, work experience, and research publication and generate a list of eligible applicants based on following criteria:
 - i) Academic qualifications: Maximum marks = 60
 - ii) BS or equivalent = 40
 - iii) MS/MPhil or equivalent = 20
 - i) Publications in HEC approved Journals = 2 marks per publication (Max.10 marks)
 - ii) Professional experience in relevant field 1 mark for each year (Max.05 marks)
 - iii) Interview: = Max. 25 marks (50% qualifyingmarks)

* Intra-disciplinary refers to sub-disciplines that occur within one of the ten broad disciplines defined by UNESCO's International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED-F-2013).

** In case the GRE-Subject test for a specific field/discipline is not available/conducted in Pakistan

Breakup for 60 marks for academic qualification:

Annual System (%age)		60% to 64.9%	65% to 69.9%	70% and above
Semester system (CGPA)		3 to 3.39	3.4 to 3.79	≥3.8
BS(Hons) 4years	Marks	15	30	40
MS/M.Phil. (Semester)	Marks	10	15	20

d) Statement of Purpose

As part of the application for admission to PhD programs, applicants shall be required to submit a statement of purpose, which shall form an integral part of the application. The admissions committee shall use the information provided to ascertain the preparedness and interest of the candidate in pursuing doctoral studies, and whether the department has the requisite resources to train and supervise the doctoral candidate in the subject specialty in which the applicant is interested.

A statement of purpose shall, at least, include the following:

- i) Title of the potential research proposal
 - ii) Clear articulation of the current understanding of the intended field and ideas for potential research
 - iii) Explanation of the intended impact of the proposed research
 - iv) The prospective candidates shall demonstrate passion and enthusiasm for the area of research.
- e) After admission test and interview, FRAC shall display the list of successful applicants and forward the same to Registrar office for notification.
- f) The successful applicant(s) shall have to submit their dues within stipulated time, failing which the admission offered shall stand cancelled and applicants next in merit list (if any) shall be offered admission.
- g) After verification of all documents required and payment of prescribed fee within due date, the Department shall display list of admitted students. The admission of student shall be considered provisional until:
- i) The student has completed and passed the course work,
 - ii) The student has passed the Comprehensive Examination, and
 - iii) Approval of research proposal by BASR.
- h) After completion of above-mentioned conditions, the Registrar shall notify list of admitted students as regular with effect from date of enrollment of coursework.
- i) Under normal circumstances a student shall not be allowed to freeze or withdraw the first semester of Ph.D. program.

8) Transfer of Credit Hours

Scholars registered with another University can be transferred to Ph.D. program in the similar discipline of the University, provided:

- a) Maximum 50% of courses work credit hours with minimum B Grade (70% marks) completed at the source University shall be allowed for transfer.
- b) The transfer of research work is permissible, provided that the FRAC accepts the research conducted at the parent university prior to the credit transfer.
- a) The source University has followed the Ph.D. Admission Process and Ph.D. course work as per the HEC guidelines,
- b) The research topic is suitable to the University's research agenda, and a Supervisor is available in the relevant area.

9) Degree Completion Timeline

- a) The PhD degree shall be awarded by Universities after a minimum of three (3) years 6 regular semesters and not more than eight (8) years 16 regular semesters after the enrolment of the student.
- b) The date of notification of the award of the PhD degree after the PhD defense shall be the date of the completion of PhD studies.
- c) The maximum duration shall be determined from the date of enrollment of the student till the date of the completion notification of the PhD degree.
- d) In case a student is unable to secure a PhD degree within the prescribed timeframe and claims for extension in duration, the Vice Chancellor may constitute appropriate authority and determine the causes for delay. In event of force majeure i.e., delay on account of circumstance beyond the control of student, on the recommendation of the appointed authority, the Vice Chancellor may grant an extension in the period of award of PhD degree in accordance with the duration limiting factor(s) and shall also direct the concerned officers for corrective measures in case the delay is cause due to process or administrative reasons.

10) Program Credit Hours Coursework and Residency Requirement

The following requirements shall be fulfilled before the award of a PhD Degree:

- a) The student shall complete coursework of at least:
 - i. 24 credit hours for the students from the same discipline
 - i. 24 credit hours for the students from the same discipline
 - ii. 30-33 credit hours for the students from the intra-disciplinary areas
 - iii. In both the cases, courses shall be offered through regular classes (i.e., classes that are taught on campus by full- time faculty members of the university).
 - iv. The courses shall preferably be of 800 level.
- b) The student shall complete dissertation of 9 credit hours.

- c) There shall be a residency requirement for a period of at least two years starting from the date of enrolment that shall be governed by the minimum attendance requirement of the university.
- d) The student shall have to maintain GPA of 3.0/4.0. However, in case the student fails to maintain the required GPA, he/she may be allowed to repeat maximum four (4) courses during entire coursework.

11) Comprehensive Examination

Following the completion of coursework, every PhD student shall be required to pass a comprehensive examination to be granted candidacy as PhD scholar; provided that if the student fails to pass the comprehensive test, he or she shall be allowed one more attempt to take the test.

Following are the guidelines for conducting Comprehensive Examination:

- a) The exam shall be based on recapitulation of conceptual knowledge of the discipline that the student is admitted to.
- b) The evaluation shall be on an aggregate basis and expressed in terms of Pass/Fail/Ungraded.
- c) The Comprehensive Examination shall be conducted by the Controller of Examinations in collaboration with the concerned Departmental Comprehensive Examination Committee (CEC) as per approved/notified SOPs.
- d) The Comprehensive Examination shall comprise of:
 - i) Paper-I: (100 Marks) 1 hour
 - ii) Paper-II: (100 Marks) 1 hour
 - iii) Oral / Practical Exam (100 Marks)
- e) The student must score cumulative 70% marks in Comprehensive Examination and if the student fails to pass the comprehensive examination, he/she shall be allowed one more attempt to take the exam.
- f) The result of the Comprehensive Examination shall be submitted to the Controller of Examinations through respective Department for notification, office record and intimation to Registrar Office.
- g) After passing the Comprehensive Examination, the Ph.D. students shall be called “Scholar” and his admission in the Ph.D. program shall be confirmed and notified by the Registrar.

12) Appointment of Research Supervisor/Co-Supervisor

- a) The Research Supervisor shall be appointed by BASR on the recommendation of FRAC and due notification issued by the Registrar. The Supervisor shall also act as internal examiner.
- b) A Research Supervisor shall be a regular faculty member of the University holding a Ph.D. degree.
- c) Enlisted as HEC approved Supervisor.

- d) The name of Supervisor will be forwarded to BASR on the recommendation of FRAC.
- e) BASR on the recommendations of FRAC may appoint a co-supervisor, if necessary, who is a faculty member/scientist of the University or other national or international Universities or research organizations.
- f) In case the Supervisor is unable to continue the supervision of the Scholar due to any reason, BASR may appoint another Supervisor or allow the Co-Supervisor to be the Supervisor, subject to the condition that he is from within the University.
- g) In case the Co-Supervisor is unable to continue the supervision of the Scholar due to any reason, BASR may appoint another Co-Supervisor.

13) Responsibilities of Supervisor

The Supervisor shall have the responsibilities to:

- a) Review the research proposal and may recommend the topic of research to FRAC for its onward submission to BASR.
- b) Provide guidance to the Scholar in different stages of the research process.
- c) Periodically review the progress of research work and provide necessary guidance.
- d) Forward scholar's six-monthly progress report to FRAC.

14) Research Proposal

- a) Scholar shall write a research proposal in consultation with the Supervisor after passing the Comprehensive Examination.
- b) The Scholar shall submit four copies of the Research Proposal to the Head of Department on prescribed format and shall present his/her work to FRAC.
- c) On the recommendation of FRAC, the research proposal shall be submitted to the Board of Faculty for approval and submission to Institutional Review Board for ethical considerations.
- d) After approval by BASR, the Registrar shall notify to all concerned departments, the details of scholar, research topic and name of the Supervisor.
- e) In case FRAC recommends changes in Research Proposal, the Scholar shall resubmit the revised Research Proposal, along with necessary changes, to the FRAC for further processing, failing which it shall lead to the cancellation of admission of the Scholar.
- f) During the due course of Research, if the Scholar and Supervisor find out that there is need to revise the research proposal or make minor changes in research title, the same shall be resubmitted to the FRAC for further processing, provided sufficient time is available for completion.
- g) On the recommendation of FRAC and approval of the BASR, the Scholar shall be allowed to continue with revised research work.

15) Ph. D. Research Work

- a) It shall be the responsibility of the Scholar to register himself for the research work at the beginning of every semester on a specified date.
- b) The Scholar shall submit a six-monthly progress report to the Supervisor in the prescribed format. The Supervisor shall submit the Scholar's progress report to FRAC.
- c) Where the Scholar delays the submission of required reports for three months, the Supervisor shall report the case to FRAC.
- d) FRAC shall notify the suspension of the Scholar in this regard with intimation to all concerned departments.
- e) In order to get the admission restored, the Scholar shall submit an application to FRAC, mentioning reason(s) for delay duly endorsed by the Supervisor. The Scholar shall pay the prescribed dues (if any) for restoration of registration status.
- f) Where the Scholar fails to submit two consecutive progress reports, the Vice Chancellor may, on the recommendations of the Supervisor and FRAC restore the registration on payment of the readmission fee.
- g) In case of absence without leave for more than one year, the case shall be referred to BASR through FRAC.
- h) The FRAC shall review a six-monthly progress report of each Ph. D scholar submitted by the research Supervisor. A copy of the progress report shall be given to the Scholar for information and shall also be kept in the Scholar's file to mark his/her satisfactory progress.
- i) In case the progress of the Scholar is unsatisfactory, the FRAC, after hearing the scholar, shall record the reasons and suggest corrective measures within stipulated time. If the Scholar fails to implement such corrective measures, the FRAC may cancel his/her registration and matter shall be reported to the Vice Chancellor through Registrar office.
- j) The scholar may appeal to BASR against the decision of FRAC under the preceding clause.
- k) After completing the research work, he/she shall document research details and submit his thesis for evaluation.

16) Thesis Submission Process for Evaluation

- a) On completion of the research work, the Scholar shall present his draft thesis to FRAC through the Research Supervisor(s).
- b) In case FRAC is not satisfied with the quality of research work done, it may recommend revision of the work on specific lines within a stipulated time.
- c) Once the thesis is revised as per FRAC recommendations, the Research Supervisor shall submit the revision report to FRAC for their information

- d) Supervisor shall further verify the supplied material as per requirement and present it to Board of Faculty for discussion and approval.
- e) Board of Faculty shall forward the case to Registrar for presentation to BASR within thirty (30) days.
- f) Thesis Submission Process shall be followed as under:
 - i) Thesis submission form signed by the Scholar and the Supervisor.
 - ii) Five copies of the thesis written on a prescribed format along with Thesis Completion Certificate.
 - iii) The thesis shall be typed on A4 size (11.69"x8.27") paper with margins of 1-½" on the left and 1" to the right, top and bottom of each page. The thesis shall be hard bound with maroon cloth cover and golden lettering on the front and the spine.
 - iv) Originality report for plagiarism checked/signed by the Supervisor as per HEC Anti-Plagiarism Policy.
 - v) No Objection Certificate from the University.
 - vi) Soft copy of the
 - Thesis in PDF format.
 - A list of publications from current research work (if any).

17) Thesis Evaluation Procedure

- a) The Vice Chancellor shall appoint the external experts/examiners for thesis evaluation from the panel approved by BASR and forward the names to the Controller of Examinations.
- b) The PhD dissertation shall be evaluated by at least two external experts who may be either:
 - i) Pakistan-based Distinguished National Professors, Meritorious Professors; Professors from any national university or any Professor from top ranked universities by HEC; or Professor from any Pakistani University having minimum H-Index 30 for sciences, 15 for social science or 8 for Art & Humanities as determined by Web of Science. OR
 - ii) PhD experts from the world top 500 universities ranked by the Times Higher Education or QS World Ranking in the year corresponding to dissertation evaluation year. OR
- c) At least one external expert qualifying any one of the conditions mentioned at 'b' above if the PhD candidate publishes dissertation research in a peer reviewed journal that is classified by the HEC as category X or above.
- d) The Controller of Examinations shall send a copy of the Thesis to the examiners approved

- for evaluation.
- e) The external examiners shall submit a detailed Evaluation Report on the prescribed proforma, preferably within three months from the date of receipt of Thesis, clearly indicating the following:
 - i) The Thesis is recommended for the award of Ph.D. degree.
 - i) The Thesis is recommended for the award of Ph.D. degree after minor revision. The Thesis is recommended for the award of Ph.D. degree after major revision, subject to satisfaction of external examiner.
 - ii) The Thesis is rejected.
 - f) In case an examiner recommends revision of the Thesis, he shall also indicate whether he would like to re-examine the Thesis after the revision.
 - g) In case both the external examiners recommend acceptance, the thesis shall be accepted for viva-voce and public defense.
 - h) In case one external examiner recommends rejection and the second external examiner recommends acceptance, the Thesis shall be sent to a third external examiner (appointed by the Vice Chancellor from the approved panel). The work will be submitted to the third examiner after it has been revised in line with the suggestions made by the two original examiners.
 - i) If two of the three external examiners, declare the thesis as rejected the applicant may be permitted to submit a new thesis on a new topic provided sufficient allowable time to complete the new research work is available for degree completion.
 - j) In case both the external examiners recommend rejection, the Thesis shall be considered as rejected:
 - i) Provided that BASR may allow the Scholar to take up a new topic of Thesis and the Scholar shall proceed as per the prescribed Regulations.
 - ii) Provided further that the process of writing and evaluation of Thesis shall not exceed prescribed time limit.
 - k) In case any of the examiners recommend revision to the Thesis, the Scholar shall carry out the necessary revision as suggested by the examiner and resubmit the revised version of the Thesis duly certified by the Supervisor.
 - l) If any of the external examiners finds the Thesis as accepted with minor revisions, these may be incorporated in the Thesis with the approval of the Supervisor without referring again to the external examiners.
 - m) The revised version shall be re-evaluated by the same examiner who had suggested revision of the Thesis, unless the examiner is unable or declines to do so.

18) Research Paper Publication

For award of PhD degree, each PhD researcher shall be required to publish research articles meeting the following criteria:

- a) At least:
 - i. One research article in W category* journals or two research articles in X category journals, for science disciplines
 - ii. One research article in X category journals or two research articles in Y category journals, for social science disciplines
- b) The PhD researcher shall be the first author of these publications.
- c) The total number of authors shall not be more than five.
- d) The research article shall be relevant to the PhD research work of the PhD researcher
- e) The article shall be published after the approval of research synopsis.
- f) The article shall be published in the relevant research journal.

19) Viva Voce

- a) The Vice Chancellor shall appoint the external examiner for Viva Voce from the panel approved by BASR and forward the names to the Controller of Examinations.
- b) The Registrar shall forward the panel of Examiners approved by the Vice Chancellor to Controller of Examinations who shall announce the date and place of Examination and ensure announcement of viva voce on University Notice boards and website.

Moreover, the following tasks should be carried out:

- c) Public Access: Within or outside of the university.
- d) Review Committee: To evaluate the dissertation and defense.
- e) Presentation: of the thesis/dissertation by the PhD Scholar
- f) Question and Answer Session: To provide basis for viva voce evaluation.
- g) Objective Evaluation: based on quality of research and researcher's ability to defend.
- h) The Controller of Examinations shall be responsible to send copy of thesis to the examiners, further get their availability for the conduct of viva voce, and intimate the progress to the Dean and Head of Department.

* As categorized in HJRS at the time of acceptance of the research article

- i) Two examiners shall conduct the viva voce: one internal (supervisor) and one external appointed by the Vice Chancellor from the approved panel of examiners from Pakistan. The viva voce shall be open to students and faculty of the University but only the appointed examiners shall do the evaluation.
- j) If the Scholar fails to satisfy the examiners in the viva voce, he may be given only one more chance for viva voce.
 - i) Provided that the BASR may recommend to the Vice Chancellor to appoint a new external examiner for second viva voce.
- k) The Controller of Examinations shall ensure that copies of thesis and the comments/suggestions of foreign evaluators are available with the examiners before the viva voce.
- l) Soft copy of comments/observations/suggestions of the foreign evaluators and subsequent corrections/revisions shall be available with the Scholar at the time of viva voce.
- m) At the end of oral examination, the examiner can give one of four decisions:
 - i Pass
 - ii Pass with minor amendments.
 - iii Deferred for resubmission and re-defense.
 - iv Fail (in exceptional circumstances and for the reasons to be recorded by the viva voce committee).

20) Award of Degree

- a) A student who successfully completes coursework and passes the comprehensive examination but is unable to defend a PhD synopsis/research proposal or does not complete the required research for obtaining a PhD degree within the specified timeframe, may be granted a Graduate Level Diploma/Certificate/transcripts or another MS/MPhil upon completion of necessary requirements as per HEC policies on the recommendation of FRAC.
- b) If a student successfully completes the full set of requirements for the award of an MS/MPhil (or equivalent) degree during their PhD studies, the university may award the applicable degree to such students upon completion of the relevant requirements. AND
- c) For the award of Ph.D. degree, following the successful completion of evaluation process and prior to announcement of the award. The Scholar shall submit four hardcopies of Ph.D. Thesis in the specified format duly signed by the external examiner and supervisor along with a soft copy (PDF) to the Controller of Examinations.

- d) Upon successful completion of all the degree requirements, BASR shall forward the recommendation to the Vice Chancellor for award of Ph.D. degree.
- e) The date of notification of the award of Ph.D. degree subsequent to Ph.D. defense shall be considered to be the date of completion of Ph.D. studies.

21) Change of Supervisors and Transfer of Scholar

- a) Request for change of the Research Supervisor shall be sent to FRAC by the Dean in the following cases:
 - b) The Research Supervisor is not available for supervision.
 - c) By mutual consent of both the Supervisor and the Scholar.
 - d) In special circumstances, FRAC may change the Supervisor on the request of the Scholar or on its own motion.
 - e) The Supervisor, who wishes to avail leave/lien/deputation beyond a period of six months, may request FRAC to allow a Co-Supervisor for supervision of Scholar registered with him.

22) Re-Admission

- a) A student whose admission is cancelled on grounds other than disciplinary action may be re-admitted for once in the entire PhD Program duration, subject to the payment of outstanding dues.
- b) If the course work and comprehensive examination were passed within two consecutive semesters prior to the cancellation of the admission, full credit may be allowed regarding course work and comprehensive examination.
- c) In case the readmission is sought after the lapse of more than two semester but within four consecutive semesters from the date of passing the comprehensive examination, FRAC may determine the course(s) to be re-done as well as its recommendations about the comprehensive examination.
- d) If a student who is re-admitted to PhD program and had previously spent the minimum period of three years as a PhD student, he/she may be allowed to submit the thesis after six months from the date of his/her re-admission, subject to the satisfactory report from Research Supervisor.

23) Discontinuation from Ph.D. Program

- a) During the span of Ph.D. program, the Scholar may voluntarily discontinue the program due to any reason.
- b) The University will not refund any dues already paid by the Scholar.

24) Withdrawal of an Awarded Ph.D. Degree

- a) In case of plagiarism or any other serious misconduct, the Plagiarism Committee shall

investigate the matter.

- b) Consequent upon recommendation of the Committee, BASR may propose to Board of Governors to withdraw the Ph.D. degree.
- c) Where there is a dispute or discrepancy, the decision of the Board of Governors shall be final and binding.

25) Copyright

- a) The Scholar is responsible for compliance with the Copyright Act and the University's Policy on Copyright Compliance.
- b) Failure to comply with (a) may entail disciplinary action by the University.

26) General

- a) Notwithstanding anything contained in these Regulations, all Ph.D. students or scholars shall, in addition to the provisions of these Regulations, be governed by the Code of Conduct and general rules and procedures framed by the University from time to time.
- b) Matters not covered by the Regulations shall be governed by HEC and the University's Policies in force at any given time.
- c) If strict application of these regulations creates undue hardship to an individual, the regulations may be relaxed by BASR recording reasons and circumstances in writing.

27) Fees and Other Dues

Each Ph.D. applicant shall be required to pay tuition fee and such other charges as may be determined by the University from time to time.

28) Removal of Difficulties

If any difficulty arises in the application of these Regulations, the Vice Chancellor may, with the approval of BASR, pass such orders, not inconsistent with the express provisions of these Regulations, as he may deem fit in the circumstances.

29) Disputes about Interpretation

Any doubt or dispute arising from the interpretation of these Regulations shall be referred to BASR for decision.

30) Appeal

- a) A person aggrieved by any action or inaction of any person or entity except that of BASR may appeal to BASR within 30 days of the action or inaction.
- b) In case of failure to take action affecting the rights of the student or scholar, BASR may direct the person responsible for taking the action to do so within time specified by BASR.
- c) A person aggrieved by the action or inaction of BASR, may appeal to the Board of Governors within 30 days or within reasonable time as determined by the Board of Governors.