

Toward the Development of Research Management System for Faculties in Rajabhat Universities

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Abstract

The main research objectives were to develop the components and indicators of a research management system and to study the current and preferred states of the research management system for faculties in Rajabhat Universities. In Stage 1, seven specialists considered and justified the research management system's components and indicators. Administrators, academic staff, and supporting staff in Rajabhat Universities assessed the current and preferred states of the research management system. It was revealed that the current state of the system was below the preferred state in all aspects, i.e., input, process, output, and feedback. Therefore, it is a must for the managements of Rajabhat Universities to take immediate actions to improve the system.

Key words: Research management system, Rajabhat Universities

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Introduction

The quality assurance by the external quality assurance of the Office of the National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (Public Organization) (2015) has suggested that Rajabhat Universities need to improve the quality of research and creative work.

Research management development in institutes of higher education is crucial for national socio-economic development (Office of the National Research Council of Thailand, 2011; Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board, 2012; Office of the Higher Education Commission, Ministry of Education, 2015). Rajabhat Universities are supposed to produce quality research as specified in the criteria of quality assurance of the Office of the National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (Public Organization, 2011 and 2015).

Research Objective

The main research objectives were to develop the components and indicators of a research management system for faculties in Rajabhat Universities and to assess the current and preferred states of the research management system for faculties in Rajabhat Universities.

Methodology

Two stages were conducted in this research. Stage 1 dealt with the determination of components and indicators of research management while Stage 2 investigated the current and preferred states of the research management system for faculties in Rajabhat Universities.

1. Population and Sample

In Stage 1, seven experts considered, made corrections, and approved the proposed four components and 72 indicators of a research management system. The sample in Stage 2 was comprised of 388 individuals, including administrators, lecturers, staff members, and related personnel in Rajabhat Universities (selected by multi-stage random sampling technique) during the first semester of the 2015 academic year.

2. Research Tools

2.1 The content and structural validity of the questionnaire regarding the proposed four components and 29 indicators of the research management system were verified by means of Item Objective Congruence (IOC) by seven experts.

2.2 The content validity of the questionnaire was determined by the seven experts. It then was administered

to 50 individuals who were not from the sample group to determine the reliability (Cronbach, 1951). The reliability of the whole questionnaire was 0.98.

3. Data Collection

In Stage 1, the seven experts examined, made corrections, and approved the proposed four components and 72 indicators of the research management system. In Stage 2, a questionnaire was used for data collection from a sample of 388 persons from different faculties in Rajabhat Universities.

4. Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics, such as frequency, percentage, mean, and

standard deviation were used for data analysis.

Results from Stage 1

Table 1 represents components and indicators of the research and management system in Rajabhat Universities, as considered and approved by the seven experts in Stage 1. It was revealed that most indicators of these components were at the level of most important in the research and management system, with a total mean of 4.53 out of 5.00, and with the levels of importance for input, process, output, and feedback being 4.54, 4.68, 4.59, and 4.58 out of 5.00, respectively.

Table 1: Mean, Standard Deviation and Level of Importance by Expert Evaluation of Research Management System

Components and indicators		$\bar{X}$	SD	Level of importance
1.	Input components	4.54	0.56	most
	1.1 Administrative resources (people, money, materials, management, willpower, and time)	4.57	0.53	most
	1.2 Policy and national direction of educational development measures of higher education	4.58	0.46	most
	1.3 Reform of country's research system, policy, and national research policy and strategy	4.59	0.47	most
	1.4 Policy and strategy of national research for the long-term	4.52	0.56	most

Table 1: (continued)

Components and indicators		$\bar{X}$	SD	Level of importance
	1.5 Policy and strategy of the national research of faculties and universities	4.58	0.50	most
	1.6 Quality assurance, both internal and external by ONESQA	4.44	0.51	high
2.	Process components	4.68	0.57	most
	2.1 Research fund proposals	4.53	0.51	most
	2.2 Research monitoring	4.58	0.50	most
	2.3 Support system of research distribution	4.57	0.53	most
	2.4 Integrative system of research for teaching and learning	4.58	0.46	most
	2.5 Integrative system of research for academic services	4.59	0.47	most
	2.6 System of introducing research for benefit utilization	4.58	0.46	most
3.	Output components	4.59	0.47	most
	3.1 Administrator and personnel satisfaction of faculties in Rajabhat Universities with the research management system	4.58	0.46	most
	3.2 Having a manual used in the implementation of the research management system of faculties in Rajabhat Universities	4.59	0.47	most
4	Feedback components	4.58	0.46	most
	4.1 Self-assessment report (SAR)	4.59	0.47	most
Total mean		4.53	0.51	most

Results from 2nd Stage

The current and preferred states of the research management system in Rajabhat Universities can be summarized as

follows:

Regarding the background of the respondents, it was revealed that 52.60%

were female, 31.70% were 41-50 years of age, 39.70% were master's degree holders, 34.30% were lecturers, and 32.50% were members of Rajabhat Universities, having been attached to Rajabhat Universities for a

period of six to 10 years.

Table 2 shows the assessment results of the current and preferred states of the research management system.

Table 2: The Level of Current and Preferred States of Research Management System of Faculties in Rajabhat Universities (N = 388)

Component of Research Management System	Current State			Preferred State		
	$\bar{X}$	SD	Implementation Level	$\bar{X}$	SD	Preferred Level
1. Input Component	3.46	0.34	moderate	4.47	0.35	high
2. Process Component	3.52	0.27	high	4.49	0.27	high
2.1 Sub-component 1 of Research fund proposal	3.54	0.31	high	4.45	0.30	high
2.2 Sub-component 2 of Research monitoring system	3.57	0.20	high	4.50	0.20	high
2.3 Sub-component 3 of Research distribution support system	3.53	0.27	high	4.58	0.24	high
2.4 Sub-component 4 of Research integration with learning-teaching system	3.58	0.33	high	4.56	0.41	high
2.5 Sub-component 5 of Research integration with academic service	3.44	0.24	moderate	4.44	0.23	high
2.6 Sub-component 6 of Research use for benefit	3.48	0.28	moderate	4.42	0.26	high
3. Output Component	3.48	0.36	moderate	4.43	0.47	high
4. Feedback Component	3.53	0.49	more	4.10	0.84	high
Total	3.51	0.40	high	4.43	0.36	high

It was revealed that the current operation of the research management system averaged 3.51 out of 5.00 whereas the average for the preferred state was 4.43 out of 5.00 for the whole system.

Regarding the input component, the current operation of the system was evaluated at a level of 3.46 out of 5.00, on average. The preferred state of the system, on the other hand, averaged higher at 4.47 out of 5.00.

Regarding the process component of the system, it was demonstrated that the current operation of the system averaged 3.52 out of 5.00 whereas the preferred state of the research management system was higher at an average of 4.45 out of 5.00.

With respect to the output component of the current and preferred states of the research management system as a whole, it was determined from the assessment that the current operation averaged moderately at 3.48 out of 5.00 whereas the preferred state of the research management system of

faculties was at a higher level of 4.43 out of 5.00.

As for the feedback component of the current and preferred states of the research management system of faculties in Rajabhat Universities, the assessment of the current state resulted in an average of 3.53 out of 5.00 whereas the preferred state of the research management system was at a higher level of 4.10 out of 5.00.

Concluding Remarks and Suggestions

It was quite clear that the research management system in Rajabhat Universities, according to the sample selected as representative of the system, has many things to do in the future in order to improve. In all aspects, the preferred states, i.e., input, process, output, and feedback were all above operational levels. Under these circumstances, it is advisable that the managements of Rajabhat Universities restructure and enhance the effectiveness of the research management system.

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