

# **PLAKSHA UNIVERSITY**

## **Office of Research (OoR) / Research & Development Cell (RDC) Information Booklet**

2025



# PLAKSHA UNIVERSITY

Office of Research (OoR) / Research & Development Cell (RDC)

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## Research at Plaksha University

Research at Plaksha is purposeful, future-facing, and rooted in the belief that universities must do more than produce knowledge; they must help build the future world. Research is more than a pursuit of knowledge. A mindset that shapes how we learn, innovate, and lead. Rather than simply inform, it should transform our lives.

Intent on redefining the role of a modern technology university, our academic programs are deeply intertwined with research, ensuring that students—right from the undergraduate level—engage with problems that matter and learn to think not just in terms of knowledge, but solutions. Interdisciplinarity further powers this process in Plaksha's research labs, enabling us to tackle complex, real-world challenges with creativity, depth, and agility.

This spirit of inquiry is embedded in the very design of our institution. Our 50-acre campus offers an open, evolving environment where research and learning blur into one. Here, faculty, students, and collaborators co-develop technologies that are tested and refined in real-world conditions from the start. The campus becomes a living lab, i.e., a live testing ground and a teaching tool, making innovation real-time, hands-on, and result-oriented. Whether it's in sustainable infrastructure, innovations in healthcare and agriculture, mobility, or urban systems, collaboration isn't limited to labs or departments; it thrives in shared spaces, active mentorship, and multidisciplinary teams working across domains.

Plaksha's research ecosystem is also structured with a clear focus on impact. We build and support pathways that translate research into action through entrepreneurship, policy influence, and capacity building. Our faculty and students don't just generate insights; they shape ventures, inform governance, and contribute to societal change. To make this possible, we prioritize not just technical depth, but also design thinking, contextual awareness, and systems-level understanding. Leveraging these skills and capabilities, we bring new services and products built for the real world, and policies that sustain the efforts of innovation.

Plaksha's research breaks silos with the sole focus of generating solution-oriented approaches to the modern world's greatest problems.

## About the Office of Research/ Research Development Cell

The Office of Research (OoR) serves as Plaksha's Research Development Cell (RDC) in alignment with the University Grants Commission (UGC) guidelines and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. OoR enables research that supports national missions, addresses societal needs, providing transformative solutions to global challenges. This is accomplished by creating a conducive environment for research productivity, encouraging collaboration across industry, government, and community-based organizations at all levels through resource mobilization, funding and process support.

## Vision Statement

To empower researchers through thoughtful stewardship, frictionless processes, and policies that promote agility, – driving innovations that are socially conscious, technologically bold, and intellectually rigorous.

## Mission

The Office of Research (OoR) is a strategic engine driving research, innovation, and discovery at Plaksha. It provides integrated, end-to-end facilitation that empowers faculty and researchers to navigate the research journey with clarity and momentum. The OoR catalyses interdisciplinary and collaborative research, and high-impact innovation by streamlining operational processes. OoR enables researchers to focus their energy entirely on advancing transformative ideas.

## Governance

At Plaksha University, effective research governance is central to building a thriving, future-oriented research ecosystem. The OoR is designed to ensure functional autonomy, transparency, accountability, and adaptability, **enabling a dynamic and supportive environment** for research and innovation.

Through a steady and responsive administration and financial management system, grounded in **clear rules, norms, and policies**, OoR bolsters Plaksha's core research capacities—**people** (faculty, researchers, students), **infrastructure** (labs, facilities, digital platforms), **knowledge resources** (equipment, software, consumables), and **funding mechanisms**.

## Research Advisory Council (RAC)

The **Research Advisory Council (RAC)** serves as the apex body, chaired by the **Vice-Chancellor or their nominee**, and provides strategic oversight and direction. It operates under the following structure:

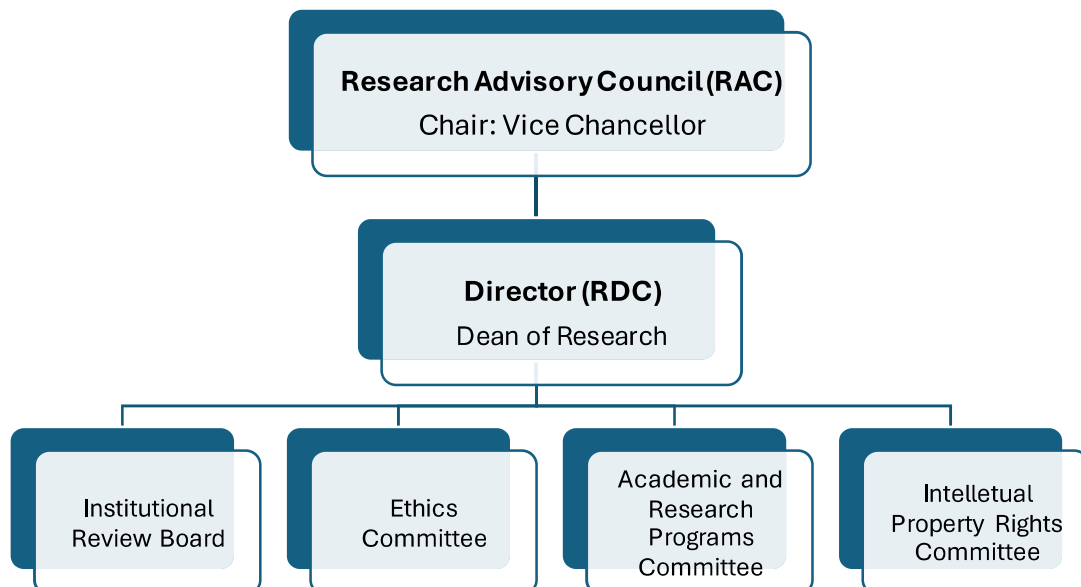
1. Vice Chancellor, Plaksha University, or his/her nominee as Chairperson
2. Dean of Research, Plaksha University as Member Secretary
3. Dean of Academics, Plaksha University
4. Directors of Research Centres
5. Four-eight (4-8) External experts from industry/ academia, or policymakers nominated by the Vice Chancellor and Dean of Research

The Committee shall convene twice per academic year. A quorum shall be constituted with a minimum of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present.

The **Director RDC** - the Dean of Research - leads the operationalization of the governance framework. To ensure agility and effectiveness, the OoR at Plaksha aims to constitute several functional committees, each focused on a distinct aspect of research development.

Committee members are nominated by the Dean of Research and approved by the Chairperson, RAC. This distributed model ensures inclusive decision-making, timely execution, and alignment with Plaksha's mission to reimagine research for impact.

This governance structure ensures that the OoR remains agile, responsive, and forward-looking, capable of supporting research and nurturing the next generation of scholars and innovators.

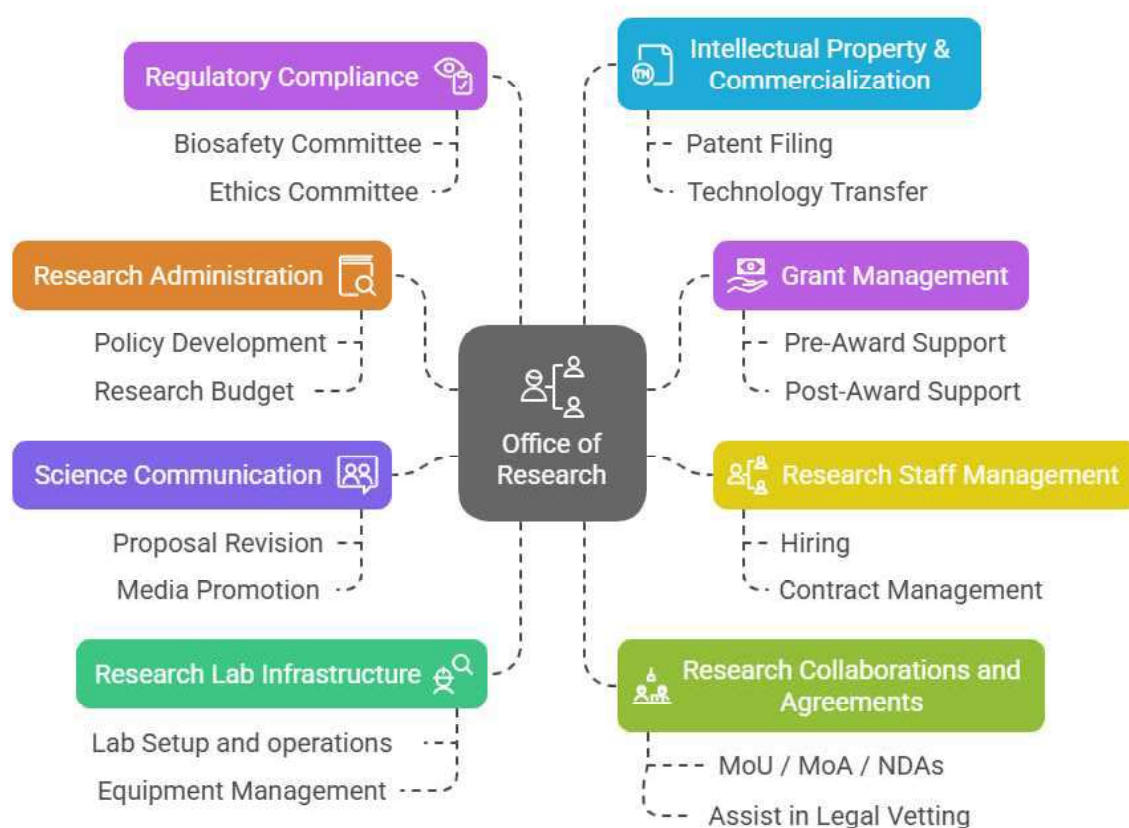


## Functions of the Office of Research

### Research Administration

The OoR provides comprehensive administrative support to facilitate seamless research operations. The OoR plays a pivotal role in developing research management policies, implementing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), resolving queries, and engaging with internal and external stakeholders to ensure the efficient execution of research operations. By streamlining administrative processes, the OoR allows researchers to focus on their innovations while ensuring accountability and impact-driven outcomes.

#### Functions of the Office of Research at Plaksha University



Made with Napkin

### Funding

The OoR offers end-to-end support in securing and managing external research funding from domestic and international agencies. The office works closely with faculty and researchers to ensure smooth submission and implementation of funded projects. These include internal funding (start-up research grant, seed support, lab funding, professional

development allowance), external grants (government/ private/ NGOs), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), consultancy, and executive education.

### **Pre-Award Support:**

The Pre-Award phase is a foundational stage in the research lifecycle, where faculty and researchers translate ideas into structured proposals for potential funders. At this stage, the Office of Research (OoR) provides holistic, tailored, and hands-on support faculty in securing funding from a wide range of sources. Our services are designed to reduce administrative complexity, ensure institutional compliance, and improve funding outcomes through a single-window process. Briefly, the pre-award manager handles:

- Scoping and sharing funding opportunities
- Checking institutional eligibility and handling institutional registrations
- Providing grant proposal templates and hosting pre-proposal discussions
- Assisting in proposal writing, budgeting, and submission
- Coordinating legal and administrative aspects of funds-related agreements

### **Post-Award Support:**

**The post-award phase** is a critical stage in the research lifecycle that ensures the effective management and implementation of funded projects. Once funding is secured, the Office of Research (OoR) provides continued, end-to-end support to help faculty manage grants smoothly and compliantly. Our services include:

- Allocating and tracking budgets to ensure proper fund utilization
- Coordinating with finance for tracking expenditure and utilization certificates
- Assisting in progress reports, financial statements, and compliance documentation
- Supporting faculty in grant extensions, modifications, and project closures

## **Research Fellows Management**

The OoR has established a streamlined process for the recruitment and management of research staff hired on internally and externally funded projects. The goal is to ensure consistency and transparency in research hiring while adhering to institutional and funding agency norms. Key activities include:

- Hiring researchers (assistants, associates, postdocs) as per project requirements
- Managing contracts, tenure, and service terms
- Conducting performance appraisals and periodic feedback reviews
- Processing renewals, extensions, and terminations of research positions

## Science Communication

The OoR aims to highlight the research and innovation happening at Plaksha University, gradually building the visibility of the university's research outcomes on national and international platforms. The office works closely with faculty and researchers to conduct the following activities:

- Revising and refining outgoing research proposals
- Promoting research through news and media platforms through articles
- Creating easy-to-understand audio-visual aids to depict Plaksha's research
- Facilitating public interactions for faculty and researchers through talks and events

## Research Lab Infrastructure

The research labs at Plaksha are equipped with cutting-edge technology and resources, empowering researchers and innovators to push the boundaries of science and engineering in a collaborative and interdisciplinary environment to address global challenges. The following research labs are currently operational at Plaksha University: Micro-climate & clean energy Lab, Dixon IoT Lab, Molecular & cell Biology/CRISPR Tech Lab, Robotics Lab, Water Technology Research (WaTeR) Lab, Advanced Analytical and characterization facility (AACF) Lab, and Digital Twin Technology (DigiTT) Lab.

The OoR provides comprehensive support for research lab infrastructure to ensure well-equipped and efficiently maintained research facilities. The office oversees:

- Setting up of new lab spaces
- Procuring research equipment while ensuring compliance with budgetary and technical requirements
- Lab management by establishing SOPs, ensuring adherence to safety and compliance protocols, and streamlining daily operations
- Equipment inventory management and ensuring regular maintenance
- Tracking equipment status and usage and extending access to other institutions

## Research Collaborations and Agreements

The OoR facilitates faculty members in establishing collaborations with academic institutions, industry partners, and funding agencies. The office plays a key role in:

- Evaluating collaboration proposals for alignment with university policies
- Ensuring compliance with research and funding guidelines
- Validating intellectual property (IP) terms to safeguard institutional and researcher interests

- Vetting agreements with legal advisor(s)

By streamlining the Memorandum of Agreements (MoA) process and fostering impactful partnerships, the OoR strengthens interdisciplinary collaboration.

## Regulatory Compliance

The OoR ensures adherence to institutional and national research regulatory frameworks, upholding the highest ethical and safety standards. Responsibilities include coordinating various regulatory compliance committees, such as:

- Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC)
- Institute Ethics Committee (IEC)
- Institutional Review Board (IRB)

The OoR oversees the research compliance process, ensuring that all research conducted at Plaksha meets the highest ethical, safety, and regulatory standards for responsible and impactful research.

## Intellectual Property (IP) & Commercialization

The OoR supports faculty and researchers in protecting and commercializing their innovations. With a dedicated **Intellectual Property Cell**, the office facilitates processing of all IP-related requests and ensures seamless coordination with the university's IP policy. The OoR works closely with legal consultants to provide expert guidance on:

- Patent filing
- Licensing
- Technology transfer

By streamlining IP management and commercialization efforts, the OoR empowers researchers to translate their innovations into products and services while safeguarding intellectual property rights.

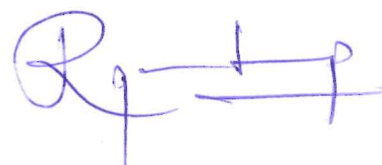
## Related Policy Documents

Consultancy

Professional Development Allowance (PDA)

Startup Research Grant

Intellectual Property Rights Policy



# Annexures

# Research Advisory Council



REF No. PU/VC/R/2025/066

Dated: August 01, 2025

## Notification

### Research Advisory Council (RAC), Plaksha University, Punjab

In- continuation of notification no. PU/VC/R/2025/047; dated: May 28, 2025, the "Research Advisory Council (RAC)", Plaksha University has been revised as follows:

#### The revised composition of the Research Advisory Council (RAC):

| Name of Members          | Designation                                                                                                 | Membership       |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Rudra Pratap             | Vice-Chancellor, Plaksha University                                                                         | Chairperson      |
| Srikant Srinivasan       | Professor & Dean of Academics, Plaksha University                                                           | Member           |
| Vishal Garg*             | Professor & Director, Indorama Ventures Centre for Clean Energy, Plaksha University                         | Member           |
| Malini Balakrishnan      | Professor & Director, Centre for Water Security (CWS), Plaksha University                                   | Member           |
| Chaitanya Lekshmi Indira | Associate Professor & Director, Centre for Equitable and Personalized Healthcare (CEPH), Plaksha University | Member           |
| Shashank Tamaskar        | Associate Professor & Director, Centre for Sustainable and Precision Agriculture (CSPA), Plaksha University | Member           |
| Ravi Jasuja              | Director, Translational Research & Discovery, BWH, Harvard Medical School                                   | Member           |
| Anthony Watanabe         | Chief Sustainability Officer, Indorama Ventures                                                             | Member           |
| Vijay Chandru            | Professor & Co-founder and chairman Strand Life Science                                                     | Member           |
| Chiranjib Bhattacharyya  | Professor, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore                                                           | Member           |
| Venkat Padmanabhan       | Managing Director, Microsoft Research India                                                                 | Member           |
| Sunita Chauhan*          | Professor & Dean of Research, Plaksha University                                                            | Member Secretary |

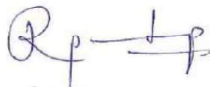
#### \*This revision made the following changes:

1. Prof. Vishal Garg has been redesignated as Director, Indorama Ventures Centre for Clean Energy.
2. Prof. Sunita Chauhan has been added as Dean of Research, replacing Prof. Vishal Garg and added as a Member Secretary.

#### Functions of the Research Advisory Council (RAC):

1. To foster a research ecosystem at Plaksha University that produces reliable, impactful, and sustained research outputs.
2. To build an ecosystem for knowledge generation, research facilitation, collaboration, innovation, and technology development for industrial and societal benefit.

3. For effective governance (regulations and policies), the RAC may form subcommittees focused on research and development, innovation, collaboration, product development, and legal and ethical matters.
4. **Tenure, Frequency & Quorum:**
  - a) The tenure of the council shall be **two years**.
  - b) The council shall convene at least **three times per academic year** i.e., between July – June every year.
  - c) A quorum shall be constituted with a minimum of **two-thirds** (2/3) of the members present.
  - d) The RAC shall submit detailed **progress reports** to the Academic Council.



**Prof. Rudra Pratap**  
**Vice- Chancellor**

# Institutional Review Board



## Institutional Review Board, Plaksha University, Punjab

In continuation of the previous notification PU/VC/R/2023/60; dated April 05, 2024, the Institutional Review Board of Plaksha University has been revised w.e.f. January 17, 2025.

| S.N | Name of Member   | Designation                                                             | Membership       |
|-----|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1   | M Balakrishnan   | Professor & Program Chair<br>Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence | Chairperson      |
| 2   | Nandini Kannan   | Professor & Dean Academics                                              | Member           |
| 3   | Swagata Halder   | Assistant Professor                                                     | Member           |
| 4   | Sandeep Manjanna | Assistant Professor                                                     | Member           |
| 5   | Abhay Sharma*    | Registrar                                                               | Member           |
| 6   | Roshan Kumar     | Senior Manager- Office of Research                                      | Member Secretary |

**\*This revision includes Abhay Sharma, Registrar, Plaksha University, as a member.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. P. Singh'.

**Vice Chancellor  
Plaksha University**

## Ethics Committee



### Ethics Committee (Revision)

**Plaksha University, Punjab**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Abhishek", written over the official stamp.



Ref No: PU/RO/2025/0022; Date: January 17, 2025

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Plaksha University  
Block B, Sector-101 Alpha, IT City, SAS Nagar, Mohali, Punjab 140 306

[www.plaksha.edu.in](http://www.plaksha.edu.in)

### Ethics Committee, Plaksha University, Punjab

In continuation of the previous notification PU/VC/R/2023/52; dated February 15, 2024, the following member has been included in the Ethics Committee of Plaksha University, Punjab w.e.f. January 17, 2025.

- Abhay Sharma, Registrar, Plaksha University, Punjab as a member.

The revised composition of the Ethics Committee, Plaksha University, Punjab is as follows:

| S.N | Name of Member    | Designation                                                             | Membership  |
|-----|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1   | M Balakrishnan    | Professor & Program Chair<br>Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence | Chairperson |
| 2   | Vishal Garg       | Professor & Dean Research                                               | Member      |
| 3   | Rucha Vinay Joshi | Associate Professor                                                     | Member      |
| 4   | Abhay Sharma      | Registrar                                                               | Member      |
| 5   | Roshan Kumar      | Manager-Office of Research                                              | Member      |

#### Tenure, Quorum & Meeting Frequency:

1. The tenure of the committee shall be three years.
2. The quorum of the committee shall be 3.
3. The committee shall be meet as when required.
4. The Committee is responsible for ensuring compliance with ethical standards related to data privacy, permissions, usage, and other technology-related matters within the university



**Abhay Sharma**  
Registrar  
Plaksha University

## Academic and Research Programs Committee



PU/VC/R/2025/031

Date: March 5, 2025

### Notification: Constitution of the Academic and Research Programs Committee

This is to notify all concerned that the **Academic and Research Programs Committee** of Plaksha University has been formally constituted with effect from March 5, 2025.

The composition of the Academic and Research Programs Committee is as follows:

| S.N | Name of Member   | Designation                                   | Role     |
|-----|------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1   | Shankar Sastry   | Chancellor (Ex-officio)                       | Chair    |
| 2   | Vineet Gupta     | Trustee                                       | Co-Chair |
| 3   | Rudra Pratap     | Vice -Chancellor (Ex-officio)                 | Member   |
| 4   | Neeraj Aggarwal  | Chair, Board of Trustees (Ex-officio)         | Member   |
| 5   | Alok Mittal      | Trustee                                       | Member   |
| 6   | Manas Human      | Trustee                                       | Member   |
| 7   | Nandini Kannan   | Professor & Dean of Academics (Ex-officio)    | Member   |
| 8   | Vishal Garg      | Professor & Dean of Research (Ex-officio)     | Member   |
| 9   | Roshan Kumar     | Senior Manager, Office of Research            | Member   |
| 10  | Gaurav Kumar     | Senior Manager, Office of Academic Affairs    | Member   |
| 11  | Namita Chandhoke | Associate Director, Office of Vice Chancellor | Convenor |

### Responsibilities of the Academic and Research Programs Committee:

- To provide advice and strategic direction for developing new academic and research programs.
- To review the existing degree programs, including Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral research programs.
- To assess the research productivity of faculty members.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of research centres and research programs.

### Quorum & Frequency of Meetings:

- The Academic and Research Programs Committee shall meet once every two months.
- The quorum for any meeting shall be two-thirds of the total members of the Committee.

**Prof Rudra Pratap**  
**Vice Chancellor**  
**Plaksha University**

# Intellectual Property Rights Committee



Ref No.: PU/VC/R/2024/12

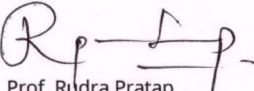
## NOTIFICATION

### INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS COMMITTEE

It is notified to all concerned that the Intellectual Property Rights Committee of Plaksha University has been reconstituted until further notice:

| Sl.no. | Name                     | Designation                         | Role        | Contact                         |
|--------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| 1      | M Balakrishnan           | Distinguished Visiting Professor    | Chairperson | m.balakrishnan@plaksha.edu.in   |
| 2      | Arvind Agrawal           | Pro Vice Chancellor                 | Member      | provc@plaksha.edu.in            |
| 3      | Chaitanya Lekshmi Indira | Associate Professor                 | Member      | chaitanya.indira@plaksha.edu.in |
| 4      | Amruta Behera            | Assistant Professor                 | Member      | amruta.behera@plaksha.edu.in    |
| 5      | Vivek Deulkar            | Assistant Professor                 | Member      | vivek.deulkar@plaksha.edu.in    |
| 6      | Roshan Kumar             | Senior Manager – Office of Research | Member      | roshan.kumar@plaksha.edu.in     |

The committee may co-opt Subject Expert and/or IP Attorney as additional member(s) with prior approval of the Vice-Chancellor.

  
Prof. Rudra Pratap  
Vice Chancellor

Date: November 11, 2024

To:

1. All members of the Intellectual Property Rights Committee

Copy To:

1. All Deans & Associate Deans
2. All Faculty & Executive Members

