Paragraph 1. Strategic goals

1. Present strategy aims at: defining of research priorities organizing and planning scientific research at the University and creating the group of individuals responsible for research support and development; providing support mechanisms for university research activities, establishing structural units responsible for research implementation and its general policies.
2. Priorities of university research are determined by the academic council taking into consideration state priorities, contemporary tendencies of research and advisory council recommendations.
3. Efficiency of the research activity and involvement in scientific research represent one of the most significant indicators to assess the quality of the fulfilled work   of the academic personnel

Paragraph 2. Support mechanisms   for University research activities.

1. University research support mechanisms includes the implementation of the following: research support organizational institutions, indicators for the assessment of research, university granting system, anti-plagiarism policy and informational assurance. This indicator is one of the most important at the end of academic year when assessing academic personnel scientific-pedagogical activities, for which the University Quality Assurance Service has a special form.

Paragraph 3. Institutions for the organizational support of research activities.

1. Pursuant to the common university goals and plans, for the purpose of promoting and developing scientific researches, the department of research development will be established.   Before establishing the department, research support will be implemented by the department of Quality Assurance and Strategic Development. and Education Program Development Working Group.
2. Structural units responsible for the research development will provide the following: promotion of the scientific research, coordination of the scientific-research components planned within the scope of the university educational programs, organizational support of the scientific activities of the academic personnel, control of the observance of scientific integrity.

3. For the purpose of implementing promotional activities for the research development relevant structural units are entitled to:

a) Develop university research activity plan;

b) Organize university research activities (experiment, conferences, seminars, workshops)

c) Participate in recruitment process with relevant personnel for reviewing scientific papers;

d) Analyze the reports of the academic and scientific personnel and university research centers (in future after establishing).

e) Administrate university research grants working process

f) Prepare the report on scientific-research work of the academic personnel and come up with the recommendations for developing scientific research;

g) Ensure the observance of academic integrity at the University and participate in implementing anti-plagiarism companies;

h) On the behalf of university coordinate joint grant, scholarship and research projects.

i) Invite international researchers to the university.

4. In order to implement scientific research, an independent research unit can be established (institute, department, center etc.) at the University, or within its individual educational units or educational program.

Paragraph 4. Internal University funding system for scientific research activities

1. For the purpose of promoting and developing university research, while developing financial plan, university takes research project budget into account. For the purpose of carrying out specially important scientific projects, it is possible to allocate additional funds from the university budget. Such a decision is made by the University Academic Council.

2. The sources of Funding at the university are as follows:

a) Funding oriented on research development from university budget.

b) Funding obtained from university grant;

c) Funding obtained from external sources.

3. Above mentioned funding can be applied fully or for co funding purposes. University shall provide to maintain on the relevant level or increase the budget for the research for each following year.

4. For the purpose of increasing university involvement in international and local projects, university and its structural subdivisions provide to raise the awareness of university academic personnel and researchers to participate in research projects, besides, they inform public on scientific and research achievements of the university. A Structural unit responsible for the development of research informs university personnel and students on local and international scientific grants and projects, individuals concerned will be consulted and assisted in finding relevant grant.

The most important condition for the University to participate in the process of scientific-research grant administration and coordination, is the involvement of the academic personnel in the project on behalf of the university. For the purpose of providing academic personnel with information and increasing their participation, the university will conduct annual trainings on the following theme:

A) Searching for grants;

B) Writing scientific-research grant;

C) Management of the scientific grant etc.

In order to raise public awareness on research practice of the academic personnel, the university pays special attention to the rating and reliability of the publication, including creating science citation index in world scientific database.

Information on the individuals involved in university research, on researchers, reviewers and their scientific papers will publicly be available on University web-site through scientific portal.

Paragraph 5. The Council for the university research development.

1. The decision on funding of the research is made by the University collegiate council based on the researcher's application and proposal from the responsible structural unit.

2. The council for the university research development includes:

a) Rector (Chair of the council)

b) Representatives from the advisory board;

c) head/heads of the educational programs;

d) Representatives from student self-governance.

e) An expert for the special cases can be invited to the council based on the decision of the chair of the council through deliberate vote right.

3. Internal university grant council performs its duties pursuant to the university mission and scientific research development strategy, which implies: increasing university grant potential, adding research component in learning process, encouraging of the researcher and promoting their scientific development.

Paragraph 6. Informational assurance of the university research.

1. In order to increase university's participation in international or local research projects, university and its structural units promote to raise the awareness of the academic personnel and researchers on research projects and opportunities to participate in them, besides, they try to inform academic society on University's scientific and research advancement.

2. A structural unit responsible for the research development informs the university personnel and students about local and international scientific grants. Individuals concerned will have consultations and will be assisted in finding relevant grant.

Paragraph 7. Academic integrity and anti-plagiarism measure.

1. University reserves a right, to be a guarantor of the academic integrity in educational and research processes, besides, it is entitled to identify and take relevant measure in the event of   violation of the academic integrity, have anti-plagiarism policy, implement the mechanisms for further disciplinary measures in the event of   violating academic integrity. Take particularly strict measures in the event of plagiarism and its recurrence.

2. Plagiarism is any action that involves stealing someone else's work entirely or partly to use them as their own, or an attempt to do so. Specifically:

a) Steal someone else's intellectual property;

b) Submit someone else's work as their own, entirely or partly;

c) Submit someone else's work without observing citation rules.

d) citing someone else's work in submitted work word by word, changing a word or word order, without changing the meaning, making judgment based on someone else's work without mentioning the source.

3. The university reserves the right, for the scientific activities organized/coordinated by the university, apply computer program for detecting the plagiarism and other necessary informational resources.

4. Anti-plagiarism system is integrated on each academic field. Each and every submitted work will be examined.

- ✓ **Anti-plagiarism policy of the University, stages and their meaning**

Stage 1-awarness: in order to avoid and/or decrease cases of plagiarism, it's vital to inform the individuals whose work can be a product of plagiarism. For this purpose, the university considers elaborating complex measures , which means as follows: each educational program should have compulsory course of academic writing, which puts emphasis on the content of plagiarism and on its negative outcomes, including mechanisms how to avoid them. The course will be in the first term; in each and every educational program syllabus the meaning of plagiarism should be explained and in case of its detection relevant sanctions should be named, this type of notices could be placed on students' examination paper. in student contracts. Structural units responsible for communication with the students and personnel should inform them on plagiarism and possible sanctions that are defined by university regulation, Students and personnel will be informed on plagiarism and mechanism to avoid them in their personal e-portal.

Stage 2-prevention:

The university pays special attention to the   preventive measures in the anti-plagiarism company.

For this purpose university works on special textbooks and instructions for professors and students, where they will obtain specific information on how to avoid plagiarism. On this stage, students will be asked with special questionnaire, to check the feedback, how relevantly have they understood provided information, Upon understanding of the obtained information, relevant feedback is expected: useful recommendations or/an d taking specific measures.

Stage 3-plagiarism detection

The following measure can be considered as relevant action in response to plagiarism:

- ✓ Assessment of the papers of both academic and invited specialist;
- ✓ Existence of internal e-base for the papers done by the students and professors;
- ✓ Periodical Assessment of the professors;
- ✓ Free access of anti-plagiarism e-programs;
- ✓ Buying plagiarism detection program.

Detection of the plagiarism till they are finally proved goes the following stages:

Detection of the plagiarism is possible by university initiated monitoring, or by the individual who detects the plagiarism; in any case, the process is administrated and controlled by the department of quality assurance and strategic development, in the first case the head of the department confidentially discuss the case with the relevant school dean , in the latter case , the individual who detected the plagiarism addresses the department of quality assurance and strategic development , who confidentially discuss the case with the relevant school dean. In both cases, if the doubts are well-grounded, the commission shall be established with relevant field specialist, as from the university personnel (if there are no conflict of interests) , as with individuals outside the organization, The committee makes a relevant report. Till the committee finishes the case, till the plagiarism is confirmed suspect/s reputation should not be damaged. The committee is responsible before the University rector, the final report of the committee will be sent to the suspect. The individual who violated the rule is entitled to respond the committee and observe their interest based on the principle of equality. The decision of the committee should be well-grounded with relevant proofs. Violator is entitled to appeal the court pursuant to the legislative norms.

Stage 4- response to the plagiarism

The university considers its action in two directions: impose specific sanction on violator and develop systematic anti-plagiarism campaign.

In the first case university may apply the following sanctions:

a)warning; all the articles of the author should be checked in terms of plagiarism and falsification;

b) Conduct special monitoring on their future work;

c) Suspension of the labor contract

d) Dismissal from the work;

e) Suspend student status.

In the second plagiarism case, response to the plagiarism might have a developing character and only imposed sanctions are not sufficient, as it do not decrease or eliminate other cases of plagiarism. Consequently, the university considers to implement the activities or develop existed activities such as better teaching of foreign language competences, promoting young learners , and their involvement in academic field. During instruction-learning process promote methodology that is oriented on the development of creative, original thinking. Integrate research component in learning and develop research infrastructure.

Paragraph 8 . Increase participation of the academic personnel in research

1. Before the academic contest, the university considers their potentials for scientific research and participation in grant projects;
2. The university will allocate relevant funds to each affiliate personnel (for professors up to 3000 GEL, associate professors in the amount up to 2000 GEL, assistant professors in the amount up to 1500 GEL) to support the involvement of their affiliated academic staff in international studies. This amount may be used to carry out research activities, finance scientific publications, participate in scientific conferences, etc.

2. Human resource and proceedings department, together with the structural units responsible for research development, conducts the assessment of research work evaluation of the university personnel, based on participating in research and adding research components in learning process. Professors and students , both will participate in research, University regulation and choosing the academic personnel involves final assessment of the academic personnel at the end of the academic year. University indicators for the assessment of scientific research of academic and scientific personnel are:

a)scientific papers in university publications;
b) Scientific papers in different publications, In Georgia or abroad.
c) Scientific paper in impact-factor journals
d) University grants.
e) Research grants;
f) Participation in scientific conferences;
g) published textbooks and monographs;
h) Number of citations.