

## THESIS/DISSERTATION VIVA MANAGEMENT DRAFT POLICY

### Rationale:

Viva voce (an oral examination) is compulsory for postgraduate degrees. The oral examination provides the candidate with an opportunity to defend his or her dissertation and it assists the examiners in deciding whether or not the candidate has met the requirements for the degree for which he or she is registered. Reading the dissertation is one way of doing this, but the oral examination allows the examiners to:

- examine the general field within which the dissertation lies;
- discuss the dissertation in detail;
- explore the ideas and the theories proposed in the dissertation;
- clarify any points of ambiguity; and
- satisfy themselves that the dissertation is the candidate's own work

All this is aimed at maintaining quality and consistency.

### (i) Committee:

#### Composition:

- Dean, School of Research and Postgraduate Studies – chair.
- The candidate's faculty dean.
- The candidate's head of department.
- Senior academic staff in the area of the candidate's thesis/dissertation.
- Internal supervisor.

### (ii) Schedule

- The viva should be conducted at least three times in a year.
- The viva should be conducted three months before the graduation date.
- The months in which the viva is to be conducted should be known to all the students and internal supervisors.

### (iii) Defense of the dissertation

- The Committee to examine the dissertation before it is sent to the external examiner for grading.
- The final mark to Senate should be by the Committee or the External examiner which- ever is higher.

*Shweta*  
16/6/2015  
1