MEMORANDUM

To : SCE colleagues

From : Research Management Committee (RMC)

Date : 15 June 2020

Subject : SCE Strategic Research Areas

To follow up with the strategic direction of SCE on **"Building up Research Capability",** the RMC had conducted a thorough study on the : (i) Research strengths, interests, and expertise of SCE colleagues; (ii) Strategic needs of SCE; and (iii) Alignment with the research clusters of HKBU. Potential strategic research areas were then mapped out by the RMC for the consideration and approval of the SCE Executive Committee.

We are pleased to announce that the School has identified three strategic research areas (see (A) as below) and the associated actions/strategies to promote and develop the strategic research areas (see (B), (C) and (D) as below).

(A) SCE Strategic Research Areas

1. **Environment and Health**
   Sub-themes:
   a) Mental Health
   b) Health and Environment/recreation
   c) Drug/medical/biological science

2. **Education, Teaching and Learning**
   Sub-themes:
   a) Early Childhood Education
   b) Teaching and Learning
   c) IT in Education

3. **Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

(B) Formation of Research Groups

Research Groups will be formed in accordance to colleagues' research interests/ expertise and respective strategic research areas, to promote exchanges, cultivate research initiatives/ projects, and develop the inter- and cross-disciplinary collaborations on research.

(C) Priority of Grants Applications

Priority will be given to proposals/ applications with research areas that align with at least one of the SCE's strategic research areas for the following internal/ external grants schemes/opportunities:

1. SCE Seed Grant Funding Scheme:
   - According to the respective Guidelines for Application of the Scheme, "*Alignment with the SCE's strategic research areas*" was set as one of the selection criteria.
2. External funding/grant opportunities which have quota system and/or requirement to indicate the order of priority of proposals.
3. Competitive Research Funding Schemes for the Local Self-financing Degree Sector by the Research Grants Council (RGC).
4. Research Matching Grant Scheme (RMGS):
   - Donations related to any one of the strategic research areas would be given the priority to apply for RMGS in view of its first-come-first-served basis.

(D) Priority of Infrastructure Development

Priority will be given to the development/ sustainability of relevant infrastructures/ laboratories within SCE (e.g. Shek Mun campus, SCE Tower etc.) related to the strategic research areas in near future.

The Research Management Committee (RMC) is charged to coordinate the actions/strategies in promoting and developing the SCE Strategic Research Areas. Please feel free to contact Dr. Sam Lau at 3027/ samlau@hkbu.edu.hk or Ms. Teresa Tsang at 3127/ teresa_tsang@hkbu.edu.hk of the RMC Secretariat if you have any ideas or potential initiatives on the strategic research areas.

The School would like to emphasise that in addition to the SCE Strategic Research Areas, there is room for staff to do any research in line with the mission of the School. Quality of the work is the prevailing criterion.