Innovation Policy

1. Introduction

Azerbaijan Technological University (ATU) implements several strategies to enhance its competitiveness at national and international levels, strengthen educational and research activities, and foster a culture of innovation. This policy document outlines the key principles and procedures for promoting and managing innovation at the university.

2. Purpose and Mission

The main goal of ATU's innovation policy is to commercialize the outcomes of the university's research and teaching activities, create added value for industry and society, encourage students and faculty to engage in innovative thinking, and develop national and international collaborations under the motto "Excellentia, Commendatio, Valor" (Excellence, Reliability, Value).

3. Principles

The ATU innovation policy is based on the following main principles:

1. **Teamwork and Collaboration**: Expanding the university's collaboration with local and international organizations, strengthening ties with industry, and supporting joint projects.
2. **Understanding Creativity**: Encouraging and promoting innovative and creative ideas from students and academic staff, while fostering a supportive environment for innovation.
3. **Research and Development (R&D)**: Supporting research and development activities and ensuring the commercialization of research results for society and industry.
4. **Adaptability and Open-Mindedness**: Enhancing the entrepreneurial and innovation skills of students and faculty by organizing training and seminars to promote flexibility and open-minded thinking.
5. **Leadership and Responsibility**: Ensuring that all innovation activities adhere to high ethical standards and legislation, with a focus on accountability and leadership.

4. Strategies

ATU's innovation strategies are developed based on the following framework:

1. **Resource Provision and Development**:
   ○ Financial, technological, and infrastructure support will be provided by the university and other private and public organizations for the successful implementation of innovation projects.
   ○ Ensuring and enhancing the efficient use of resources allocated for innovation.
2. **Unique Ideas Support**:
   ○ Collecting innovative ideas from students and faculty through innovation centers, laboratories, and other structures within the university.
   ○ Providing necessary support for the development of high-potential ideas and creating mechanisms for their realization.
3. **Startups and Spin-Offs Establishment**:
   ○ Supporting students and academic staff in commercializing research results and establishing startup projects.
   ○ Investigating financial sources and providing mentorship support for the creation and development of spin-off companies.
4. **Technology Transfer and Patenting**:
   ○ Transferring and commercializing ATU's research results to industrial enterprises.
   ○ Creating support mechanisms for patenting new technologies and protecting intellectual property rights.
5. **Assessing Outcomes Objectively**:
   ○ Setting criteria for the objective and fair evaluation of the results of implemented projects and initiatives.
   ○ Ensuring the alignment of results with the university's overall development strategy and making necessary adjustments.
6. **Monitoring and Evaluation**:
   ○ Regular monitoring and reporting will be conducted to evaluate the implementation and results of the innovation policy.
   ○ An annual activity report will be presented by the Innovation Center, and an action plan will be prepared for the following years.
7. **Open Networking and Collaboration**:
   ○ Expanding the university's collaboration with local and international organizations, strengthening ties with industry, and supporting joint projects.
   ○ Expanding networking opportunities with research institutes and technology parks.

8. **Vision for Innovation Culture**:
- Organizing seminars, trainings, and other events to develop a culture of innovation within the university.
- Recognizing and rewarding students and faculty who demonstrate success in the field of innovation.

5. Management and Responsibility

- **Innovation Center**: The main structure responsible for implementing the university's innovation policy will be the Innovation Center. Subdivisions will be created within each faculty to coordinate and manage innovation projects, optimize planning, project design, and operations management.
- **Responsible Individuals**: Responsible individuals will be appointed in each faculty to organize and coordinate innovation activities.
- **Resource Provision**: Financial, technological, and infrastructure support will be provided by the university and other private and public organizations to ensure the successful implementation of innovation projects.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular monitoring and reports will be prepared to evaluate the implementation and results of the innovation policy. The Innovation Center will present an annual activity report and prepare an action plan for the following years.

7. Conclusion

This document serves as a roadmap for the development and coordination of innovation activities at Azerbaijan Technological University. All university structures and employees must actively participate in the implementation of this policy and contribute to the formation of an innovation culture.

8. Acceptance and Implementation

This innovation policy document is approved by the decision of the Azerbaijan Technological University Scientific Council. The policy document will be implemented and enforced by all faculties and departments of the university.