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Measuring Research and Innovation Outputs

Research and Innovation are key drivers of progress in academia, leading to new discoveries, technologies, and ways of thinking that can have a profound impact on the world. However, measuring the research and innovation capacity and output of a university can be a complex challenge. What metrics should be used, and how can universities effectively track and assess their research and innovative activities?

One important factor to consider is research productivity. The number and quality of publications, patents, and other intellectual property generated by a university's faculty can be a strong indicator of innovative thinking and problem-solving. Citation impact, or how frequently a university's research is referenced by others in the field, is another useful metric. Universities can also track the commercialization of their innovations, such as the number of startup companies spun out or licensing deals made.

Beyond traditional research outputs, universities should also look at more holistic measures. This could include the number of interdisciplinary collaborations, number and quality of doctoral programs, number and quality of international conferences, number and quality of international academic partnerships, joint publications, quality of research labs, amount of internal funding, the diversity of research topics and methodologies, the speed of knowledge transfer to real-world applications, and the university's ability to attract top talent and external funding (from industry and research funding agencies) for innovative initiatives. Student-led projects, hackathons, and entrepreneurship programs are other important indicators of a culture of innovation. In addition to academic impact through publications and citations, the social, economic, health, environmental, and quality of life impact should also be measured.

Qualitative assessments can supplement quantitative metrics. Interviews, case studies, and peer reviews can provide valuable insights into the quality, creativity, and impact of a university's innovations. Gathering feedback from industry partners, community stakeholders, and other external collaborators can also shed light on the university's ability to drive meaningful change.

Ultimately, a multifaceted approach is needed to accurately gauge a university's research and innovative capacity. By tracking a balanced set of quantitative and qualitative measures, institutions can identify their strengths, pinpoint areas for improvement, and ensure they are delivering on their mission to advance knowledge and positively transform society.

At ADU, Research and Innovation is led by my esteemed colleague Professor [Montasir Qasymeh](#) and all the above measures are taken into account when measuring our research and innovation outputs.

Please provide your views if I have missed any important measures.

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