

Research Proposal Review

The review process shall have four elements, namely (i) the substantive and technical quality of the proposal; (ii) the policy-orientation and usefulness of the research; the budget and financial plans of the project; and (iv) the work plan and technical resources identified to carry out the project.

- i) *Review of the substantive and technical quality of the proposal.* The objective of this review is to determine whether the proposal meets the technical standards for research proposals by the PASCN. It will evaluate the objectives of the study and ascertain its contribution by examining how the study relates to past and present research in the area. It will review the study design in terms of the validity of its theoretical constructs, conceptual framework and the suggested hypotheses. It will also look into the adequacy of the proposed analytical and statistical methodologies to test the hypotheses of the study. In general, the review will ascertain whether the proposed overall research design will enable the researcher to satisfy his/her research objectives.
- ii) *Review of the policy-usefulness and orientation of the proposed research.* The aim of the review will be to help ensure that the planned study is relevant to policy needs. In particular, the review will indicate whether the proposed research addresses an important (current or anticipated) policy issue facing the policymakers. The review will describe how the research as it is currently designed will (or will not) assist the policymakers in resolving the identified policy issue.
- iii) *Review of the budget and financial plans.* The review will ascertain whether the costing of the resources (personnel compensation rates, fees for use of computing facilities, prices of supplies and materials, unit cost of field interviews, etc.) meet the Network's or research industry-wide standards. An analysis of the suggested overhead rate (where specific) would be necessary to determine its reasonableness in addressing direct and unallocable expenses. The review should indicate whether the total cost of the project can be adequately supported by the financial resources of the Network. Finally, the review should examine whether the quarterly financial plans are consistent with the work program.
- iv) *Review of the work plan and requisite technical resource.* The review will determine whether the project can be feasibly implemented in terms of the proposed time schedules and the identified inputs. The availability of the inputs required for the delivery of the proposed outputs will be examined such as the identification and recruitment of project personnel, contract arrangements with data collection agencies, etc. It will also look into the proposed management structure for the

project to ensure that adequate control and supervision systems are in place.

The **Review Committee**¹ will evaluate the received proposals based on the above-mentioned four elements namely (i) the substantive and technical quality of the proposal; (ii) the policy-orientation and usefulness of the research; (iii) the budget and financial plans of the project; and (iv) the work plan and technical resources identified to carry out the project. If compliance, they will endorse it to the **Steering Committee**² for funding and approval.

¹ Designated PIDS representative as Chair with official designated representative Silliman University and University of the Philippines as members.

² PIDS President as the Chair with official designated representative from ADMU, DLSU, UA&P and USC as members