# *GTU INNOVATION COUNCIL*

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Student Start-up Support System (S4)

**Roundtable discussion on**

**"Implementation of GTU Startup policy in affiliated colleges"**

Date- 20th February 2015                                     Time: 18.00 to 20.30 Hrs

Venue- S4 Conference room, GTU Ahmedabad Campus, ACPC Building, Inside LDCE Complex

### *Background:*

Gujarat Technological University (GTU) has made major efforts since 25th February, 2012 for supporting student start-ups. As GTU worked to improve practice-orientation, to develop industry-institute interactions through its GTU Innovation Council (GIC), to establish its student start-up activities and to create awareness about Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and Patenting through a series of workshops across the State, various roundtables discussion and conferences were organized to prepare one-of-its-kind GTU's Student Start-up policy to support budding students entrepreneurs.

In November 2014, GTU prepared a comprehensive draft of Student Start-up Policy and the policy for its Skilling Mission, based on our experience of the last four years. This set of policies has emerged after working on the different components of the policies at GTU with more than 200,000 students over the years. This is the only successful model in India for a University-based start-up and incubator system. The policies are designed to develop a robust entrepreneurship system all across GTU.

The drafts of the policies were discussed at a number of meetings within GTU family and with the delegates, who had assembled at the National Workshop on November 21-22, 2014 on the '**Development of Policy Framework for Innovation, Student Entrepreneurship & IPR** for Universities with a large number of affiliated College**s'**.

Finally GTU's Start-up Policy and the policy document for its Skilling Mission were released by the Honourable Minister of Education of Gujarat State on Monday, 15th December 2014.

### *Report:*

At the roundtable discussion, about 30 Principals and Faculty Members were present. The event started with a self-introduction of all the attendees, which included Faculty Members, Principals,

Start-Up Entrepreneurs and other interested Members of the GTU's extended family. The new entrepreneurs were Rahul Bhagchandani from Youth Connect, Yash Shah from eSwasthya and Sharad Parekh from Straut Pvt Ltd. The event was chaired by **Dr. Rupesh Vasani**, Dean, Degree Engineering at GTU and Principal at SAL Institute of Technology & Engineering Research, Ahmedabad.

The meeting started with an introductory note regarding S4 and its activities by Mr. Kaushik Akiwatkar (S4 Development coordinator). Various activities of S4 were described and glimpses of events and workshops, organized by GTU Innovation Council and S4 were showcased

Then the GTU Student Start-up policy and the roles of the University in Pedagogy and Co-curricular activities and the roles of the external stakeholders roles were read out and debated. The focus was on implementation of the policy at institute level. Principals discussed their key problems like the means to achieve the policy, roles of the individual to be focused on and requirement of the strict time line for the same. They also added there is a very urgent need to discuss deeply onto the topic to bridge the gap between market and institute.

The different opinions from the stake holders are listed below:

- There should be more clarity requirement on section 2.10 of 'Co-curricular Roles' about section 8 A company and the role of Sankul and University.
- There is requirement of a detailed policy on the funds for implementing the fabrication and design facilities (section 3.7 on 'Efforts with External Stakeholders').
- There is also a bit doubt about repaying the financial support to the State Banks and other Financial Institutions (section 4.3 on 'Incubation and other similar resources').
- The deadlines should be provided with monitoring as monitoring of the activities is important.
- A specific training program should be organized to implement policy wherein the Faculty and Students Coordinators, Principal, Zonal Coordinator, Sankul Coordinator and University level Coordinator should be included.

At the end of the round table meeting all supported on the quick and smooth implementation of the GTU Student Start-up Policy at all institutes. The chair of the meeting Dr. Vasani concluded the debate, indicating that the concept of Innovation Home will become very effective  and interesting. Along the same lines, implementation of the well-defined key points of the policy and activity monitoring will play a key pole for the successful and progressive future of the institutions and students.

(Participants during the Round Table meeting on Possible Gujarat Start-up Policy)

**References:** 1. GTU's Student Start-up Policy is available at
http://files.gtu.ac.in/circulars/14DEC/05122014_02.pdf

2. GTU's policy document for its Skilling Mission is available at
http://files.gtu.ac.in/circulars/14DEC/22122014.pdf

3. For a draft of the policy and for a reference to some of the earlier RoundTable Discussion meetings on the issues of policy, please visit  http://www.gtu.ac.in/circulars/14Nov/GTUStartupPolicy_Draft.pdf

**Report Prepared by:** Team GTU Innovation Council