

SACRU

Strategic Alliance of Catholic Research Universities



BOSTON COLLEGE



PONTIFICIA
UNIVERSIDAD
CATÓLICA
DE CHILE



上智大学
SOPHIA UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITÀ
CATTOLICA
del Sacro Cuore



UNIVERSIDADE
CATOLICA
PORTUGUESA

Constitution

1. Description:

The Strategic Alliance of Catholic Universities (SACRU) is a network of leading Catholic universities dedicated to research and teaching excellence, engagement and global collaboration informed by Catholic social teaching, Ex corde Ecclesiae and embedded in a heritage of more than 2000 years.

2. Vision:

To be a leading network of Catholic universities supporting leadership and education for the common good. SACRU proposes an international and innovative model of university cooperation inspired by the conception of teaching and research at the service of the human person.

3. Mission:

The Mission of SACRU is to foster global cooperation amongst research-intensive Catholic universities with the goal of advancing world leading knowledge and higher education for the common good. The Alliance promotes a transdisciplinary approach in which academics work together to address the issues of the world and the Church.

4. Membership:

a. Foundation member institutions of SACRU are:

- i. Australian Catholic University (Australia)
- ii. Boston College (USA)
- iii. Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (Chile)
- iv. Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
- v. Sophia University (Japan)
- vi. Universidade Católica Portuguesa (Portugal)
- vii. Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Italy)
- viii. Universitat Ramon Llull (Spain)

b. Number of Member institutions:

- i. There are eight (8) Foundation members.
- ii. Total membership of SACRU is limited to no more than 20 institutions

c. New Members

- i. Membership is by invitation only.
- ii. A candidate for membership must be invited by a member of the Governing Board.
- iii. A candidate for membership must be a Catholic or Christian faith-based institution.
- iv. A candidate for membership must be formally recognised by its home country higher education regulator.
- v. Candidates for membership must be able to provide evidence of, commitment to, and international leadership in research.
- vi. Candidates must have an internationalisation strategy
- vii. The Governing Board of SACRU approves new members.
- viii. Membership must be supported by a majority of members of the Governing Board

- ix. New members cannot be approved until 2 years has elapsed from the promulgation of the SACRU constitution.
- d. Governing Board:
- i. The Governing Board of SACRU will consist of the Rector/President/Vice Chancellor or nominee of each member institution.
 - ii. The Governing Board will be chaired by a President (Rector or equivalent of a member university) elected by a majority of the Governing Board
 - iii. The Governing Board will have a Vice-President (Rector Level or equivalent) elected by a majority of the Board
 - iv. The Presidency and Vice Presidency will be held by a member institution not individual and will be elected by a majority of Governing Board members.
 - v. The term of the President and Vice-President is three (3) years.
 - vi. The Governing Board will have responsibility for strategic, operational and financial oversight of SACRU.
 - vii. The Governing Board must meet at least once every twelve (12) months.
 - viii. Meetings will be convened and chaired by President, or Vice President as alternate.
 - ix. The Governing Board elects by majority the Secretary General of SACRU, who must be a Vice-rector or equivalent, for a mandate of three (3) years. The Secretary General attends the Governing Board meetings but without the right of vote.
 - x. The President, Vice-President and the Secretary General may not serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms.
- e. Executive Committee:
- a. The Executive Committee will consist of up to two nominees from each member institution at Vice Rector level or equivalent ideally with institutional responsibility for research and internationalisation.
 - b. The Executive Committee will be convened by the Secretary General, elected by a majority of the members of the Governing Board.
 - c. The term of the Chair will be three years.
 - d. The Executive Committee will have responsibility for developing and coordinating SACRU activities, events and initiatives under the strategic direction of the Governing Board.

5. Membership fees:

- i. Annual membership fee as at 2021 is 10,000 Euros.
- ii. Annual membership fee will be reviewed by the SACRU Executive Committee every two (2) years.
- iii. Where a member institution is unable to pay the full annual membership fee due to financial constraints, the member may apply to the Governing Board for a reduction of the fee or a moratorium on payment for twelve (12) months.

6. Secretariat:

- i. The Secretariat will support the Secretary General of SACRU
- ii. The host institution of the Secretariat must be approved by the Governing Board.
- iii. The host institution must be a member of the Executive Committee.
- iv. The institution that hosts the secretariat will do so until they elect to surrender the responsibility.
- v. The cost of the Secretariat will be financed by the SACRU annual fees

Strategic Alliance of Catholic Universities (SACRU) By Laws

The purpose of the Strategic Alliance of Catholic Research Universities is:

- i. To promote research, teaching and internationalisation excellence inspired and informed by Catholic identity.
- ii. To promote, facilitate and encourage research, teaching and engagement collaboration across the members through an annual seminar and other allied networking activities.
- iii. To provide a framework to support research and/or teaching collaboration between alliance members.
- iv. To facilitate staff and student mobility across the alliance.
- v. To explore and develop potential research collaboration between members that address global challenges.
- vi. To facilitate collaborative teaching collaboration and best practice between members.
- vii. To support internationalisation of education and share areas of best practice.
- viii. To identify best practice in research organisation, management, performance assessment and portfolio development and promote it within our institutions.
- ix. To promote best practice in research career development from research student to senior research leader.
- x. To organise other workshops and small-scale conferences to promote the aims of the alliance.
- xi. To identify opportunities to develop research networks and projects addressing global/Church challenges within SACRU and take action to initiate them.
- xii. To identify and support mechanisms for promoting research internationalisation at PGR (postgraduate research) and ECR (early career researchers) career stages.

July 8th, 2020

Amended on October 25th, 2023