

Analysis of Research Policy at Islamic Higher Education in Indonesia

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Abstract: The purpose of this study is to make discussion of research policy at the Islamic Higher Education (IHE) in Indonesia. The analytical method used is qualitative analysis that uses the causality approach which describes relations of policy direction from the administrative, normative, substantial viewpoints of the research based on literature review, interview and the researcher's observation. The result of the research shows that the direction of research policy at IHE has good grade can be performed well although its implementation still has an administrative trouble in particular and the absorption of research results in industrial areas. The researchers recommends that the policy research at IHE in Indonesia needs strengthening with various operational derivatives regulations and facilitating administrative accountability with no distraction for the researcher's role which is expected to focus more on the substance of the in-progress research.

Key words: Policy, research, Islamic higher education, facilitating, accountability

INTRODUCTION

Based on Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 14 Year 2005 on Teacher and Lecturer at study 1 paragraph 2, it has been explained that lecturer is a professional educator and scientist with the main task of transforming, developing and disseminating science, technology and the arts through education, research and service to society. Thus, the position of lecturer as professional employee at the higher education level appointed in accordance with the legislation who has three main tasks, namely in the fields of education, research and society service (Apriani, 2009; Ramdhani *et al.*, 2012).

The research area is one of the main pillars of the IHE establishment in which the direction of research at higher education stipulated in Law No. 12 Years 2012 on Higher Education. Research in IHE is directed to develop science and technology and improve the welfare of society and the nation's competitiveness. The research was conducted by academicians in accordance with the autonomy of scientific and academic culture. The research was conducted based on the path of competence and competition. Research is something that must be done by every lecturer in Indonesia. The competence of a university in this study is reflected in the activities of the three responsibilities of IHE, in accordance with the philosophy mandated by the government for higher education institutions, namely: the quality of education and the quality of research and the quality of service to society. An assessment of the performance level of a university can be measured from the level of success in achieving the goal previously set of all the three areas of activity (Winamo and Widiastuti, 2015).

Even though public policies are designed to solve problems, not all published policies major produce expected results (Ramdhani *et al.*, 2006). Due to the urgency of research implementation at universities, this study is presented to discuss policy analysis at the IHE of in Indonesia.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The analytical method used is qualitative analysis that applies the causality approach which describes relations of policy direction from the administrative, normative, substantial viewpoints of the research based on literature review, interview and the researcher's observation. This research was conducted at the State Islamic University of Sunan Gunung Jati Bandung with primary respondents of administration employees of the research and researchers (lecturers). The formulation of research logical framework presented in this study follows the suggestion given by Ramdhani and Ramdhani (2014), Ramdhani *et al.* (2014). To verify the results of the analysis presented in this study, the activity of Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was conducted. The method used to analyze each policy component is a model adopted and developed by Asiah and Rofieq (2012), namely:

- Problem structuring, a method that produces policy and formal problems
- Forecasting, a method that will produce policy alternatives
- Recommendation, a method which will produce policy action
- Monitoring, a method that will produce policy outcomes

- Evaluation, a method that will produce performances policy or re-selection of the next alternative
- Practical inference (practical conclusions), a method that will conclude in practice: when it faces the same problem

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The orientation and direction of research policy at the universities environment is to produce meaningful research for: the enrichment of Science and Technology as well as learning; the quality improvement of IHE and the progress of civilization; the increase in self-independence, progress and the nation's competitiveness; the fulfillment of the strategic needs of national development and the changes of Indonesian society into a knowledge-based society.

Furthermore, the result of this study should be disseminated through seminars, publication and/or patented by universities. The result of academician's research which is published in international journals which obtains patents utilized by industry, appropriate technology and/or a book used as a learning resource can be given a meaningful award by the government.

The policy of research field of IHE was drawn up in the regulation of Minister of Religious Affairs. The research at the IHE is based on the following principles: scientific; beneficial; ethical and religious norms; academic freedom; responsible; honesty; virtue and innovative. Furthermore, research at the IHE aims: to develop the science of religion; to develop science and technology; to develop culture and art; to develop an academic culture and to overcome the problems of life and humanity (Regulation of the Minister of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 55 Years 2014 about the Research and Community Services at IHE, 2014).

Strategic targets of the General Directorate of IHE of Ministry of Religious Affairs is increasing quality, relevance and competitiveness of IHE in year 2015-2019. To achieve the impacts above, the following number of programs (outcomes) are implemented:

- Improving access, quality, relevance and competitiveness with the following goals
- The increased access to IHE
- The increased service quality of IHE which is marked by the following
- The number of foreign cooperation for the strengthening of IHE
- The number of IHE which gain distinctiveness reinforcement
- The number of IHE which gain strengthening mandate of the integration of Islamic science and natural science

The increased quality of lecturers and academic staff at IHE which is marked by the following:

- The number of lecturers whose competence improved
- The number of lecturers who follow international scientific forums
- The number of lecturers who take the program of foreign language skills improvement
- The number of lecturers who present AICIS papers
- The increased quality of research at IHE which is marked by the following
- The number of research conducted by the IHE
- The number of nationally accredited journals
- The number of internationally accredited journals (indexed by Scopus)
- The number of scientific papers that get a patent

The increased innovation of the IHE which is marked by the following:

- The number of community service carried out by the IHE
- The number of students who completed an apprenticeship program to the industrial world
- The number of students who take part in the competition, seminars and the national and international level development of student talent

The education management support and other technical tasks with the goal of increasing service quality of IHE management on the basis of data and information systems of IHE which is marked by the following:

- The percentage of management service availability at IHE
- The percentage of data and information systems availability at IHE as a base for planning, budgeting and monitoring and evaluation

The scope of the study at IHE includes: mono scientific disciplines; inter disciplines and multi-disciplinary science. IHE can do research in order to develop certain specific scientific fields as their respective advantages. Research at IHE can be done by: individual lecturer or researcher; group of lecturers and/or researchers and work units within IHE.

Problem structuring: Based on the interview and observation done by writer, it appeared various problems derived from strategic issues related to research at IHE which are including:

- Revitalization of policy direction, regulation and research governance
- Development of resources and research organizers
- Increase of campus strategic partnerships with government, business or industrial world and society
- Development of research supporting infrastructure such as e-Journals, laboratories and libraries
- The facts that show the gap between what it should be (das solen) with what really happens (das sein)
- The importance of the problem to be solved
- The determinant facts that gives hope for solving problems through research to be conducted
- The added value obtained compared with the results of previous studies

The discussion of this study is limited on the issue of revitalization of the policy direction, regulation and governance of research at IHE.

Forecasting: FGD conducted together with researcher lecturers at UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung is to formulate some policy alternatives in the context of the revitalization of the policy direction, regulation and research governance to solve various problems in the implementation of research at IHE which include:

- Policy direction, regulation and research governance directed at strengthening the interdisciplinary understanding of researchers
- Regulation is made to allow the researcher to make a report on the administrative aspects
- Research governance is directed at the implementation of good research governance, using the rules of transparency, accountability, responsibility and fairness

Recommendation: Ministry of religious affairs as the highest policymakers of research at IHE launched a new paradigm in conducting research, namely: innovative, inspirational, practice of science, technology and art, empowerment and community development at large (Kementerian Agama Republik Indonesia in 2014).

Policy action that the writer recommended to solve problems in conducting research at IHE is the need to reform control aspects of research that cover all aspects of the implementation of research activities from upstream to downstream. To keep the implementation of the policy, regulation and research governance, the writer proposes the procedures of research application as follows.

Eligibility of research proposal: The first procedure is to ensure the eligibility of the research proposal that at least include the following items: title which is a formulation of the subject matter to be studied. The title reflects the core formulation of research problems; the background which explains the reason for the importance of research to be conducted. This section explains the fact, expectation and problem as follows:

Selection of research proposal: Proposals that meet the terms and conditions can be promoted to be financed. If the number of submitted proposals exceed the available budget, there must be a selection to give priority to researchers who are able to express their ideas in the proposal. The selection, at least, is regarded as a form of submitted proposal accountability. The selection process consists of the following stages:

- Administrative selection done through desk evaluation, namely checking the minimum standard of file completeness
- Selection of the proposal substance, namely providing an evaluation of the research materials and
- After the evaluation and selection process, applicants must present their proposal in front of experts who are presented as discussants in accordance with their disciplines and expertise

Research seminar: Research seminar is a proposal seminar and research finding seminar. Each research finding should be presented in the seminar. The seminar of research is conducted in several forms:

- Seminar of presentation has been declared eligible in the first stage. At this stage, the nominator presents the operational design of the study to be carried out. The operational design here means more technical operational elaboration of research proposals submitted
- Seminar of the implementation evaluation (middle term evaluation) which is the stage for reporting the implementation process of research by the recipients of research funding
- Seminar of conducted research finding exposes in order to disseminate the results of research conducted by the researchers. Seminar of research exposes can be done by presenting experts or lecturers, or wider seminar by engaging students

Research funding: Clearing of research funds can use stages provided that in the first phase 60% of researchers already present the proposal and already revise it after they receive input or review during the presentation as

they are appointed as receivers and have signed a research assignment contract. Then, the second stage 40% with the provision that the researchers already follow all stages that are determined by research funders and already submit a progress report and a final report in the form of an academic text along with file completion as well as the financial statements following proof of purchase.

Report of research activity: Research activity reports include two things, namely:

- Academic report in the form of research reports
- Accountability report of research budget

Monitoring: The analysis of research policy monitoring used in this study is applying gap analysis model that maps a state between which is expected in the plan and that is generated in the implementation of the research program. Gap analysis is intended to determine the level of compatibility between the standards prescribed in the program with the actual appearance of the program (Slameto, 2016).

In general, based on the gap analysis on the implementation process and the success of the research program, there are some problems as follows:

- Gap analysis of the implementation process of the research program in IHE

Research funding is directed to finance the entire cost of the study through the establishment of effective research purposes. Based on the analysis, there is high inequality, the cost of research should free the researcher/lecturer in conducting the research but it is doubtful as the allocation of research funds is subsidy budget which is not able to fund all research activities:

- Gap analysis of the research program success at IHE

The research finding should be absorbed as teaching materials; basis for making policies or products that are utilized economically (industry). Gap analysis points out the fact that the conceptual research mostly already incorporated to the lecturer syllabus but the results are not seen as sufficient product for the later use as the basis of policy-maker and rarely the result of research absorbed by the industry for the mass production process. To keep the implementation of the policy, regulation and research governance direction, the writer proposes the procedures for research application as follows.

Eligibility of research proposal: Technically, a guide to writing research proposal at least contains the following:

- Formulation of the problem stated in questions or statements. The formulation of this problem will guide researchers in conducting the research
- Study of the theory and a literature review where the study of theory is reading tool in the implementation of the research. The study of theory followed by literature review which is the study of the previous research findings related to the topic
- Method, a sequence or procedure of research ranging from the approach used, the technique of collecting, managing and analyzing data and the use of theory in order to find answers to research problems
- Data and data sources which contain the data has been collected and the data source has been obtained
- Schedule of the research implementation in the form of the detailed schedule of each activity to be performed (in months), the schedule is displayed in tabular form
- Budget that includes research budget and expenditure planning, the budget needs to be written in detail that includes components and the researcher is written in a complete form with his expertise in accordance with the needs of research, the schedule and the time allocation of each involvement

Selection of research proposal: The selection of proposal is evaluated by experts who have certain qualifications which ensure substantively that the research will be conducted can meet the feasibility standards of the study.

Research seminar: The experts involvement, seminar may involve experts as panelists who provide discussion of the research materials. Seminar by involving experts is carried out as part of the research implementation of the control function and State's accountability for financing expenditure has been allocated. Seminar is held at least 1 time in every process of research funding allotment.

Research funding: Research funding monitoring involves Internal Audit Unit (IAU) that use applied accounting standards.

Report of research activity: Formulating the form of administrative feasibility report and the research substance report which is then verified by researchersized institution, i.e., official of the agency for research and community service. Knowledge portal is an important aspect to disseminate research (Pamoragung *et al.*, 2006; Ramdhani *et al.*, 2006).

Table 1: Model of research finding evaluation

Report			
Categorys	Output	Outcome	Description
Beginner research	Complete report; ready book for publication	National journal with-ISSN and indexed in Moraref	Published journal 6 months after final report or Published book at the latest 12 months
Medium research	Complete report; ready book for publication	National journal with-ISSN and indexed in Moraref and DOAJ	Published journal 6 months after final report or Published book at the latest 12 months
Excellent research			
Inter-disciplinary Excellent research	Complete report; ready book for publication	Accredited national journal	Published journal 6 months after final report or Published book at the latest 12 months
National excellent research	Complete report; ready book for publication	Accredited national journal	Published journal 6 months after final report or Published book at the latest 12 months
International excellent journal	Complete report; ready book for publication	International journal indexed in SCOPUS	Published journal 6 month after final journal report or Published book at the latest 12 months

Evaluation: Policy performance for research at IHE can not be separated from the scope of National Standard Research which consists of the standard of research finding, the standard of research content, the standard of research process, the standard of research assessment, the standard of researchers, the standard of research facilities, the standard of research management and the standard of research funding and financing. So, as to revitalize the policy direction, regulation and governance of research based on the writer's observation result, one of the research finding performances can be measured with the publication/dissemination of research finding, with a proposed performance as presented in Table 1.

Practical inference: Research field management of the lecturers at IHE has been harmonious and adequate in accordance with the rule of law. The research activity of lecturers at IHE has been already based on the legislation, management regulation such as planning, implementing and reporting. However, with the issued research policy direction in IHE in Indonesia, it is imperative to make adjustments in the following capacities. The structure of the research still requires some capacities, namely:

- Research council assigned to help formulate the direction, the main priority and the policy framework in the research field
- Honorary council of code Ethics assigned to monitor the rules the development of research profession ethics
- Assessment committee/reviewer assigned to assess research materials so as the budget allotment is oriented to the final research output in accordance with the qualification standards of quality
- Monitoring and evaluation committee assigned to monitor and evaluate the phases of activity
- Journal organizer; assigned to make dissemination of scientific publications of research finding

- Intellectual property right center assigned to serve assistance in gaining targeted patents

Guidelines for the establishment of research field structures, procedures and implementation as needed in IHE. In this case, it is essential to make regulation such as regulation of minister of religious affairs that covers the structure, substance and application of research field. Research field management needs to be structured in the organization and work procedures needed by IHE. Then, every IHE makes manual follow-up in form of procedure, work instruction and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in research field.

The actualization of conducive atmosphere through research field. Every IHE is directed to prepare a long-term master plan for the development of the research field. It is then derived in research master plan which is the direction, policy and decision making of research development at IHE in medium term of 5 years. In the research master plan there are road map and the core topics of excellent research. They are then revealed in annual performance plan in the form of activities with their outcomes achievements.

CONCLUSION

Research policy direction at IHE has good value and can be performed well, although its implementation still has administrative and financial trouble in particular and the absorption of research findings in industrial areas. Thus, it is necessary to revitalize research policy direction, regulation and governance.

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