

## Office of Research

### Minutes of the

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PATENTS AND COPYRIGHTS

The Patents and Copyrights Committee met on Tuesday, September 13, 2005, at 11:00 a.m., in the Deans' Conference Room, Derryberry Hall Room 200, with Dr. Mohamed Abdelrahman, Chairperson, presiding.

#### Present

Mr. Mohamed Abdelrahman  
Dr. Ali Alouani  
Mr. Michael Baswell  
Dr. Robert Clougherty  
Mr. Robert Cravens  
Ms. Nancy Mielke  
Dr. Scott Northrup  
Dr. Francis Otuonye, Executive Officer  
Dr. Jan Turner

#### Absent

Dr. Douglas Airhart  
Dr. Shelia Green  
Dr. Glen Johnson

Also present: Mr. Mark Lynam.

Dr. Abdelrahman called the meeting to order. The agenda was as follows (see Attachment A):

**1. Approval of the agenda.**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the March 22, 2005, meeting.**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as distributed.

**3. Election of a chairperson for the 2005-2006 academic year.**

Dr. Alouani's name was placed in nomination as chair of the committee for the 2005-2006 academic year. There were no other nominations from the floor, and Dr. Alouani was elected by acclamation.

**4. Signing of confidentiality and nondisclosure forms by committee members and support persons involved with the committee.**

Dr. Otuonye distributed to all persons present a Non-Use and Confidentiality Agreement. He stated that at the March 22, 2005, meeting of this committee, Dr. Glen Johnson suggested that four motions be adopted by this committee. The No. 2 motion was "Persons serving as members of the Patents and Copyrights Committee, as well as persons who are involved in support of the committee, will sign a formal

confidentiality and nondisclosure agreement before participating in activities of the committee. The confidentiality and nondisclosure agreement will bind committee members and support staff to agree that intellectual property information considered by the committee may not be shared with any parties outside of the committee for any reason, unless required by law." Dr. Alouani stated that he did not believe the adoption of this policy was necessary. Considerable discussion ensued. Thereupon, Dr. Clougherty moved to add the following statement to the above motion by Dr. Johnson: "Any guest or business associate attending any future meeting or anyone addressing the committee will be asked to sign the Non-Use and Confidentiality Agreement." Dr. Turner seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**5. Information on patents in TTU's portfolio.**

Dr. Otuonye stated that during the summer he had contacted Donna Russell, TBR attorney, regarding the filing of some patent applications. TBR did not at that time have a patent attorney so Ms. Russell was invited to campus to discuss the process. Ms. Russell's opinion is TTU faculty are not providing adequate information and details for the filing of provisional and utility patent applications. This process was discussed at length. Dr. Otuonye reported that Lou Svendsen has been hired as Assistant Attorney General and would be willing to attend the October 11, 2005, meeting of this committee for a question and answer session and where he stands on these issues. Dr. Otuonye requested the committee have their questions ready for Mr. Svendsen on October 11.

**6. Such other matters.**

As above stated, at the March 22, 2005, meeting, Dean Johnson suggested the passing of four motions. No. 2 was stated above in Item 4.

The others are as follows:

1. Requests for this committee to make recommendations regarding provisional patents or utility patents should be accompanied by sufficient detail to allow the committee to make an informed decision. With this in mind, inventors will be invited to make a five minute presentation of their invention to the committee at the first meeting where the invention is to be considered for possible patent. The presentation may be followed by a question and answer period, as required by the committee. The presentation should include information regarding both the novelty and the commercial potential of the invention. There was a friendly amendment by Dr. Alouani that the committee be given time to review the material of a patent provision before it is considered by the committee.
2. Stated above under Item 4.
3. Inventors or others involved in matters under discussion by the committee may be called to answer questions of interest to the committee. Time for the appearance of such persons will be set aside by the committee chair whenever necessary as part of the meeting agenda.
4. Members of the committee who have a personal interest in an issue under discussion by the committee will recuse themselves from all official discussion regarding said issue and will not be present for the discussion. In order to provide time for such persons to share their insight regarding said issue for the benefit of

the committee's discussion, the chair will set aside time for such persons to appear before the committee to present information and answer questions.

Dr. Clougherty moved approval of the motions and requested that these items be incorporated as part of the procedures for this committee, and Dr. Northrup seconded. The motion carried.

**7. Adjournment.**

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Smith".

Sue Smith, Secretary