

Office of Research

Minutes of the

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PATENTS AND COPYRIGHTS

The Advisory Committee on Patents and Copyrights met on Tuesday, September 14, 2004, at 11:00 a.m. in the Deans' Conference Room, Derryberry Hall Room 200, with Dr. Mohamed Abdelrahman, Chairperson, presiding.

Present

Dr. Mohamed Abdelrahman
Dr. Douglas Airhart
Dr. Ali Alouani
Mr. Matthew Bauer
Dr. Shelia Green
Ms. Nancy Mielke
Dr. Scott Northrup
Dr. Jan Turner
Dr. Francis Otuonye, Executive Officer

Absent

Dr. Robert Clougherty
Ms. Carie Harrington
Dr. Glen Johnson
Dr. Jack Matson

Others present: Mr. Mark Lynam.

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

1. Approval of Agenda.

The agenda was approved as distributed, with the addition of one item.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the March 23, 2004, meeting.

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

3. Selection of a chairperson for the 2004-2005 academic year.

Dr. Abdelrahman was nominated to serve as chair for another year. There were no other nominations. Dr. Abdelrahman was elected by acclamation.

4. Delayed a request from Luke Hyde for return of two of his inventions (non-deflecting boring bar and wear compensation using neural image processing) in order for him to pursue commercialization on his own.

Mr. Lynam reported that a provisional patent application has been filed for Mr. Hyde's invention "Wear Compensation of Machine Tools Using Neural Image Processing." The prior art search results have not been received for the invention

“Non-deflecting Boring Bar.” A provisional patent will be filed upon receipt of prior art search results. The inventions have received attention from a few industries, and Mr. Hyde would like to approach these industries. Mr. Hyde feels that he could do a better job if he has complete control of his inventions for commercialization purposes. The issues were discussed at length. Dr. Otuonye stated that he needed to discuss these issues with TBR and seek their advice.

It was moved and seconded that this requested be delayed until the next meeting of this committee on October 12, 2004. The motion carried.

5. Approved a request for filing of provisional patent application for Dr. Sally Pardue, et al, for invention entitled Air System for Vibration Testing (ASVT).”

Dr. Abdelrahman stated that this invention will provide a unique way of supporting and exciting a lightweight test object for repeatable vibration testing and that extended use for objects other than foam could include lightweight metallic or composite objects needing to be tested in an automated repeatable fashion.

It was moved and seconded to file a provisional patent application on behalf of Dr. Sally Pardue, Dr. Mohamed Abdelrahman, Mike Renfro, Mike Baswell, and Narem Shaam. The motion carried.

6. Discussion on status of currently held provisional patents.

Mr. Lynam stated TTU currently has seven provisional patents with expiration dates between November 2004 and June 30, 2005. The status was discussed at length.

Thereupon, Dr. Turner moved that procedures or guidelines be developed to allow the inventors to give a report within a reasonable time (probably six months) on the status of their invention. Dr. Alouani seconded. The motion carried.

7. Commercialization of invention disclosures

Dr. Otuonye distributed a request from Richard W. Sheehan, President, of The Technology Resource of the Southeast, Inc., offering his services to Tennessee Tech for the implementation and execution of an organized mechanism to attain successful commercialization of selected technologies in Tennessee Tech’s Intellectual Property portfolio. Mr. Sheehan states that the end result would be a list of “qualified” companies interested in licensing each of Tennessee Tech University’s technology items. The proposal was discussed, and it was the consensus of the committee that Dr. Otuonye obtain additional information, including references, on Mr. Sheehan before reaching a decision about employing his services.

8. Such other matters

There were no such other matters.

9. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Smith, Secretary