

## Office of Research

### Minutes of the ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PATENTS AND COPYRIGHTS September 11, 2007

The Advisory Committee on Patents and Copyrights met at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 11, 2007, in the Deans' Conference Room, Derryberry Hall, Room 200, with Dr. Ali Alouani, Chairperson, presiding.

#### Present

Dr. Mohamed Abdelrahman  
Dr. Ali Alouani  
Dr. Michael Best  
Dr. Sharon Berk  
Ms. Pat McGee  
Mr. Tony Neely  
Dr. Ken Wiant  
Dr. Francis Outonye, Executive Officer

#### Absent

Mr. John Boots  
Dr. Sherrie Foster  
Ms. Kim Hanna  
Dr. Christine Miller  
Dr. Scott Northrup

Others present: Dr. Omar Elkeelany, Mr. Mark Lynam, and Dr. Robby Sanders.

The agenda was as follows:

**1. Approval of agenda.**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the February 15, 2007, meeting.**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as distributed with one correction to show that Dr. Sharon Berk was present at the meeting.

**3. Selection of a chairperson for the 2007-2008 academic year.**

Dr. Alouani asked for nominations from the floor. Dr. Michael Best's name was placed in nomination. It was moved and seconded that nominations cease and that Dr. Best be selected unanimously. Dr. Best assumed the role of chairperson.

**4. Status report on Fire Fighting Robot.**

Mr. Lynam reported that TBR selected Mr. David Winters as counsel for this invention. He has been in contact with Dr. Alouani. Mr. Winters has

discouraged full submission of patent application for this invention but has not responded back to Dr. Alouani since May 2007. Mr. Lynam will follow up on this and report back at the next committee meeting.

**5. Discussion on invention disclosure by Drs. Alouani and Omar Elkeelany entitled "Integrated Multichannel Data Acquisition and Processing System."**

Dr. Alouani stated that he discussed this invention with a company in Knoxville a couple of weeks ago and that they encouraged him to go ahead and file a provisional patent application.

Motion. It was moved and seconded that a provisional patent application be filed for this invention, including the updated prior art and the previous work done by Dr. Abdelrahman at TTU. The motion carried.

**6. Discussion on status of currently held provisional patents.**

Mr. Lynam distributed a handout showing the status of currently held provisional patents. He stated the prior art search review has been received on Dr. Zhu's invention. According to Mr. Lynam, two provisional patent applications have been filed this year; one for Dr. Canfield for the invention "Compliant, Parallel-gravity Suspension System for a Tracked, Climbing Robot" and the other for Mr. George Massengill and Dr. Frank Hadlock for "My Health Track" for novel way of using smart cards to close the gap between insurance companies.

Mr. Lynam stated that TTU has been recognized by the USDA for the discovery of a new BeautyBerry Cultivar, 'Duet,' a Callicarpa cultivar. He stated personnel associated with this activity include Dr. Gary Bachman and Mr. Edgar Davis.

Royalties have been received from the work of Dr. Jeff Plant's contributions to Architecture, Interiors and Furniture/A CD/DVD media collection.

Mr. Lynam also stated that TTU received royalty payments for the "Non-optical Explosive Sensor Based on Two-Tract Piezoresistive Microcantilever" invention by Dr. Mahajan but that the patent claims were rejected so the licensee for this technology is no longer interested in pursuing this license.

**7. Such other matters.**

Dr. Otuonye stated that at the last meeting discussion was held regarding royalty sharing. He said the current policy is that inventor will receive fifty (50) percent of net income; twenty (20) percent goes to Patents and Copyrights; twenty (20) percent goes to the department; and ten (10) percent

goes to the college. He stated that the inventor can request more than fifty (50) percent of the net income. According to Dr. Otuonye, an ad hoc committee was appointed to study the issue but the committee did not meet, and he wondered if another ad hoc committee should be appointed to resolve this issue. The committee's consensus was that a minimum of fifty (50) percent would be sufficient. The policy will remain the way it is, and the inventor can make a case to receive more than fifty (50) percent of the royalties received. The committee will then review on a case by case basis.

**8. Adjournment.**

It was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn at 11:45, all concurring.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Sue Smith, Secretary