

**Office of Research**

**Minutes of the**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PATENTS AND COPYRIGHTS**

The Advisory Committee on Patents and Copyrights met on Tuesday, October 12, 2004, at 11:00 a.m. in the President's Conference Room, Derryberry Hall, 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

Dr. Abdelrahman called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. The agenda was as follows (see Attachment A):

**1. Approval of Agenda.**

The agenda was approved as distributed by a motion by Dr. Airhart.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the September 14, 2004, meeting.**

A motion was made by Dr. Airhart and seconded by Dr. Turner to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

**3. Luke Hyde Pursuing Commercialization on his own.**

Discussion of the request of Luke Hyde to commercialize his invention disclosures was carried out. The Committee would like to know the expenses incurred for the university if Mr. Hyde does pursue this commercialization on his own. Dr. Alouni moved that TTU will retain ownership of the invention. Mr. Luke Hyde can pursue commercialization at his own expense; however, once the invention starts to generate revenues, Mr. Hyde will get his expense reimbursed before sharing net revenue with Tennessee Tech University. Dr. Airhart seconded this motion. No other discussion. Motion carried.

**4. Proposal by Richard Sheehan to Commercialize Tennessee Tech University Intellectual Property**

A conference call between Mr. Sheehan and the committee had been discussed previously and was suggested again. Before we ask him for a conference call, Dr. Otuonye will get some comparative analysis from UT Knoxville, ETSU, and maybe Memphis. Mr. Sheehan is asking for payment up front. Dr. Otuonye said this is against State policy. Dr. Otuonye will let Mr. Sheehan know according to State policy, that if TTU contacts his services, he will not receive payments for services until those services are performed and invoiced.

Dr. Alouni made a motion that the university consider hiring someone to commercialize intellectual property in TTU portfolio. Dr. Turner seconded the motion. No discussion; motion carried.

**5. Update from inventors on currently held provisional patents.**

This item tabled awaiting return of Mark Lynam.

**6. Request from Barry Stein regarding CAT**

Dr. Stein requested \$30 to register a new version of the Critical Thinking Assessment instrument and scoring guide with the copyright office. Dr. Airhart asked if this was on a reimbursement list then moved to spend the \$30. Dr. Alouni seconded the motion; it carried.

**7. Request from Dr. Mohamed Abdelrahman**

Dr. Abdelrahman gave details on his patent. He asked the committee to move on his recommendation of supporting a utility patent application up to \$5000. He would request the remainder from the Manufacturing Center. Dr. Abdelrahman recused himself from the meeting so that discussion could begin. After considerable discussion, Dr. Airhart moved to accept the motion if Dr. Otuonye has enough money in his budget. And second, the committee requested Dr. Abdelraham to provide a written documentation of the technical and economic evaluation/assessment of the provisional patent as justification for a utility patent. Alouni seconded. Motion carried.

Dr. Abdelrahman re-joined the meeting and was informed of the motion. He said he would respond by email to the committee members.

**8. Such other matters**

Dr. Otuonye informed the committee that a provisional patent application has been filed on Dr. Pardue's invention titled "Air System for Vibration Testing". The committee would like the summary table on Intellectual Property revised to show when the

invention was disclosed, when the provisional patent was filed, due date to file a utility patent and when the utility patent was filed.

## **9. Adjournment**

There being no other business, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Ann Smith, Secretary