

## Office of Research

### Minutes of the

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PATENTS AND COPYRIGHTS

The Advisory Committee on Patents and Copyrights met on Tuesday, November 16, 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  
Dr. Robert Clougherty  
Dr. Subramaniam Deivanayagam

##### Absent

Mr. Matthew Bauer  
Ms. Carie Harrington  
Dr. Glen Johnson  
Dr. Jack Matson  
Dr. Scott

Northrup

(for Dean Johnson)

Dr. Shelia Green  
Ms. Nancy Mielke  
Dr. Jan Turner  
Dr. Francis Otuonye, Executive Officer

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 October 12, 2004, meeting.**

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

#### **3. Commercialization of Intellectual Property**

Dr. Otuonye reported that he surveyed several TBR institutions across the state to find out if they have an employee who deals with commercialization of intellectual property. He stated that UT-Knoxville has a person on staff. East Tennessee State University does not have a person on staff. Vanderbilt has somebody on staff who works on intellectual property, but that UT-Memphis does not have anybody. He also reported that Tennessee State University does not have anybody and neither does Middle Tennessee State

University. He further stated that TBR does not have anybody devoted to commercialization of intellectual property. Dr. Otuonye stated that Joe Giampapa at TBR is in charge of Patents and Copyrights for all institutions in TBR but does not deal with commercialization. Dr. Otuonye further stated that with budget constraints TTU is unable to hire anybody for this responsibility.

Dr. Deivy moved that Dr. Otuonye talk with President Bell and ask that he explore with TBR the possibility of hiring a person to deal with commercialization of intellectual property. Dr. Alouani seconded. The motion carried.

Dr. Otuonye further reported that Richard Sheehan is the only person with whom he has talked to and interested in pursuing commercialization for Tennessee Tech University inventions. He stated that he has advised Mr. Sheehan that we cannot pay him an upfront fee until he completes the process. Mr. Sheehan is requesting to be paid \$2250 for each invention disclosure. If the invention disclosure results in commercialization, then he wants to be paid twenty (20) percent of the net revenue generated up to a maximum of \$12,750 as his success fee. Dr. Otuonye stated that if he is paid the \$2250 fee up front there is no guarantee that the invention will generate revenue. If Mr. Sheehan finds somebody who is interested and the invention is licensed and marketed, then he must be paid twenty (20) percent of the revenues generated up to a maximum of \$12,750, regardless of amount generated.

Mr. Sheehan's credentials were discussed at length. Dr. Turner moved that Dr. Otuonye obtain references from Mr. Sheehan and that these references be contacted for feedback on his credentials and success rate and that the information be compiled and distributed to the committee prior to the January 18, 2005, meeting. Dr. Deivy seconded, and the motion carried. A conference call will be scheduled between Mr. Sheehan and the committee, thereafter depending on the outcome of the committee evaluation of his credentials.

#### **4. Such other matters.**

Dr. Abdelrahman stated that at the Faculty Senate meeting on November 15, 2004, the College of Education indicated that they have the largest number of graduate students and contribute the most to the university in the number of credit hours generated. Considerable discussion ensued. Dr. Abdelrahman indicated that research generates a lot of money for the university as well and would like this information conveyed to the Faculty Senate. He stated that the research contribution to the university is underrepresented and that research should be appreciated by more than just the faculty at TTU. Dr. Deivy stated that \$9 million dollars in research was done last year. Dr. Otuonye stated that

he would provide additional information to Dr. Abdelrahman on research funds generated for distribution to the Faculty Senate.

**5. Adjournment**

There being no other business, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Smith, Secretary