

## Office of Research

### Minutes of the

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PATENTS AND COPYRIGHTS

The Patents and Copyrights Committee met on Tuesday, March 22, 2005, 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. Ali Alouani  
Mr. Matthew Bauer  
Dr. Robert Clougherty  
Dr. Glen Johnson  
Dr. Jack Matson  
Ms. Nancy Mielke  
Dr. Francis Otuonye, Executive Officer  
Dr. Jan Turner

#### Absent

Dr. Douglas Airhart  
Dr. Shelia Green  
Ms. Carie Harrington  
Dr. Scott Northrup

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 February 10, 2005, meeting.**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as distributed with one correction to show under Item No. 5, Such Other Matters, Line 5, "Dr. Alouani was present as a member of the committee."

#### **3. As a matter of unfinished business from the February 10, 2005, meeting, continued discussion on the Automatic Prescription Verification System utility patent application filed on behalf of Dr. Alouani and the continuation-in-part for the APVS invention filed via an invention disclosure form that listed Dr. Currie, Richard Rhodes, and Mike Renfro as inventors.**

Dr. Otuonye stated that this issue was discussed at the February 10, 2005, meeting and that he discussed the matter with the Tennessee Board of Regents attorney, Chris Modisher. Dr. Otuonye further stated that at the February meeting it was suggested that a subcommittee from this group be selected to review the issues involved. The

committee consisted of Dr. Matson and Dr. Jan Turner. Dr. Alouani and Dr. Currie were invited to discuss the issues with the subcommittee. Considerable discussion ensued. It was moved by Dr. Matson and seconded by Dr. Turner that a continuation-in-part patent application be filed and include rebuttals and associated documents. The motion carried with Dean Johnson abstaining.

#### **4. Request for filing of provisional patent for Chungsheng Wang**

Mark reported that a request has been received for filing of a provisional patent for Chungsheng Wang for his invention "A Novel all-solid state micro (and/or nano-) battery and supercapacitor architectures. He further stated that a prior art search revealed only three or four citations and that so few citations indicate that there is a novelty. After considerable discussion, it was moved and seconded to file a provisional patent on behalf of Dr. Wang for his invention and similarly for Ed Lisic's invention disclosure "Triplex Metal-Chelation Materials."

Pursuant to the discussion on whether to file for a provisional patent for Dr. Wang, Dr. Johnson made the following motions:

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.
2. 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.
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.

These motions will be distributed to the committee via e-mail for their response by April 7. The e-mail votes will be tabulated and distributed to the committee members.

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

Mark distributed information on issued patents on which TTU is the assignee, pending patent application, and provisional patent applications expiring in 2005. He also distributed information on Intellectual Property: Invention Disclosures and Status FY 2002-Present. Dr. Abdelrahman provided the committee with additional information on Item 2. 06/18/05: A Method and Device for Measurement of the Profile of Void Space Distribution in Foam Materials (Abdelrahman/Currie/Walford); Item 6. 08/03/2005: A Flask and Methodology for Lost Foam Casting Under Controlled Environment Abdelrahman/Walford/Currie/Renfro/Vondra); and Item 7. 09/20/2005: Air System for Vibration Testing (Pardue/Abdelrahman/Renfro/Baswell/Shaaam) of the provisional patent applications expiring in 2005. He then recused himself for the voting process. Dr. Otuonye assumed the position of chair, and it was moved by Dr. Matson to file utility patent applications for Items 2, 6, and 7. Dr. Turner seconded, and the motion carried. Dr. Otuonye stated that Item I. Wear Compensation of Machine Tools Using Neural Image Processing to Measure Changes in Tool Geometry (Hyde/Rhodes/Jackson); Item 3. Multi-Layer Distributed IP Storage (He); Item 4. Micro Air-Powered Precision Cutting Tool (Khalili/Jackson/Peddieson); and Item 5. A Compliant Parallel-Gravity Suspension System for a Tracked, Climbing Robot (Canfield/Beard) will be voted on via e-mail or another called meeting will be held to act upon those items.

#### **6. Information on Richard Sheehan.**

Dr. Otuonye stated that he has again talked with Mr. Sheehan and that he insists on being paid upfront for his expertise in implementing and executing an organized mechanism to attain successful commercialization of selected technologies in the TTU Intellectual Property Portfolio. Dr. Otuonye said that he informed Mr. Sheehan that it was against TBR policy to pay for services before they are rendered. Dr. Otuonye stated that another person will have to be located to perform these services and asked the committee for input in securing such a person.

#### **7. Such other matters.**

While a Ph.D. student at Tennessee Tech University, Dechang Yi worked at ORNL on a subcontract. His work at ORNL formed the basis for his thesis. In February 2005, ORNL informed TTU of a patent filing on which Dechang is a named inventor. As his work was done while a student and by the fact that under the subcontract the seller (TTU) would retain rights to inventions made, TTU elected to retain title to the invention. The committee agreed that TTU would retain its rights to the invention and would request ownership be amended to reflect TTU's interest in the invention.

## 8. 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". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sue Smith, Secretary

Office of Research

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PATENTS AND COPYRIGHTS**

March 22, 2005, Meeting

AGENDA

1. Approval of the Agenda.
2. Approval of the minutes of the February 10, 2005, meeting (copy attached).
3. As a matter of unfinished business from the February 10, 2005, meeting, continued discussion on the Automatic Prescription Verification System utility patent application filed on behalf of Dr. Alouani and the continuation-in-part for the APVS invention filed via an invention disclosure form that listed Dr. Currie, Richard Rhodes, and Mike Renfro as inventors.
4. Filing of provisional patent for Chunsheng Wang.
5. Information on patents in our portfolio.
6. Information on Richard Sheehan.
7. Such other matters.
8. Adjournment.