

**TTU, OFFICE OF RESEARCH
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IPAC)
March 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Sharon Holderman (Chairperson), Francis Otuonye (Executive Officer), Michael Allen, Michael Best, Ann Manginelli, Mark Lynam, Sherrie Foster, Sean Alley, Ali Alouani

Members Absent: Nick Russell, Manuel Villalba, Steve Frye, Dustin Gardner, Kim Hanna

Others Present: Jill Dicey (Recording Secretary)

1. Agenda approval

A motion was made and seconded (Allen/Foster) to approve the March 14, 2017 agenda. The chairperson called for further additions/changes to the agenda; none being stated, the MOTION PASSED.

2. Approval of the February 7, 2017 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded (Foster/Alley) to approve the February 7, 2017 minutes. The chairperson called for corrections or revisions to the minutes; none being stated, the MOTION PASSED.

3. Rice Utility Patent – Provisional Expired 2/22/2017

Dr. Otuonye advised that a new provisional patent has been filed to capture new/additional claims. Potential commercialization is being looked into with two different companies. Dr. Alouani asked if a prototype has been created. Dr. Otuonye advised it has not but one may be created with a possible grant from the company interested in the commercialization.

4. Revision of #4 on the Invention Disclosure Form

A line was added to #4 to request a list of claims along with the description; “The description should include what you are claiming to be the specific scope or subject matter in the invention for which protection is sought.”

5. Review of meeting with inventors to discuss commercialization of their inventions.

Dr. Otuonye relayed the following about the meeting he and Dr. Soni had with all of the inventors that have submitted disclosures: It is not helpful to the faculty if they disclose an invention, the extra step is taken to file a provisional, and then it doesn't go anywhere. There is no funding right now to spend on commercialization efforts. There is no one in the office that does technology transfer. In the past, TBR has been relied on but nothing has materialized out of that. The hope is that with the new board of trustees that will change. It is

understood that there is a committee that will be in charge of research and he and Dr. Soni would like to meet with that committee and ask them if there are ways that they could help with commercialization of some of the inventions in our portfolio. The meeting with the inventors was to find out if they could give leads to companies that might be interested in commercializing their inventions. They were also asked at that time if they could provide a one-page description of their invention that could be shared with individuals within, and outside of, our campus. Dr. Otuonye handed out examples from Oak Ridge National Lab and Brookhaven (see attached) showing how a brief description is outlined and then that description can be circulated to assist in finding entities that would be interested in commercializing the product. This is the only way that was found to help in moving the inventions forward. If anyone has any other ideas, please let him know.

Michael Allen advised that everyone on this committee is from academics. He suggested adding someone to the committee that has had patents and has gone through the process and possibly has connections to industry and manufacturing. Dr. Otuonye agreed that would be a good idea but the challenge would be to identify that person. Michael Allen advised he knows of a couple of people that meet the criteria and have several patents that he can reach out to. Dr. Otuonye asked if the committee could reach out to them and ask them to review the disclosures in our portfolio; perhaps in an advisory role.

Sharon Holderman advised that the committee can invite guests anytime to the meetings. If they are to join the committee, the committee policy would have to be changed. Also, anyone brought in to review disclosure would have to sign non-disclosure agreements.

Dr. Otuonye advised he would be willing to reach out to anyone the committee suggests before the next meeting. He asked that any names and contact information be forwarded to him.

6. Annual Report

Sharon Holderman handed out copies of the 2016-2017 annual report that she has completed. The report follows the same format as previous years. A couple of minor changes were noted and the new disclosure from Cynthia Rice will be added.

7. Such other matters

No other matters were brought forward.

6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded (Best/Allen); the meeting was adjourned at 11:48.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill K. Dicey,
Recording Secretary,
Office of Research

March 14, 2017