

University Senate Research Committee Meeting  
28 September 2018  
1:00 PM  
156 CL

In Attendance: C Bonneau, B. Conrique, D. DeAlmeida, D. Harrell, G. Huber, P. Morel, R. Rutenbar, D. Salcido, A. Sethi, P. Smolinski, L. Terhorst, J. Woodward

The minutes from the August meeting were approved as standing.

Rob Rutenbar stated that the new IP assignment form had been revised following feedback from many sources, including this committee. There is agreement that this form addresses many concerns that were raised and that it brings the University into compliance with the revised Bayh-Dole regulations. The office is in the process of rewriting the FAQs section on the website in order to address any additional issues. One area to highlight is that individuals who are also employed at the VA have to sign the VA IP assignment form also. The new website will provide this information as well as a link to the VA form. The plan is to launch the new IP assignment form next week and this will be done by sending it out to Deans and Department Chairs.

P. Smolinski stated that the Draft University of Pittsburgh Intellectual Property Rights Agreement and Assignment form relied on the University of Pittsburgh Policy No. 11-02-01 (Patent Rights and Technology Transfer) and that Policy may have certain aspects that are in flux such as the University owning all student patent rights. Rob Rutenbar responded that this aspect of the form had not been changed but the whole IP policy will be rewritten during the course of the coming academic year.

A question was asked whether software developments fall under patent or copyright policy.

R. Rutenbar stated that this is an area where there is much activity and practice may vary depending on the software area or application. The Supreme Court ruled in 2014 that computer software can be patented and this has created a lot of confusion in the field. The new IP policy will take these new parameters into account

D. Salcido asked what grant personnel must sign the form.

It was stated that post-doctoral fellows who are classified as researcher associates are considered Pitt employees and they must sign the form. Postdoctoral fellows who are classified as Postdoctoral scholars because they are supported by training grants are not considered Pitt employees and thus do not have to sign the form.

D. Salcido asked if he contributes some IP to a federally funded study but is not among the grant personnel must he sign the form.

The response was that he does not have to sign the form. It was further stated the statement must be signed at the time of grant being awarded.

The committee agreed that the new IP assignment form was much improved and did not raise any further objections.

**ACTION ITEM:**

The new IP assignment form will be presented to Faculty Assembly on Tuesday October 2 by Chris Bonneau as part of the President's report.

P. Morel asked about the status of the committee to review the University's IP policy.

R. Rutenbar process has started to form a committee. The thinking was not to have a large committee, however, thought is being given to having diverse representation in terms of academic areas of study. Also, thought is being given to have a person on the committee who can provide legal interpretations.

C. Bonneau brought up that the NSF has recently released a new policy regarding the reporting of harassment. As posted, the organization will now be required to report to the NSF any findings or determinations of harassment by NSF-funded principal investigators or co-principal investigators.

J. Woodward stated that the Office of Research is working with the Title IX office to develop a process for meeting this NSF requirement.

G. Huber pointed out that the policy requires notification of "any findings" and applies to harassment including sexual harassment.

R. Rutenbar stated that the requirement is being monitored and reviewed for implementation.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 pm.

Minutes submitted by P. Smolinski and P. Morel.