

Faculty Report on Academy-Industry Relationships

University of Pittsburgh Faculty Assembly, April 2015

I would like to make a motion *to designate a faculty committee to issue a report comparing Pitt policies with the recommended principles of the AAUP to guide academy-industry relationships.*

The AAUP principles are published in a book “Recommended Principles to Guide Academy-Industry Relationships” (University of Illinois Press, 2014). The book gives 56 explicit principles.¹ These principles cover topics of academic freedom, education, intellectual property, conflict of interest, and strategic corporate alliances as they relate to industry partnerships.

There are various reasons why this is a timely issue.

The University of Pittsburgh has recently announced a framework that makes “partnering for impact” as one of the three main drivers of the University mission and strategic priorities, stating that “We will . . . actively pursue engagements with private, public, government, and international partners on strategic initiatives.”

At the Senate Plenary session on strategic planning on March 19, Chancellor Gallagher said, “We are going to have to basically tear up our playbook and work together, decide what are we focused on doing, and re-optimize our practices and policies. That includes things like IP management, . . . conflict of interest management, . . . research regulation, and partnership agreements.”²

I am coming to the faculty assembly with this motion because there should be lively faculty participation in matters that have a major impact on the research mission of the university. We have a common interest in preserving core academic values, including integrity of research and the freedom to disseminate research broadly for the public good.

Some of the guidelines of AAUP might not be appropriate for the University of Pittsburgh. Nevertheless, a report that describes where Pitt stands in relation to these guidelines will give us a reference point for further action.

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¹The list is also available at <http://www.aaup.org/sites/default/files/files/Principles-summary.pdf>

²<http://www.pitt.edu/impact/input>, minute 41 of video