

BACKGROUND ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POLICY

Background

- In 2003 the USM mandated that all system schools create an intellectual property policy using a template that the System provided.
 - Our campus created a committee, including Bob Dooling and Anne Bowden (Legal Office), to develop our policy
 - USM allowed for some modifications but not wholesale changes that varied greatly from the System template.
 - The committee worked to stay within the USM Policy's confines
- The UMCP policy was intended to be "friendly" especially to students compared to other institutions.
- The UMCP policy allows the VP for Research to make exceptions with Presidential & Chancellor approval.
- The policy provides for an intellectual property (IP) committee, which was constituted and initially chaired by Bob Dooling when it was first approved.
- The USM policy was amended in 2004 to update one of the revenue sharing provisions.
- The USM policy was amended to delete reference to the IP Committee in 2009.

Concerns

- The policy is lengthy (39 pages) so many faculty do not have the time to review it thoroughly.
- The policy seems to fail in its implementation/execution because the process is so long.
- The policy could be tightened and clarified.
- The intellectual property committee meets on an ad hoc basis but very infrequently.

Questions to Consider

1. Should the policy be revised?
2. Can/Should an abridged version of the policy be created, and is this even allowable under the USM Policy?
3. Can the ORAA process be streamlined?
4. How can the IP Committee be more visible (listed on the VPR website) and what role should they play (educational as well as review of issues that arise)
5. Should the policy be reviewed at some regular interval?
6. How can someone appeal and/or request a waiver if the policy does not serve the interests of the research, the faculty member, or the university?

Possible Review Options

- A Senate committee could be charged with reviewing the policy.
 - Consult with Bob Dooling and Anne Bowden.

- Consult with other members of the Legal Office to consider the possibility of creating an abridged version of the policy and the options for changing our current policy.
- Consult with a representative of ORAA.
- Consult with the Vice President for Research.