

3359-02-05 University research, copyright, and patent policy.

- (A) University research policy. It is the policy of The university of Akron, (“University”), with reference to all creative endeavors of its faculty, ~~and~~ staff members and students conducted on ~~its~~ University time or with its facilities, to recognize the interests of the university, the faculty member, the staff member, student, sponsor, and other cooperating or participating agencies. However, the ~~board~~ University reserves the right to administer such ~~equities~~ interests consistent with the public interest as determined by ~~said~~ its board of trustees (“board”) from time to time.
- (1) Copyrights. In accordance with the custom established in institutions of higher learning, copyright ownership of textbooks and manuscripts and royalties resulting therefrom belong to the ~~author of such textbooks, etc.,~~ author(s) thereof except when the textbook or manuscript is prepared as an assigned project; in which case it is the property of the university and shall be assigned to the university by its ~~designee~~ author(s). Assigned projects supervised and supported by the university or outside sponsors working through the university under agreement or contract which results in copyrights, shall be matters of written agreement between the university, authorities and the faculty, and staff members and sponsors involved. In such cases the board reserves the right to recognize and administer the equities of the participating parties.
- (2) Publications. ~~Results~~ The University encourages the publication of scholarly works including the results obtained through research and scientific investigation approved, sponsored, or conducted as a university project, ~~including as well as graduate and undergraduate theses, shall not be published without the authorization of the president of the university or the president's designee.~~ The University requires that such publications be withheld for limited periods to permit the preparation and filing of patent applications or such other activities as may be necessary to protect intellectual property contained in such results, and to otherwise meet applicable government and sponsor contractual obligations.
- (3) Policy regarding unofficial employment.
- (a) Since the continued value of a member of the faculty is ~~in a high degree~~ to a large extent dependent upon the member's growth as a creative ~~worker~~ educator in the academic field, it is desirable that the faculty member be encouraged to carry on constructive professional work, to support professional organizations both national and local, and to contribute to public service. Such efforts, if rightly undertaken, will not only increase the value of the individual as an educator but also afford the university legitimate and desirable recognition. However, in publicizing unofficial

work, faculty should make a conscious effort ~~should be made~~ to avoid the exploitation of trivial results or the dissemination of misleading or exaggerated statements.

- (b) Since the primary obligation of a full-time faculty member, as stated in paragraph (A)(5) of rule 3359-8-02 of the Administrative Code, is to the university, the faculty member should hold paramount in arranging outside appointments the duty of maintaining the quality of work, avoiding the danger of overtaxing energies with an undue burden of outside activity, and adhering to instructional schedules and other definite college engagements.
- (4) General conditions and restrictions. The following general conditions and restrictions will be observed for the best interests of all parties concerned:
- (a) Research will be the type of work ~~which~~ that will enhance the reputation of the university as a seat of higher learning.
  - (b) Research will be restricted to the type of work for which the university can provide adequate staff and facilities.
  - (c) No extra compensation will be paid any faculty member for participating in sponsored and contract research during the academic year; however, participation in research during the summer months will be paid for at the same salary rate received by a faculty member during the academic year.
  - (d) The university ~~does~~ will not pay salary or wages for work done by a candidate for academic credit leading to a degree; however, students pursuing degree programs may receive university awards, scholarships or fellowships.
- (5) Contract research.
- (a) The director of research services and sponsored programs shall coordinate all contract research in accordance with the provisions of rule 3359-8-02 of the Administrative Code.
  - (b) Faculty members who ~~have~~ wish to pursue specific projects in mind shall consult the director ~~of research services and sponsored programs~~ and the approach to ~~industry or government~~ the sponsor shall be made by the ~~vice president for research or the director of research services and sponsored programs~~ or by the director's designee.
  - (c) All ~~research~~ contracts shall be approved by the president of the

university or the vice president for research before any work thereunder is begun or any commitments are made.

- (d) ~~There may be an advisory committee appointed by the president~~  
The president may appoint advisory committees in any research areas as is deemed necessary the president deems appropriate.
  - (e) A faculty member shall have the right to accept or decline participation in any contract research made available.
  - (f) ~~No additional compensation will be permitted for a person engaged in contract research during the nine month academic year.~~
  - (g) ~~If the faculty member does contract research during the summer months, pay for the time so spent shall be at the same monthly rate as in the academic year.~~
  - (h)(f) A plan for graduate assistantships should be put into effect to facilitate contract research whenever such research becomes available.
- (6) ~~Privately sponsored research for profit in which university facilities are used.~~
- (a) ~~The faculty member shall obtain authorization to undertake such research from the chair of the department and approval from the dean of the college.~~
  - (b) ~~A written statement setting forth the nature of the research and the time the faculty member proposes to devote to the problem shall be supplied by the faculty member to the chair of the department and to the dean.~~
  - (c) ~~The faculty member shall perform the research on the faculty member's own time.~~
  - (d) ~~The research undertaken shall not interfere with the normal use of university facilities by students and the instructional staff of the university.~~
  - (e) ~~All expendable materials used in the research shall be supplied by the contracting agency or by the faculty member. In no case will materials belonging to the university be used without the prior consent of the university or without compensation therefore at current rates.~~

- (f) ~~When privately sponsored research is carried out on campus, facilities provided by public funds are used, and it is consequently necessary that the university be fully reimbursed for the use of space, maintenance, utilities and depreciation of any apparatus used. Therefore, the sponsor of such research must agree to reimburse the university in an adequate amount which may run to fifty percent or more of the amount the sponsor agrees to pay the faculty member for the faculty member's services. The exact fee or percentage will be determined by the extent of the use of the facilities.~~
- (g) ~~The financial agreement between the faculty member and the sponsor shall be reported to the associate vice president for finance and controller.~~
- (h) ~~Outside research and consulting activities shall not interfere with the teaching and community responsibilities of any staff member, and it shall be the duty of the department chair to note and report to the dean any infraction of this rule on the part of members of the department.~~
- (i) ~~Permission to carry out the project with university facilities may be withdrawn by the dean at any time if the faculty member neglects normal duties or interferes with the educational use of such facilities by others.~~

~~(7)~~(6) Patent rights and licensing procedure.

- (a) The board seeks to stimulate innovative research and to encourage the development and utilization of the discoveries and inventions of research at the university of Akron in a manner consistent with the public interest. The board believes it should make the products results of its research available to industry and the public on a reasonable and effective basis.
- (b) In compliance with section 3345.14 of the Ohio Revised Code, the board retains sole authority ~~in~~ for setting policy in the matter of rights to intellectual property including discoveries, inventions, ~~or~~ patents and copyrights which result from research or investigation conducted in any laboratory or research facility of the university of Akron.
- (c) It is the policy of this board that ~~patent~~ intellectual property rights belong to the university of Akron unless otherwise expressly approved by the board of trustees and stipulated in a written agreement to which the university Vice President for research, or

president is a signatory. In the instance of research developed with the support of funding from governmental agencies, the regulations of such funding agencies may take precedence to this policy.

- (d) The university will prosecute applications only for those patents ~~which~~ that appear to be of potential economic benefit to the university. Should the university decline to seek ~~patent~~ appropriate protection, the university will surrender its claim to ownership, in the absence of contractual commitments to the contrary, and will allow the inventor(s) to undertake prosecution for patent protection at their own expense. In the absence of any positive action toward obtaining a patent, this board recognizes a value in such discoveries becoming public domain.
- (e) The university ~~of Akron~~ is concerned with safeguarding the public interest as well as rewarding the initiative of researchers. In the spirit of public service, the university ~~of Akron~~ shall seek aggressively to bring those designs, processes, and products for which it holds patents or rights of ownership into highest public use. Such negotiations, on a "best efforts" basis, may involve granting of exclusive licenses.
- (f) In the course of licensing agreements or sale of rights to manufacturers, fees and royalties may accrue. ~~Fifteen per cent of~~ From the gross funds received with regard to any ~~invention~~ intellectual property held solely by the university, the university will be reimbursed its out-of-pocket costs incurred as of the date of receipt of such funds in obtaining, maintaining, enforcing and licensing the intellectual property. Thereafter, forty percent of the net remaining funds will be distributed to the inventor(s) in recognition of and reward for initiative. ~~Up to eighty five~~ An additional ten percent of net funds will be placed in an account to support the inventor's ongoing university research, five percent of net funds will be placed in an account to be used for college purposes by the dean(s) of the college(s) in which the inventors have primary appointment, five percent of net funds will be placed in an account to be used for departmental purposes by the chair(s) of the ~~percent will be used to defray costs incurred during the conduct of the research, for obtaining and enforcing patents and for promoting licensing agreements. After all such costs are recovered, fifty per cent of further gross funds received will be distributed to the inventor(s) and fifty per cent of these~~ department(s) in which the inventors have primary appointment and the balance of net funds will accrue to the university.
- (g) Stipulations of P.L. 96-517 may take precedence over any other

terms of agreement negotiated by the university in matters of patenting and technology transfer.

- (h) ~~Inventions~~ Intellectual property resulting from federally sponsored research ~~are~~ is disposed of in accordance with the terms of the applicable agency.
- (i) ~~Inventions~~ Intellectual property resulting from research sponsored by industry or other non-governmental sources of support, other than the university itself, ~~are~~ is disposed of in accordance with contract terms negotiated between the university and the sponsor, and approved by both parties. In such negotiations the university ~~might offer~~ may agree to a non-exclusive royalty bearing license; a license of limited exclusivity which is royalty bearing; an exclusive, royalty bearing license for the life of the patent, a one-time payment for the entire technology; or any other mutually acceptable consideration. ~~The amount to be requested for exclusivity~~ Acceptable contract terms will depend upon such factors as the initial amount of research support, financial expenditures for further development, costs of patent acquisition, duration of exclusivity, period likely needed for market development, or other pertinent factors.
- (j) The amount of royalty shall be based upon arms length negotiation within percentage ranges common to the particular technology and the applicable industry. ~~The royalty should consider~~ potential market, potential profit, and the amount of investment needed for development, as well as other factors should be considered in establishing a royalty. The royalty should be based upon an easily audited item, such as "net sales."
- (k) The university has an equity interest in any invention or discovery of its employees, faculty, staff, or students resulting from research ~~which~~ that involves a significant use of funds, space, or facilities administered by the university. The university seeks to stimulate innovative research and to encourage the development and utilization of the discoveries and inventions of its research in a manner consistent with the public interest. The university believes it should make inventions resulting from its research available to industry or the public on a reasonable and effective basis. In this regard, the university actively seeks licensing of its patented technology on the best available terms, subject to the following conditions:
  - (i) The university should not be expected to expend additional funds to improve the viability of the patent.

- (ii) The stipulations of P.L. 96-517 relative to terms of exclusivity, etc., become effective if any federal funds have supported research leading to the invention.
  - (iii) The potential licensee should provide sufficient credentials of financial and marketing capability for university review.
  - (iv) Any agreement should include, as applicable, a royalty fee schedule, ~~duration of exclusivity term and termination,~~ considerations of "due diligence" provisions which establish levels of expectation and performance of the licensee, and ~~rates~~ provision for possible license renewal of exclusivity.
- (l) ~~The university should retain the right of continued use and the options to give use to or license to for itself and, whenever possible, for other public or private institutions on a royalty free basis, the free right to use non-confidential technology for research and education.~~
  - (m) All matters relating to patents or technology transfer in which the university is in any way concerned are administered ~~under the auspices of~~ by the office of the vice president for research. Subject to prior approval of the Board of Trustees, The the president or the president's designee vice president for research shall have final authority for approval of to execute any agreements, grants, or contracts involving patent rights or technology transfer to the public or industry to the extent that such agreements conform to these regulations. Prior approval of the Board of Trustees shall not be required with respect to the transfer of intellectual property resulting from research sponsored by governmental agencies that is disposed of in accord with the terms of the applicable agency.
  - (n) Any variance to this policy must receive prior approval of the board before any commitments, grants, or contracts are made.
- (8)(7) Use of the name of the university.
- (a) In soliciting ~~privately sponsored research for profit or consulting work outside the university,~~ the faculty member may only mention that the faculty member is a member of the university faculty. The university's name shall not be used in advertising.
  - (b) ~~For private research without profit by faculty members, the~~ The name of the university may be used in research reports, books and

papers for publication, ~~if~~ and otherwise as may be set forth in the applicable research contract or as approved by the board, the president or the president's designee vice president for research.

- (e) ~~For contract research by the university there will be no limitation on the use of the university's name except such limitations as may be imposed by the board.~~

(9)(8) ~~Guidelines of the university of Akron for signature authority at university research centers.~~ Waiver of rights in intellectual property.

~~University center managers, upon first obtaining~~ Upon written recommendation of ~~their department~~ the applicable chair/institute director and dean, and written approval of the vice president for research and the president, ~~are hereby~~ University Center managers are authorized to execute experimental/technical service agreements ~~which waive university of Akron intellectual property and patent,~~ and the associate vice president for research and director and associate director of the office of research services and sponsored programs are authorized to execute materials and information testing agreements, that waive university rights in intellectual property and related patents and copyrights under the following guidelines: rights under guidelines set forth in this rule. Execution of such agreements ~~shall be on forms drafted by the office of general counsel for that purpose, which forms cannot be modified whatsoever without the prior written approval of the office of general counsel.~~

- (a) ~~University ownership rights may be waived by the vice president for research on the advice of university counsel only when~~ It is reasonably demonstrated that:
- (i) ~~Well established and accepted technical procedures, e.g. ASTM~~ “ASTM” methodology, are expected to be used in solving a client's problems. conducting client's project, or all work is expected to be directed by client company personnel with the only intellectual input expected of center personnel or university students to be at a level that would not support a patent; and
  - (ii) ~~All work is expected to be directed by client company personnel with the only intellectual input expected of the center personnel is at a level that would not support a patent.~~
  - (iii)(ii) ~~There is~~ has not been, nor is there expected to be ~~no~~ any development of new materials, processing methods, or reduction to practice of ideas and methodology resulting



from significant intellectual input by ~~center~~ university personnel in connection with the project.

~~(iv)(b) Center managers and respective deans~~ The principal faculty member has the respective dean verify and certify in writing that there has not been and is to be no input from anyone (e.g., university faculty) other than the center personnel and the company. If there is in fact or university students, as the case may be, and the client. If there is, in fact, such input, then any such waiver shall be ineffective as to intellectual property rights attributable to said input, and all intellectual property rights will be retained by the university.

~~(v) There are no deviations whatsoever from contracts, forms, or model forms expressly drafted by the office of general counsel for such center purposes.~~

~~(b) Ownership rights of university are not waived when:~~

~~(i) Reduction to practice of an invention is likely and some intellectual input is expected by center personnel.~~

~~(ii) The center manager is in doubt as to the limits of involvement of center personnel in the input to produce or process development that may be expected to be patentable.~~

~~(iii) Situations involving a subcontract, where the university is a subcontractor.~~

~~(iv) Any deviations from contracts, forms or model forms expressly drafted by the office of general counsel are utilized, in any of which instance the same shall be routed through normal, prior research grant and contract review procedures (including but not limited to the office of research services and sponsored programs and the office of general counsel).~~

~~(c)~~ Execution of such agreements shall be on forms drafted or approved by the office of general counsel for that purpose, which forms cannot be modified whatsoever without the prior written approval of the vice president for research and the office of general counsel.

~~(10)(9)~~ Guidelines for use of university research and service centers for economic development.

- (a) University research and service centers may expend funds and utilize lands, facilities, equipment, and the services of employees and students to benefit the people of the state of Ohio by creating or preserving jobs and employment opportunities or improving the economic development and welfare of the people of the state when all of the following factors are present:
- (i) There is reasonable assurance that the proposed use and/or activity would not interfere with or compromise the university's academic and research mission.
  - (ii) There is reasonable assurance that the proposed use and/or activity would not unfairly interfere with, displace or compete with any existing private or public entity's performance of the same or similar activity.
  - (iii) There is reasonable assurance that the proposed activity would result in revenues to the university which shall at least be sufficient to recoup any direct expenses to the university. Depending upon the extent of use and/or activity, as determined by the controller of the university, the revenues established for any use and/or activity may include a factor to recover all or a portion of the university's actual or potential indirect costs, including but not limited to any unrelated business income tax liability.
  - (iv) There is reasonable assurance that the activity to be undertaken will allow public or private entities or enterprises the opportunity to compete more effectively in the marketplace and/or fulfill needs ~~which~~ that are being inadequately met by the private market.
  - (v) There is a reasonable assurance that the proposed use and/or activity is incidental to a viable academic program. All such use and/or activity shall contain substantial and appropriate academic content consistent with the university's academic and research mission.
  - (vi) All contracts regarding the proposed activity must receive prior written approval as to legal form and sufficiency by the office of general counsel. All such contracts shall contain provisions for liability insurance naming the university as an insured, indemnity by the agency or person seeking the research or service, or some other measure reasonably appropriate to minimize any university liability. Center managers shall forward these agreements, after

respective decanal approval and legal review, to the associate vice president for research and director of technology transfer for signature.

- (b) Academic deans for the college in which the respective centers are located, shall assure that the requirements are met before approving any such use and/or activity.
- (11) ~~Guidelines of the university of Akron for signature authority and limited patent waiver in testing services agreements.~~
- (a) ~~The vice president for research and dean of the graduate school, and the director of research services and sponsored programs, upon first obtaining delegated contract signature authority from the president, are authorized to execute agreements for testing and waive university of Akron intellectual property and patent rights under guidelines set forth in this rule. Execution of such agreement shall be on forms drafted by the office of general counsel for that purpose, which forms cannot be modified whatsoever without the prior written approval of the office of general counsel.~~
  - (b) ~~These agreements, which provide for this limited waiver, are intended to only encompass testing of materials or proprietary information of others where there is no intellectual property or input from the university.~~
  - (c) ~~The following procedures and requirements shall be followed before any testing agreements are executed:~~
    - (i) ~~Upon first obtaining written recommendation of the appropriate department chair/institute director and dean, the proposed testing agreements shall be forwarded to the senior vice president and provost and president for approval.~~
    - (ii) ~~Approval may be granted and such testing agreements may be signed, waiving university ownership rights, only when it is reasonably demonstrated that:~~
      - (a) ~~Well established and accepted technical procedures, e.g., astm methodology, are expected to be used in conducting client's project, or all work is expected to be directed by client company personnel with the only intellectual input expected of university students at a level that would not support a patent.~~

- ~~(b) There is expected to be no development of new materials, processing methods or reduction to practice of ideas and methodology resulting from significant intellectual input by university personnel.~~
- ~~(c) The principal faculty member has the respective dean verify and certify in writing that there has not been and is to be no input from anyone (e.g., university faculty) other than university students and the client. If there is, in fact, such input, then any such waiver shall be ineffective as to intellectual property rights attributable to said input; and all intellectual property rights will be retained by the university.~~
- ~~(d) There are no deviations whatsoever from contracts, forms or model forms expressly drafted by the office of general counsel for such center purposes.~~

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Certification: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ted A. Mallo  
 Secretary  
 Board of Trustees

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