

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Intellectual Property Committee Meeting
March 20, 2013, 12:00-1:00p.m.
325 Burruss Hall

FULL COMMITTEE

The Intellectual Property Committee (IPC) met on March 20, 2013.

The following members were present: Bill Knocke (chair), Robert Broadwater, Steve Capaldo, Laurie Coble, Kay Heidbreder, Barbara Lockee, XJ Meng, Joe Merola, Kristen Mittelman, Fatemah Saeidi-Ritzi. Wendy Vaughn attended and recorded the minutes.

Guest: Beth Tranter, OVPR

Those members not in attendance: John Jelesko and Peggy Quesenberry.

Call to Order

Bill Knocke called the meeting to order at 12:00p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the January 16, 2013 meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Bill welcomed Barbara Lockee back to the committee. Barbara had been on research leave for Fall Semester 2012. Bill also recognized the fine work of John Burton who substituted for Barbara on the IPC during that semester.

Status of the Governance Review of Policy 13000 – Bill reported that the policy has been presented to four University Commissions (CFA, CUS&P, CGS&P and CAPFA) as well as to the Faculty and Staff Senates. Already CAPFA, CGS&P and the Staff Senate have formally voted to endorse the new version of the policy. The Faculty Senate, CUS&P and the CFA have a vote to endorse the policy as an agenda item for their next meetings. The Commission on Research will have its second reading on March 27th, after which it is expected that the policy will proceed to University Council in April for final review and approval. Subsequently the Board of Visitors will need to review and approve the policy at its June meeting.

Bill also reported that John Moore had contacted him about the fact that the Learning Technologies Office would like to conduct a pilot program this coming academic year that will involve videotaping lectures in a limited number of courses and making those lecture recordings available within SCHOLAR. Their office would contract with an external entity that would handle the lecture recording operations. There will be no fees that will be charged to students enrolled in these courses for this lecture recording service. Discussion within the IPC yielded a consensus viewpoint that the recorded lecture would come under the IP category of “traditional works of scholarship”, and ownership of the associated IP would reside with the faculty member teaching the course. The University would have a royalty free license to use it in Scholar. The comment was made that a guest lecturer in one of these courses would need to sign an agreement for use of their image in the recorded lecture. Bill indicated that he would forward the IPC’s input on this issue to John Moore.

Beth Tranter (Chief of Staff in the Office of Vice President for Research) was introduced by Bill to the group. Beth is chairing a task group appointed by Bob Walters (Vice President for Research) that is assessing and making recommendations regarding the innovation ecosystem at Virginia Tech. Beth noted that the new 2012-2018 long-range strategic plan has a heavy emphasis related to innovation and desired to enhance the innovation environment at the University. The task group is looking at peer institutions and also internally from the aspect of programmatic activities and development. The goal would be to create an environment where innovation flourishes and supported technology transfer activities are enhanced. Growth in the University's overall research portfolio will require enhanced interaction with the industrial sector as limits take hold in various federal funding programs. This task group effort began in January 2013 is expected to report back to Bob by early summer. Some of the key questions would be how does the University encourage and recognize faculty and staff contributions to the innovation ecosystem; likewise, how do we best integrate our graduate and undergraduate students into such an emphasis on innovation and technology transfer. The task group will also address the role that the University and its faculty should have more broadly in economic development. This is a key issue being addressed by the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities that is conducting a broader study of economic development activities and the appropriate metrics for assessing such activities in land-grant universities. Beth asked IPC members to feel free to send her any thoughts and recommendations that they had regarding the issues being studied by this task group.

Bill then opened the floor for general discussion. He first asked Beth to share information on any emerging themes that had come forward to date within the task group's efforts. Beth commented that one notion heard often is that some opportunities "die on the vine" because there are processes but not coordination above the college and departmental levels. An innovation gateway and more defined procedures would need to be established to better facilitate the development of these types of opportunities. Comments were also made regarding the need for the promotion and tenure review process to give appropriate weight to such innovation development efforts if the University will ultimately expect faculty to devote substantial time to this.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:00p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Vaughn
Administrative Support to the IP Committee