

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Intellectual Properties Committee
October 18, 2006

FULL COMMITTEE

The Intellectual Properties Committee met October 18, 2006. The following members present: Dr. Tim Pickering, Dr. Robert Walters, Ms. Kay Heidbreder, Mr. Mark Coburn, Mr. Ken Miller, Dr. Barbara Lockee, Dr. RJ Harvey, Ms. Christa Thomas, Dr. Robert Broadwater, Dr. Janine Hiller, Mr. David Jarvis, Dr. Tom Caruso, Dr. Gail McMillan, and invited guests, Ms. Carol Roberson, Ms. Debbi Lucas and Ms. Mary Beth Nash. Dr. Tom Sherman attended the meeting. Debbie Nester recorded the minutes.

Call to Order

Dr. Pickering called the IP Committee meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Dr. Pickering announced that this meeting was an orientation for the new members. He gave out handouts about the IP Committee and their duties and responsibilities. Dr. Pickering went through the handouts. He pointed out important areas to take notice but asked that the committee members read them to get a better understanding of the process and procedures.

Dr. Pickering also announced that these handouts are on the web and there is a link on the VTIP web site.

Dr. Pickering asked Ms. Heidbreder if she had anything to add to what he had gone over. Ms. Heidbreder did not but did mention that the new law on Intellectual Property would not affect our policy.

Dr. Pickering introduced Dr. Bob Walters who is the Interim Associate Vice President for Research and Interdisciplinary Programs and the Chair of the IP Committee.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:57.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Intellectual Properties Committee
December 20, 2006

FULL COMMITTEE

The Intellectual Properties Committee met December 20, 2006. The following members present: Dr. Robert Walters, Dr. Tim Pickering, Ms. Kay Heidbreder, Mr. Mark Coburn, Mr. Ken Miller, Dr. RJ Harvey, Ms. Christa Thomas, Dr. Robert Broadwater, Dr. Janine Hiller, Dr. Tom Caruso, Dr. Gail McMillan, Mr. Yizheng Zhu, and invited guests, Ms. Carol Roberson, Dr. Tom Inzana. Debbie Nester recorded the minutes.

Call to Order

Dr. Walters called the IP Committee meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Dr. Walters called for a motion to approve the minutes from the last two meetings on June 21 and October 18, 2006. The motion was made by Ms. Heidbreder, seconded by Dr. Inzana and the motion was unanimously passed.

Dr. Walters announced that we have only one item to discuss. It is an intellectual property disclosure that we received from a graduate student in the Electrical & Computer Engineering department that is claiming individual ownership, at least 60%, and a faculty member, the advisor, claiming 40% on the university side. He announced that Dr. Pickering has been following this case and he will give an overview.

Dr. Pickering gave a copy of the disclosure to the committee. Dr. Pickering said that the he had email exchange from the student and copied the committee on those emails. The student said that he did have a notebook but did not provide Dr. Pickering with that documentation. The student asked Dr. Pickering to take the disclosure before the committee. Dr. Pickering said that once we make a decision this is a case that would be good to add to the practices sheet. The committee discussed this after the overview. Dr. Caruso said that he thinks it is hard for the committee to have a discussion without having further information from this individual and his advisor about what they have done. Dr. Caruso thinks they should provide evidence that the student did this work before he started this job. Dr. Inzana agreed with Dr. Caruso. Ms. Heidbreder brought up a point that it may be too late to patent or the value of the invention. Dr. Pickering said that there is a possibility of value.

Dr. Pickering asked that Dr. Walters or Dr. Inzana formally send a letter to those involved and that maybe Dr. Walters would have a better response than he has had informally through email and telephone. Maybe we can get that information and help

us make the decision. Dr. Pickering said that we should also ask about the nature of the public disclosure. Dr. Walters said he will send out a letter to get additional information. Dr. Walters will ask for the notebooks and records that would prove or give dates or timeline. He will also try to contact the advisor and if need be, he will call Dr. Thorpe the department head. We will come back at the next committee meeting and see where we are at. Ms. Heidbreder made a motion to defer this until the next meeting, seconded by Dr. Caruso and the motion was unanimously passed.

Dr. Pickering announced that he has one other item that has come up that is similar. Dr. Pickering gave the information. A student submitted an invention disclosure for the design of a chair and he wants to claim inventor owned. The student talked with Mr. Talerico in Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties (VTIP) because he was unfamiliar with the procedures. The student thought that his chair invention had some commercial value and he would like to protect it. Dr. Pickering filled the committee in on the information that he received from the student that he did use Virginia Tech equipment. Dr. Pickering informed them that he wonders if the disclosure should be granted inventor owned and let him go through VTIP. Mr. Coburn with VTIP explained how they work with people on disclosures. The committee discussed this after Dr. Pickering's overview. Ms. Heidbreder reported that she believes that we should ask for verification of the amount for this equipment used by the student. Dr. Inzana asked if the student takes this to VTIP what does VTIP get out of it. Mr. Coburn said that VTIP commercialize inventions and hopefully gets revenue back.

Dr. Walters asked the committee if they get the information back that this was well under \$10,000 for this chair design are they ok with student ownership. Dr. Pickering made the motion that if it is under \$10,000 for this chair design it is student owned, seconded by Dr. Inzana and the motion was unanimously passed.

Dr. Walters asked for any other business. There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:30.