

# IPPC Annual Report

Jim Fowler, Chair

2018–2019

## **Duties and Responsibilities**

- (1) Review, recommend, and advise the university senate on matters relating to the university policy on intellectual property, patents, and copyright and faculty rules 3335–13–06 and 3335–13–07 of the Administrative Code.
- (2) Convene at least twice per year to review the procedures used in implementing and administering the university policy on intellectual property, patents and copyrights, and where deemed necessary, develop and recommend changes in standards and procedures to the vice president for technology commercialization, the vice president for research, the executive vice president and provost, and other appropriate officers of the university.
- (3) Consult with the vice president for technology commercialization, the vice president for research when requested.
- (4) Serve as a board to which a researcher may appeal actions of the vice president for technology commercialization, subject to appropriate review of the standards and procedures contained in the policy on patents and copyrights.

# Membership

There are eleven members.

- (1) Eight faculty members: four tenured faculty, two probationary tenure-track faculty, and two non-tenure track faculty from any of the categories. Each member is to serve three years with one-third of the members rotating off each year.
  - (a) Five faculty members appointed by the executive committee of faculty council.
  - (b) Three faculty members appointed by the university president in consultation with faculty leadership.
- (2) One graduate student.
- (3) Two administrators (or their designees).
  - (a) The vice president for technology commercialization.
  - (b) The vice president for research.

During the 2018–2019 academic year, the membership was as follows.

Member	Source	Term Expires	Mark Ruegsegger expires 2021	.....	Faculty Council
Estelle Cornet-Boyaka		expires 2021	.....	Faculty Council	
Bryan Choi		expires 2019	.....	Faculty Council	
Anna Gawboy		expires 2019	.....	Faculty Council	
Carmen P. DiGiovine		expires 2019	.....	Faculty Council	
Thomas Darrah		expires 2020	.....	Presidential	
Glenn Daehn		expires 2020	.....	Presidential	
Jim Fowler		expires 2019	.....	Presidential	
Michael Weigman		expires 2019	.....	CGS	
Scott Osborne			.....	Interim VP, Economic and Corporate Engagement	
Morley O. Stone			.....	VP, Research	

We are also grateful for the expertise of David Mess who often attends meetings of the IPPC.

## **Activities in 2018–2019**

Many years of spirited and intense debate culminated in Ohio State’s new intellectual property policy in Spring 2018; as a result of that success, the 2018–2019 calendar of IPPC has, in stark contrast to those years, been remarkably quiet. IPPC met four times during the 2018–2019 academic year, namely September 2018, November 2018, March 2019, and April 2019.

### **New leadership with TCO**

The academic year began with the previous head of TCO leaving (meaning that Scott Osborne spent much of the year guiding TCO), and ended with new leadership at TCO, namely Kevin Taylor, Ohio State’s new AVP of Technology Commercialization.

### **Communications about IPPC**

Although IPPC does not believe the policy itself needs to be revised, there were many conversations about how the policy might be better communicated to the University, i.e., conversations around the communications plan for IPPC. Likewise there is a need for an “FAQ” to explain the intent of the policy. Issues that were highlighted for a potential FAQ include

- direct expenses (because licensing proceeds would first be used to recover direct expenses, precisely characterizing direct expenses is especially important),
- rights of students,
- the meaning of “scope of employment,”
- advice to graduate student inventors,
- how teaching materials are handled,

and perhaps the FAQ provides an opportunity for vignettes or case studies. Phrasing a future set of guidelines around direct expenses as case studies may be the wisest choice.

### **Oversight of commercialization operations**

IPPC is charged with overseeing how the intellectual property policy is being executed (“...develop and recommend changes in standards and procedures...”), and one worry is that there are not enough licensing managers at TCO. Good experiences with “embedding” licensing experts inside units could be expanded.

## **Goals for 2019–2020**

IPPC expects the 2019–2020 workload, again, to be light, but even with a light workload, IPPC serves a critical role in oversight and provides the opportunity to provide quick feedback on matters related to IP — indeed, IPPC’s advisory role to TCO could be greatly expanded.

## **Challenges ahead**

There are likely to be some interesting challenges ahead: in the past, TCO has paid all patent costs, and in new model, colleges will participate in paying part of those costs, meaning the colleges will be at the table to decide whether or not patents should be pursued. So far, everyone involved in these decisions has been in agreement, but IPPC will want to keep a watchful eye on this process. It may take a couple years for the effect of the new policy to be widely felt.

## **New opportunities**

An opportunity for the 2019–2020 academic year is to monitor how Technology Access Fees (TAF) are working and to monitor how TAF money is distributed. The new policy established policy around the use of TAF. Considering commercialization as one component of a broader strategic plan involving corporate engagement is wise, and itself presents new opportunities.

## **Chair for 2019–2020**

It is recommended that Carmen DiGiovine serve as Chair of IPPC for the 2019–2020 academic year.