

IPPC Annual Report

Daniel Gallego-Perez, Chair

2020-2021

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:

| <u>MEMBER</u> | <u>SOURCE</u> | <u>TERM EXPIRES</u> |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Stephanie Schulte | Presidential | 2023 |
| Mark Foster | Presidential | 2023 |
| Carmen DiGiovine | Faculty Council | 2022 |
| Joerg Jinschek | Faculty Council | 2022 |
| Daniel Gallego-Perez | Faculty Council | 2022 |
| Christopher Coss | Presidential | 2022 |
| Mark Ruegsegger | Faculty Council | 2021 |
| Estelle Cormet-Boyaka | Faculty Council | 2021 |
| Conner Sarich | CGS | 2021 |
| Scott Osborne | VP, Economic and Corporate Engagement | |
| Randy Moses | VP, Research | |

In addition to these members, Kevin Taylor, David Mess, and Cassie Dickerson attended and participated regularly in the monthly meetings. Donald Taylor and Mike Steffensmeier participated in some of the meetings as well.

Activities 2020-2021:

The committee met seven times over the past year (September, October, November, January, February, March, and April) and focused on two main initiatives:

1. Gender gap in commercialization-related activities at OSU
2. The role of commercialization-related activities in the AP&T process at OSU.

Two subcommittees were assembled to independently look into these issues, and preliminary findings were regularly discussed in the monthly committee meetings. These subcommittees were chaired by Stephanie Schulte (gender gap) and Carmen DiGiovine (commercialization in AP&T).

Gender gap subcommittee:

- Issue: The gender gap in intellectual property- and commercialization-related activities is well-documented nationally. However, it is not clear how OSU is doing on this front. Gender information is not collected when invention disclosures are submitted, therefore it is difficult to properly document this. Identifying where OSU stands with respect to other institutions, and coming up with solutions to address this gap, will be crucial to continue to promote a culture of equality, and to incentivize female inventors/entrepreneurs at OSU to explore these avenues as ways to advance their careers at OSU. The committee also acknowledges that exploring gaps based on race or ethnicity is extremely important, and expect to begin discussions around these issues in the next cycle.
- Actions taken: The subcommittee led by Dr. Schulte met separately to outline action items aimed at trying to diagnose the problem (*i.e.*, is there a gender gap at OSU? How big?). In collaboration with Kevin Taylor and Cassie Dickerson from the Corporate Engagement Office (CEO), we were able to get some information about the gender gap in invention disclosures. This gap, however, is probably more reflective of the gender/representation gap in individual units/departments. An important data set that still needs to be collected would require tracing how invention disclosures progress (if

at all) along the commercialization pipeline (invention disclosure to provisional patent to PCT, etc.) based on gender. In addition, the subcommittee led by Dr. Schulte engaged different organizations across campus (Women's Place, Women in Medicine and Science, CCTS) and developed a survey to try to better understand perceptions related to commercialization-related activities, and the extent to which a gender gap could be partly explained by a lack of motivation to engage in commercialization activities. Moreover, the subcommittee started discussions with Scott Osborne to evaluate the possibility of including a gender identification question (optional) in the invention disclosure form, which will allow us to better track progression along the commercialization pipeline for different genders.

- Future work: This subject will continue to be part of the agenda of IPPC for 2021-2022, and we expect to continue advancing this initiative through the subcommittee led by Dr. Schulte. Part of the work will focus on evaluating the results from the survey, and continuing to work with CEO to evaluate the gender gap beyond invention disclosures, and also to try to capture gender information when invention disclosures are filed to facilitate diagnosing/monitoring of this issue in the future.

Commercialization in AP&T subcommittee:

- Issue: An issue that was identified is that the metrics for commercialization-related activities (for annual reviews, promotion/tenure) are not necessarily clear and/or consistent across different units. This may disincentivize some people from pursuing commercialization-related activities (e.g., filing invention disclosures, filing patents, trying to license technologies, etc.), especially before they go up for tenure, since some units may not give enough credit for efforts spent on this area. This may also contribute to the gender gap in IP/commercialization-related activity.
- Actions taken: The subcommittee led by Dr. DiGiovine met separately to outline action items aimed at trying to diagnose the problem (e.g., comparing metrics across different units within OSU, comparing across different institutions, discussions with Office of Academic Affairs). The subcommittee found that in some units there was some

consideration for commercialization-related activities in the promotion/tenure decision. However, this does not seem to be common practice across all departments, and there is no formalized process to evaluate these activities for promotion/tenure. Moreover, the subcommittee found that reputable peer institutions have well-established models that could potentially be adopted at OSU.

- Future work: This subject will continue to be part of the agenda of IPPC for 2021-2022, and we expect to continue advancing this initiative through the subcommittee led by Dr. Digiovine. Part of the work will focus on partnering with Dr. Malone at OAA (initial contact was enabled by Dr. Randy Moses) to review policies and procedures and propose changes where needed. Moreover, the plan is to also develop educational materials for department chairs and AP&T committee chairs to better evaluate this type of activity within the context of promotion/tenure. Finally, there will also be an effort to try to better educate faculty to better highlight this type of activity in their dossiers.

Chair for 2021-2022: It is recommended that Daniel Gallego-Perez serves as chair again for the 2021-2022 academic year.