

Research Policy Committee **Draft Minutes**

February 28, 2020

2:30-4:00 pm

Fleming, Room 4250

Chaired by Dr. Francine Dolins

Members present: Francine Dolins, Natalie Colabianchi, Jacob Carlson, Nicholas Harris, Nicholas Ernst, Irene St. Charles, Ashley Kalinski, William Close, Akira Nishii, Marisa Conte (phone), Jordan McNaughton, Zenon Sommers, Jay Vornhagen (replacing Francois Beaufay)

Guest(s): Dr. Bryce Pilz

Absent: Mimi Dalaly, Kate Eaton, Hafiz Malik, Annalisa Manera, Jairam Menon, Teri Rosales, Priti Shah, Jessie Lee, Yi-Su Chen, Nocona Sanders

I. Review of minutes from January 2020

- Committee approves minutes

II. First topic: Technology Transfer Innovation Partnerships

- Presenter, Bryce Pilz, Director of Licensing
 - i. Leading public institution in terms of volume for research
 - ii. Overview:
 - 1. A lot of effort put towards patents and idea/research protection
 - a. Utilizing UM alumni for “marketing” or search for feedback
 - 2. Support within or advise to create a “start-up”
 - iii. Amplifying the impact of research being done here
 - 1. Examples: driverless cars, procedures, drugs, etc.
 - iv. Tech Transfer is starting to attract more people as a career path
 - v. NCRC allows for close in proximity involvement for start-ups
 - 1. Companies are allowed to lease space
 - vi. Examples of licensing provided: Google at Stanford; coupler device at UM
 - 1. Question: who makes the valuation or returns decision?
 - a. The director (Bryce) or his boss make this decision and it is based on a lot of advisement both internally and externally
 - vii. Example of start-up: Genomenon
 - 1. Mentorship turned into staff leaving OTT and becoming CEO of company
 - viii. Top 5 in 3 key indicators
 - ix. Question (Francine): How has MCubed helped with the process?

1. Response: MCubed adds value through collaboration across schools
- x. Increased number of start-ups based on strategy
- xi. Blue Conduit: start-up working with the City of Flint to identify lead pipes using an algorithm of public records in place of physically digging and testing
 1. Federal courts made decision that the City of Flint must use the best technology, which is this product from UM
 2. Started as a consulting agreement and OTT evolved it to a start-up
- xii. How much time is spent on anticipating negative societal impact?
 1. There is expertise put into those efforts as well. The current portfolio of work doesn't involve clear negative impact inventions such as missiles.
- xiii. Industry Sponsored Research
 1. Balancing commercial involvement (paying for research) and the exclusivity rights.
- xiv. Question (Jake): Are the requirements to share data potentially detrimental to commercialization or licensing?
 1. Response: Has yet to have this be an issue, although it is possible. Industry is typically interested in supportive research so it can be a benefit.
 - a. Publishing could limit US patenting, but there is typically a way to work through the process to obtain patent.
- xv. Question (Francine): How do faculty work through gray areas such as ownership of invention or involvement in patents?
 1. Response: Always okay to come to OTT first. If they cannot address the issue, they will connect the faculty with the right area.
- xvi. Question (Francine): At what stage do we approach OTT?
 1. Response: It's almost never too early. If you think there is commercialization opportunities, then approaching OTT is appropriate.
- xvii. Question (Will): Does OTT field requests for review of IP with perceived potential commercialization, that doesn't really exist?
 1. Response: Yes, the office does work with the faculty member and tries to provide objective reasoning.

III. **Announcements**

- Ashley, Will, and Jay – update on meeting with Brad Orr
 - i. Re: centralized office for post-doc fellows
 1. Presented the work earlier today
 - a. Will present proposal at the associate deans bi-annual meeting
- Link for an article re: foreign influence
 - i. Link is in the agenda

- New Member: undergraduate from Flint; Jordan McNaughton
- No additional announcements

IV. **Call for other business**

- None

V. **Meeting adjourned: 15:55**