

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY

Minutes, Meeting #6, 2015-2016

October 12, 2015

Present: J. Doyle (Chair); J. Beck; L. Capogna; J. Hanlan; A. Heinricher; J. Ross, J. Rulfs

Guest: T. Keiller, Director, Intellectual Property & Innovation

The minutes of the meeting of Oct. 5 were approved as amended.

Todd Keiller, Director of Intellectual Property and Innovation, attended in order to present and discuss the latest proposed revision to WPI's Intellectual Property Policy. The policy was last completely reviewed in 1996. At that time the policy was more lengthy and less clear than the proposed revision. The revised policy is 8 pages long, half the length of the draft that came out of the committee of faculty and administrators. The 8 page version now being presented retains all of the provisions of the lengthier document but is phrased in layman's language rather than in legal terminology. It is generous in terms of what WPI allows to an inventor and includes a special agreements provision which allows negotiation of ownership. 50% of royalties go to the inventor; the Department gets 5%; the Dean gets 5%; IPI Office gets 5%; WPI gets 35%. For student inventions where the student(s) used significant WPI resources, and chooses to patent through WPI, WPI pays patent expenses and the student gets 50%. If the student pays the patent expenses, the student gets 99%, WPI gets 1%. The policy encourages commercialization, addresses how equity is handled, addresses copyright and software IP, and includes an oversight and appeal process. CAP reaction was positive, however members requested time to read the entire policy. It was agreed that CAP members would let Prof. Doyle know their reactions via email. After review and approval by CAP, CGSR, and the Executive VP of Finance, the policy will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees for approval and implementation. A copy of the policy is on file with these minutes in the Faculty Governance Office.

It was agreed that CAP would continue to meet at 2 p.m. in B term. Early in B term, CAP will meet with Provost Bursten to discuss any mutual ideas that we might have regarding academic policy.

Respectfully submitted,
James P. Hanlan