

## UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

FY2020 Annual Review Narrative Response for: **217 - CoMotion**Communication with Stakeholders

- 1) Please briefly describe your unit's annual internal budget development process. *Question Type: Free Text, Word Limit: 500, Required For: All Units*

CoMotion creates an annual budget by:

- Reviewing actual expense trends and incorporating all expected expenditures
- Reviewing contractual royalty revenue obligations due to UW
- Meeting with all internal unit managers to ensure projected expenses and revenues are comprehensive of activities for the next 1-5 years
- Reviewing the budget with CoMotion's management to ensure that all activities are in line with CoMotion and UW's mission
- Meeting with the Provost
- Adjusting the budget as appropriate based on Provost feedback, funding available, and/or changes in priorities.

GIX Annual Budget Development: Budget is developed by GIX staff and Co-Executive Directors and approved by the GIX Leadership Team, which consists of senior staff and faculty leadership. The final budget is also approved by GIX's Executive Board, which has representation from GIX's founding partners, UW, Tsinghua University, and Microsoft.

- 2) What are 3-5 key elements of your unit's current strategic plan? *Question Type: Free Text, Word Limit: 500, Required For: All Units*

CoMotion Goal #1: Assist faculty and researchers to move their innovations towards commercialization (licensing and startups), IP protection, and public impact, by providing access to expertise, resources, and programs. [IP Advising, Protection and Licensing] Goal #2: Provide just-in-time learning opportunities related to developing an entrepreneurial mindset, as well as access to tools, technology, and equipment needed to put ideas into form. [Training] Goal #3: Connect the University's commercialization and societal impact efforts to mentors, topic-specific experts, company builders, gap funding opportunities, and external partnerships for licensing, angel and venture capital investment, and startup grant support. [Funding and Partnerships] Goal #4: Support for startup creation within the UW community and startup incubation, for the UW and external startups, with learning programs, mentoring, networking, and space across a variety of industries. [Startups and Incubation]

GIX: Create new educational models to develop future leaders in innovation. 4 learning programs – MSTI, ELL, Internships/Summer Programs, Online Students for impact and diversity Mix of design thinking/technology/entrepreneurship/ethics, society, policy features Online capabilities

Develop meaningful global innovation partnerships to tackle complex world challenges.

Full partners Academic network members Consortium members Others

Achieve value-add business models for higher education. Robust financial model Efficient and effective operations Facilities to support changing needs

- 3) What major obstacles or institutional barriers currently do, or likely will, hinder execution of your strategic plan? What are you doing to address these challenges? *Question Type: Free Text, Word Limit: 500, Required For: All Units*

CoMotion: The biggest challenge for success to date is the uncertainty in CoMotion's budget which has forced the department into a state of operational flux that has made strategic planning and budget planning impossible. We received a 30% budget cut, including a 15% staff reduction, in FY2018. Since then, the Provost's office has committed \$4M in permanent funding for operations. CoMotion has developed a plan for an additional \$1.2M dedicated to high risk patent funding. This plan includes utilizing equity returns in FY20. To ensure long term sustainability for high risk patent



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funding, CoMotion will implement cost-cutting measures in FY21, which includes closing the CoMotion Makerspace, moving the HQ incubator and reducing FTEs. Additionally, efforts remain focused on creating new funding partnerships and generating new revenue streams.

- 4) Over the next year, could any of your planned strategic activities result in material changes to revenues or expenditures, faculty or staff workload, or the student experience within your unit and/or another unit/campus? *Question Type: Free Text, Word Limit: 500, Required For: All Units*

CoMotion: We are not anticipating significant changes in FY20. However, as mentioned above in FY21 CoMotion anticipates slightly decreasing our staffing infrastructure and operations. With advance notice of a year, CoMotion will work on a communications plan to our stakeholders ensuring that students and faculty are aware of the changes to the Makerspace. GIX is actively developing relationships with industry and academic network partners in an effort to cultivate a third full partner who will develop programs with GIX and provide substantial financial support.

- 5) What is your unit doing to effectively use resources in a way that benefits your unit and/or other units/campuses? *Question Type: Free Text, Word Limit: 500, Required For: UWB, UWT, UWS Administrative Units*

CoMotion consistently connects potential funders and partners to relevant programs across campus who support innovation and entrepreneurship. Examples of this include partnering with the Buerk Center for Entrepreneurship to mentor and train students and promote their programs; the Amazon Catalyst Award which funds faculty, students and staff; innovation and entrepreneurial training for faculty, students and startups; our collaboration with BECU in support of financial technologies (Fintech) research and technologies; our Innovation Gap Fund, which funds the commercialization of technologies across campus to faculty and researchers; and the Commercialization Fellows Program, which funds one year's salary for entrepreneurial postdocs. These are but a few examples of how we leverage our resources to promote innovation and entrepreneurial activities across campus.

GIX event and meeting spaces are available at a discounted rate for UW users. The GIX Makerspace and classrooms are available for rented use for UW users. GIX frequently hosts tours for or with central administrative units, as well as partner departments.

- 6) What are you doing to improve the experience and outcomes of students in your unit? What could the University do to support your efforts? *Question Type: Free Text, Word Limit: 500, Required For: UWB, UWT, UWS Academic Units, UAA, Graduate School*

Not Applicable