



28 October 2013

To: Susan Astley, Chair – Senate Committee on IP and Commercialization

Sean O'Connor, Chair – IP Management Advisory Committee

From: Linden Rhoads, Vice Provost – Commercialization

Cc: Kate O'Neill, Vice Chair – Faculty Senate

Re: *FY14 Goals for improving UW IP policies*

We look forward to working with IPMAC & SCIPC to achieve a number of goals this year. We suggest these improvements in order to facilitate industry engagements and entrepreneurship, and to clarify the UW's commitment to academic culture.

Faculty ownership of course materials

The President and Provost have expressed support for policy affirming that UW faculty own their course materials. This isn't the case at some universities. With more courses being offered online, this is a good time to memorialize this as a foundational aspect of UW's IP policy.

Inventions – scope of assignment

We would like to narrow the scope of inventions assigned to the university, to those arising out of one's university duties. This has been our practice, although existing policy is broader than this.

We would also like to affirm in policy the faculty's right to put their works in the public domain.

Inventions – present assignment

We would like the UW to implement a preferred mechanism for present assignment. We are distributing a report that lists a number of mechanisms used at other universities. As soon as a preferable mechanism is adopted, the assignment can be removed from the form requesting approval for outside work.

Inventions – scope of reporting and disclosure

We would like to narrow the requirement to report inventions to those that are assignable to UW. No longer requiring faculty to report all inventions will make it easier for faculty to do outside work, and make it easier for the UW to hire adjunct faculty with inventive responsibilities to primary employers.

Software

We would like to clarify what software is assignable to the university. The concepts in the current policy do not clearly address the variety of ways in which software actually arises at the UW and the different modes of distribution.

We see these improvements as providing direct and immediate benefits to the UW community. We look forward to the faculty's help in setting the shared vision and thereafter to those brave few volunteers to help with drafting new policy language. In addition to memorializing the changes proposed above, the policy needs to be rewritten so that it is more directly and clearly articulated.