FULL COMMITTEE

The Intellectual Properties Committee met January 18, 2006. The following members present: Dr. Jim Blair, Dr. Tim Pickering, Dr. Joe Falkinham, Ms. Carol Roberson, Dr. Tom Caruso, Dr. Tom Sherman, Mr. Mark Sumner, Dr. Craig Nessler, Mr. Ken Miller, Mr. Ryan Lanham. Ms. Debbie Nester recorded the minutes.

Call to Order

Dr. Blair called the IP Committee meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Blair called for a motion to approve the minutes of November 16, 2005. Dr. Falkinham made the motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Dr. Sherman and the motion was unanimously passed.

Update/Discussion

Dr. Blair reported that there were 87 disclosures in calendar year 2005, which is down from last year. He askedthe committee to get word out to faculty in their areas. Dr. Blair reported that a new executive director for VTIP has been hired. Ms. Roberson reported the director’s name is Mr. Mark Coburn and he will begin April 1 or before. It was also reported that there is money in the proposed budget next year for the positions that were discussed in VTIP. VTIP has received an Economic Development grant award and there will be some money from that for a position as well. These individuals will work with faculty to develop disclosures and to think about marketing strategies. Dr. Blair thinks this will help increase the quality of the disclosures received.

Dr. Blair reported on three disclosures that were received. He reported that disclosure 05.084 was not assigned as university owned because it was scholarly work. It was not accepted by the committee on behalf of the university. He reported on disclosure 03.118 that has student disputes with respect to royalty sharing. The committee discussed this and recommended that Dr. Blair talk with Ms. Kay Heidbreder. Dr. Blair reported on disclosure 06.001 as an example of faculty who do not understand how to complete the intellectual property forms. Dr. Blair said the disclosure is an idea for something which would be copyrighted but is not yet written. Dr. Blair asked the committee how they could help faculty to better understand intellectual property and educate them on the process. They discussed it. A frequently asked questions section that could be integrated into the VTIP web site
was recommended as one means of communicating the sense of the committee. Dr. Blair agreed to look into implementing this recommendation.

**Policy 13,000**

Dr. Blair reported the ground has shifted relative to revision of the IP policy. New legislative action involving IP is being considered by the general assembly. He wants to get some input and advice from the committee on what we do. He had been thinking of giving FYI presentations on the intellectual properties policy to various groups. He is now hesitating because of the recent actions in the general assembly. They are considering changing the IP policy for the state and requiring that universities have their own policy. If this passes it will come back to the Board of Visitors. They may say we have to develop a policy which we already have. Dr. Blair feels there might be a clash in going forward with this current policy for minor changes or practices. What should we do? The committee discussed this. It was suggested that highlights of our practices document be put on the awards newsletter and maybe on the opportunities update website. We can then wait until March to learn what legislative action will be taken.

**New Items**

Ms. Roberson gave the committee something to be thinking about and put on the agenda for the next meeting. She reported that Dr. Fenwick asked should the disclosure form be revised to indicate inventors willingness to transfer know-how to licensing companies.

**Adjournment**

Dr. Blair announced the meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.