

*Approved by UFC:  
March 30, 1999*

To: University Faculty Council Agenda Committee

From: George Walker, Vice President for Research  
Ann Gellis, Co-Chair, University Research Policy Committee

Date: October 1, 1998

Subject: University Research Policy Committee

The University Research Policy Committee (URPC) was created in the fall of 1996 as a joint committee of the University Faculty Council (UFC) and the Office of Vice President for Research and Dean of the University Graduate School (RUGS). Its mission broadly defined is to provide faculty input, advice and recommendations concerning intellectual property, technology transfer and other research related issues (see attached Report). In addition to the purposes set forth in the Report, the URPC serves as the appeals and advisory committee under the University's newly adopted Intellectual Property Policy.

At the same time the URPC was organized, a number of other smaller committees were set up as faculty advisory committees corresponding to the working units in ARTI. Also created was the "ARTI Liaison Committee." To date, the only active advisory committee has been the Tech Transfer Advisory Committee which assists the office of tech transfer at ARTI. The ARTI Liaison Committee was to be composed of the chairs of the four advisory committees, and in turn the Chair of the ARTI Liaison Committee was to be a member of the URPC, thus providing a mechanism for information to flow to the URPC.

Two years of operation have demonstrated that the committee structure outlined in the resolution and report does not meet the needs of the University. The Liaison Committee does not function as envisioned. In fact, it doesn't exist, given the fact that only the Tech Transfer Advisory Committee is functioning. Thus, we do not have a link between the Tech Transfer Advisory Committee and the URPC. As a result, we do not have a sufficient flow of information from the Tech Transfer Advisory Committee to the URPC to assist the URPC in making policy decisions. The tech transfer office at ARTI wants and needs policy advice as it undertakes its activities, particularly in interpreting the Intellectual Property Policy as it relates to the ownership and distribution of revenue issues. Members of both the URPC and the Tech Transfer Advisory Committee believe that the merger of the Tech Transfer Advisory Committee into the URPC would provide a more useful body for all concerned.

We recommend that the following changes be made to simplify the structure and enable the URPC to carry out its functions more efficiently:

1. At Present, the URPC, like other UFC committees, is set up with co-chairs from the Indianapolis and Bloomington campuses. We believe we should switch to a system whereby the chair would alternate yearly between the two campuses. This way one person is in charge of shepherding the committee's work and keeping track of the matters under consideration. We have found that the normal problems of coordinating the schedules of eleven busy faculty members from the different campuses is compounded by the co-chair arrangement.
2. We propose that the Liaison Committee and the Tech Transfer Advisory Committee be formally eliminated; and that the functions of the Tech Transfer Advisory Committee be reassigned to the URPC.

We believe these changes will provide the kind of faculty input that ARTI needs and would facilitate the flow of information from ARTI to the URPC, so that the URPC can fulfill many of its purposes.

We hope that these housekeeping changes can be made expeditiously and we would be glad to discuss these changes with you.

