

Sharon Beckman (Chair)

Angela Ards

Kelby Bibler

Joseph Carroll

Thomas Chiles

Andrew Davis

Kirsten Davison

Joseph Du Pont

Kristin Flower

Yonder Gillihan

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Stacy Grooters

Welkin Johnson

Gregory Kalscheur, S.J.

Thomas Kohler

Adam Krueckeberg

Karen Lyons

John Mahoney

Monica O'Reilly-Jacob

David Quigley

Tracy Regan

Diane Ring

Ronnie Sadka

Akua Sarr

David Scanlon

Billy Soo

Julia Spagnola

Samantha Teixeira

Jean-Baptiste Tristan

She concluded, discussing her eleven years of experience with the Jesuit educational tradition, noting the importance for students to understand the spiritual, academic, and societal impact they have from their experience here. She urged members of the faculty to reach out with question or concerns.

A council member asked about the thinking around communications with faculty, noting that in the past, there have been perceived challenges with communications to faculty members.

Shawna responded that her hope is to enhance regular communications, host webinars for the community, and create a more robust website to communicate to various constituents.

*of Technology Transfer and Licensing
Academic Planning*

*Associate Director, Office
Vice Provost for Research and*

Tom Chiles provided background and an update on revisions to the University Policy on Intellectual Property. The policy was last substantively reviewed in 2016. With the new building opening in January 2022, there will be a variety of spaces, including maker and prototyping spaces, that the campus has not traditionally had at this scale. In light of this, as well as the new Engineering Department and the Schiller Institute, the policy was reviewed with an eye specifically toward student intellectual property. As students are allowed to be more creative, prototype, and ideate, the University will increasingly encounter student intellectual property questions.

Tom introduced Siri to discuss the proposed revisions.

Siri began with an overview of the purpose of the Intellectual Property (IP) Policy, which is to protect patentable inventions and software that come from predominantly hard sciences research. The policy also allows BC to adhere to the terms of sponsored research agreements, particularly federal grants. By law, federal grants require the University to take ownership of the patents and software that are developed from these grants at the University. Private companies may also expect the University to control the IP so that licensing rights may be granted. A goal of the policy is to allow the University to license patents and software developed at BC for further development and commercialization.

One of the primary goals for the review was to acknowledge student work in the policy. The current policy mentions that students are covered in certain situations, but does not make clear what the conditions are. The revision will clarify the applicable circumstances.

Under the proposed revisions, students would be entitled to own the product(s) of their coursework or work developed independently while at BC unless (a) the invention is an improvement on IP that the University already owns; (b) a University faculty member or employee is a co-owner of the invention; (c) substantial University resources are used to develop or reduce the invention to practice; or (d) a sponsored project agreement applies. The revisions propose that design courses could be sponsored or supported by third-party resources

which could be considered “substantial,” and trigger the University’s ownership threshold. This would be at the discretion of the Provost and Vice Provost for Research and would allow the University to own products of student coursework where course sponsors may ask for license rights in the intellectual property that they support. In these cases, students would be made aware of this condition prior to the course, and the recommendation is that students be given the option to work on a project that is not sponsored.

Additionally, the revisions allow the Vice Provost for Research to designate certain University facilities, such as maker spaces, exempt from the “substantial resources” definition, allowing students to own inventions created there.

Siri continued, explaining that students working in labs on sponsored projects, using substantial resources, or in design courses, will be required to sign an Intellectual Property Agreement. This is not a policy that all students at BC will be required to sign. A simplified version of the policy has been developed specially for students, with training and supportive materials that explain “substantial resources” and the rationale for why the University may take ownership of intellectual property rights.

Siri discussed a proposed restructuring to the Policy on Equity. The proposal would allow the Office of Technology Transfer and Licensing to exercise greater discretion to take equity under a start-up license by moderating the required Executive Committee Review (e) (4) (ns) (2) (e) (r) (7a) (e)

Siri concluded by urging faculty to be in touch with questions or concerns.

David provided some background on the approach that the University has taken to the start of the academic year. The University continues to rely on the extraordinary vaccination rates within the community as the central measure to the current response to COVID-19. There is currently 100

