SUNY Intellectual Property Policy

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Innovation at SUNY

“I’ll be happy to give you innovative thinking. What are the guidelines?”
A SUNY Story:
Senior Design Projects in
Computer and Information Systems
Current Challenges

• Ambiguity regarding “own time” inventions and COI
• Students and employees are treated the same
• No acknowledgement of nonpatentable research materials and program income requirements
• Strict language regarding nonassignment of royalty
• Rigidity in industry partnerships
• 40:60 split of gross royalties
Proposed Changes

- Ownership of Intellectual Property
  - Scope of employment
  - Substantial vs. Insubstantial Use of University Resources

- Remove barriers to contracting with industry
  - Maximum flexibility in contracting with partners
  - Business judgments made locally
Proposed Changes

- Promote student innovation and entrepreneurship
  - Carve out for student ownership of IP
  - Students may choose to work with the university

- Income related to nonpatentable intellectual property
  - Distribution of income determined locally
Proposed Changes

- Disclosure of extra-institutional inventions
  - One-page disclosure

- Royalty Distribution
  - Gross to Net calculation
  - Enables faculty to assign or waive royalties
University IP In the News

Tech Transfer News: Significant Use of University Resources

Penn State’s Approach to IP from Company Sponsored Research

U research jumps into the big time

University of Minnesota expands MN-IP program to promote industry partnerships and boost regional economies
Where are we now?

11/16/2013 PIPB Recommendations
3/19/2014 BOT R&ED Discussion
6/13/2014 Provost Decision to Amend
6/16/2014 - 12/9/2014 Advance Stakeholder Engagement with SUNY Counsel and Technology Transfer Offices
12/9/2014 SUNY BOT R&ED Presentation
12/13/2014 - 3/26/2015 Amendments
3/11/2015 SUNY Research Symposium
3/24/2015
Questions?