



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

Intellectual Property Training for IP Committee, IP Champions, Principal Technologists and Selected Researchers

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Speech by DVC-RPE

BACKGROUND

The University of Nairobi formulated its IP Policy to guide its management, employees, students and associates concerning the development, ownership, management and marketing of intellectual property in 2006 and revised in 2013. The office operates from UNITID Building at the Kenyatta National Hospital Campus of the University.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The following are some of the achievements of the office since its creation:-

- Initiated sensitization of the staff and students on IPRs issues;
- Review of IP policy;
- IP policy implementation tools such as Invention disclosure form, IP policy acceptance agreement form and Material transfer agreement form;
- The office is recognized as a patent agent;
- Concluded three technology licensing agreements;
- Filed 13 patent applications;
- Registered 9 trade marks and 51 copyright works;
- Facilitated material transfer; and,
- Facilitated drawing of many MoUs and collaborative research agreements.

CHALLENGES

The most significant challenges are:-

- Staff and students to disclose their creations and innovations for purposes of protection prior to commercialization. This problem has

been rightly attributed to lack of awareness about IP. It is my hope that this problem will diminish as a result of sensitization workshops like this one.

- Commercialization protected IP assets – this requires personnel with knowledge in entrepreneurship and innovation management. I hope that such a person will be employed in near future
- Implementation of award scheme for creativity and innovation. This has been passed by the University.

IP SENSITIZATION PROGRAM AT UON

Right from its establishment, the IPMO realized that to execute its wide mandate, there was an urgent need to create awareness about the nature and purpose of the Intellectual Property system across the entire University. Accordingly, a number of measures have been taken to ensure maximum IP sensitization of the University community.

- The University has put in place IP champions in every college and who have undergone a training on IP.
- UMB, some CABs, Deans/Directors, Chairmen, some schools, students and individual groups have been sensitized.
- Members of Intellectual Property have also been appointed to oversee the activities of IPMO.
- The IPMO has participated in innovations activities like the innovation week and the ASK committee where it has managed to get disclosures for inventions with IP.
- The IPMO has a website in which it has posted the titles for inventions on patents filed by the University for marketing.
- The University is also planning to carry out an IP audit of the whole University which will provide data on research output with commercial potential and which will also serve in engaging the researchers on benefits of IP protection.

These efforts have paid big dividends especially in disclosure of IP for protection

PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP

Having given this brief outline of the IP awareness campaign at the University, I wish now to say something about the purpose of this workshop.

The training is intended to provide the participants with practical IP knowledge that will make them understand how Intellectual Property will play a role in promoting creativity and commercial benefit in the University.

It is intended to provide useful information to the Intellectual Property Committee as they embark on the task of implementing the IP policy. It will empower the IP champions and technologists in their IP sensitization activities in the colleges. It will also provide the inventors and researchers with information on how to make their research output useful and of commercial benefit.

The selection of resource persons and participants was therefore deliberately designed to reflect this desired direction. You will notice that the bulk of speakers are from the national intellectual property offices who carry out the IP protection and who constantly assist with providing information and logistics on IP issues in the University.

This forum is intended to open the doors for increased IP output which enhance the visibility of the University, move research output to useful products for benefit of the society and in return provide commercial benefit to the researchers and the University

With those remarks, it is my pleasant duty to invite the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, to address us and officially open the workshop.

Thank you