

Board of Trustees Revises Patent Policy

On June 19, 2209 the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama revised the patent policy applicable to all three campuses of the University of Alabama System. The new Patent Policy is substantially similar to the old Patent Policy which has been in effect since 1980. However, there are some important differences. Campuses are no longer *required* to have a Patent Committee. Each campus President now has the option of appointing an officer, or a non-profit organization, to serve as campus Patent Administrator. Students are now expressly covered by the Patent Policy. Also, it is now expressly stated that the patent policy is a contractual obligation, and not just a condition of employment, of all employees. Covered inventions are now automatically the property of the Board of Trustees without the requirement of a written assignment from employees. If the University decides not to pursue patent protection or commercialization of an invention, the University may negotiate the return of the invention to the inventing employee or student.

The University's policy of sharing the commercial fruits of all commercialized inventions with employee inventors remains unchanged. UAHuntsville's policy of sharing invention commercialization proceeds with its employee inventors remains among the most generous in the nation.