Research & Development Committee
Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, January 10, 2017
Time: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
Location: University Hall, Room 420B (Collaboration Space)


Guests: Dorothy Air

Apologies: Phil Taylor, Bruce Burton, Michael Richardson, CJ Kim, Jane Strasser, Xia Wang, Kristen Burgess, Elaine Miller, Grace Gamstetter

1. Review and Approve November 2016 Meeting Minutes (attached)
   • The minutes were approved.

2. Introductions and Welcome Guest Speaker Dorothy Air, PhD, AVP, Entrepreneurial Affairs and Technology Commercialization

3. Overview of Entrepreneurial Affairs and Technology Commercialization (Dorothy Air)
   • Entrepreneurial Affairs and Technology Commercialization is a Tech Accelerator responsible for licensing technology, protecting intellectual property (IP), etc., with the goal of moving proposals to commercialization. Protected IP without commercialization is covered in this unit as well. If commercialized they file IP paperwork.

   • Many universities have commercialization operations. UC reorganized as a result of a federal mandate to develop entrepreneurial pathways and technology commercialization. Any technology development that is funded by the tech accelerator is mandated to be moved into commercialization.

   • Third frontier monies, funding from CincyTech, UC internal staff and IP budgets supports the department.

Meeting Schedule:
2nd Tuesday of the month

Feb 14, 2017
Mar 14, 2017
Apr 11, 2017
They also have funds for gap-funding awards and funding to bring in outside expertise for residents hired on personal service contract to help develop business strategies, make connections etc. Gap funding is for projects not quite ready for full commercialization – up to $40K.

Three times per year, they accept and award proposals. In order to be awarded, the project has to be ready to be moved into commercialization.

UC does not decide which projects move forward into commercialization; they are validated by an external advisory committee and an assigned Entrepreneur In Residence (EIR).

The EIR may continue to advise even if committee doesn’t approve going forward. The goal is for the proposal to be presented until the project can go forward with an award and commercialization.

An EIR advisor is assigned to the faculty/team to help them determine budget, timetable, requirements, etc. If the project is selected to move forward, the EIR approves it, Dorothy approves it and then a budget is available. The idea/project has to be moved into commercialization within one year. If it is successful and needs more funding (particularly in CoM) after phase 1, the team can apply for second phase of money, which is an additional $40 – $75K.

Dorothy’s office also has access to a technology validation and startup fund used for universities to apply and receive their own funds. It has a separate awards committee, with grants up to $100k or $150k in the first phase if the project is medically related. Phase 2 of this model has more funding available but the proposal must have resulted in a commercial entity as a result of phase 1.

EIR staff are always on personal services contract, and are extremely accomplished individuals with many connections in the business world. They also have a strong relationship with CincyTech. Dorothy is on loan to CincyTech as a part-time consultant. Brett Harnett has submitted two proposals through the tech accelerator and has received funding.

The goal for the accelerator is to spin out quality and sustainable companies. Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) phase requires licensing to move forward.

Examples of appropriate projects for licensing:
  i. Must relate to area of expertise at UC in order to be eligible for accelerator funding.
  ii. Must be licensed to an entity in order to be licensed to a path of commercialization.
  iii. Incremental improvements to things already in market usually are not funded.
  iv. Should be a disruptive technology – something significant, i.e. a new app, a new technology, something nobody else is doing.
  v. Must represent an unmet need with a substantial market. Customer and user are not always the same, i.e. doctor and hospital scenario.

If proposal is denied and accelerator has put money into it, must pay money back to accelerator if originator wants to develop idea on their own.
• Accelerator unit pays maintenance fees on every project in portfolio.

• Accelerator pays for commercialization review to determine if there is viable commercial opportunity.

• If developed during UC employee tenure, UC owns the IP. If commercialized, all entities have to agree and work out a deal, for example, one university buying out the interest of another. A tiered royalty structure exists that is distributed back to UC and to the employee when UC licenses and commercializes a product developed by an employee. Originator/UC employee can be a founder in the new company, advisor, etc. and can receive equity, but there are limitations, such as cannot be CEO of company. They must avoid conflict of interest situations.

• Contact Dorothy Air if you have questions or are interested in submitting a proposal.

4. Cyberinfrastructure Engineer & Educator (CI2E) Position Update (Jane Combs)
   • Bret Kottmann was hired and starts next Tuesday. His office is in University Hall on 4th floor. He reports to Jane Combs and Bruce Burton. His first task is to extend the network for the 5 add-on awards. Brett will attend the February meeting to provide an update on the network extensions.

5. Smart Cities Initiative (Jane Combs)
   • Jane is submitting a proposal for a $100k grant to NIH in collaboration with some UC faculty. See attachment for proposal requirements, which is just for the planning phase. Rich Beck, A&S Geography, will be working with Jane to submit the NIH proposal. Jane is also considering holding a retreat with the Office of Research to help faculty develop preliminary proposals. Contact Jane Combs if you have questions or are interested in participating.

6. Sensor Retreat Update (Jane Combs, Chris Collins)
   • Partially funded by the Office of Research.
   • Last retreat was well attended with more than 150 attendees.
   • Was the second annual retreat and this year included industry and potential customers.
   • Was an all-day retreat with a variety of proposals, such as clean water sensors.
   • All active research colleges at UC were in attendance along with CCHMC.

7. Other Updates
   • Jane met with Jon Adams regarding collaboration tools not supported at the enterprise level. Examples are adding Shibboleth single-sign on for technology tools, such as Trello, Slack, Base Camp etc.

8. Adjournment
   • Committee adjourned at 2:19 pm.