

Appendix K  
**Patent and Copyright Policy**

**I. Patent Policy**

**A. Functions of Patents**

Illinois Institute of Technology recognizes that patents on inventions arising from university research serve several important functions. A patent:

1. ensures that the potential scientific and social advantages arising from an invention will be realized to the fullest;
2. encourages invention and rewards inventors;
3. ensures protection and control of inventions in the public interest; and
4. generates income for the funding of research.

IIT therefore has instituted the following Patent Policy, which applies to inventions of faculty, staff, and students.

**B. Definitions**

1. “University research” is any research that is not personal research, including, but not limited to, research funded by external agencies, corporations, foundations, and societies, as well as research supported by university funds.
2. “Personal research” is research that is conducted without financial support from the university other than normal salary and related benefits; is carried out in the investigator’s discretionary time, without requiring release time from normal duties at the university; requires no significant assistance from university faculty, staff, and students, unless shown to be in their discretionary time; and makes no significant use of university research facilities or equipment.

**C. Disclosure**

All inventions arising from university research must be reported as promptly as possible and in accordance with disclosure requirements associated with any grant or contract under which the university research was supported. An invention disclosure must be submitted by the inventor to the Director of Technology Transfer & Intellectual Property before any public disclosure (i.e., journal publication, lecture, news release, etc.) is made. Inventions arising from personal research may be reported at the discretion of the inventor. All inventors shall exercise their best judgment in classifying any invention as resulting from personal research.

**D. Ownership**

Any invention resulting from personal research belongs exclusively to the inventor and the university has no rights in it. Such inventions may be reported at the inventor’s discretion, if the inventor desires to make use of the university’s sources of information concerning inventions or the university’s mechanisms for patenting inventions. These university resources are available to any faculty member. The use of these resources by an inventor does not give the university any rights in an

invention resulting from personal research or in profits accruing to such an invention.

Any invention identified in writing by both the inventor and the Director of Technology Transfer & Intellectual Property as resulting from university research or determined to be the result of university research pursuant to the immediately following paragraph belongs exclusively to IIT, and it will be administered according to the procedures set out in this policy. The inventor of any such invention does hereby assign to the university his or her right, title and interest in any such invention so resulting.

If the circumstances surrounding ownership of an invention are complicated or unusual, the case may be put before a Patents Committee, which shall include at least three members of the faculty, the Provost, the Director of Technology Transfer & Intellectual Property, the Director of the Office of Sponsored Research, and the General Counsel, and which shall be chaired by the Provost. No fewer than five faculty members of the committee shall be nominated by the University Faculty Council, and three of them shall be appointed by the Provost. The committee shall meet within 30 days of submission of the invention disclosure to the Director of Technology Transfer & Intellectual Property and the committee decision assigning ownership shall be final.

#### **E. Administration of IIT-Owned Inventions**

All inventions owned by IIT shall be first reviewed by the Patents Committee, in consultation with the inventor and, if necessary, with experts in the field of the invention. The committee may then refer the matter to a patent attorney for an opinion on the patentability of the invention. A determination will then be made by the Director of Technology Transfer & Intellectual Property in consultation with the inventor and other members of the patents committee as to whether a patent application should be filed. The criteria to be used in making the determination shall include the patentability of the invention and the potential benefit to the university in owning the patent.

Inventions resulting from any but federally sponsored research will be offered to the inventor if no commitment for patenting has been made within six months of the inventor's disclosure to the Director of Technology Transfer & Intellectual Property.

Inventions resulting from federally sponsored research will be offered to the inventor whenever possible, if no commitment for patenting has been made within six months of the inventor's disclosure to the Director of Technology Transfer & Intellectual Property. Assignment to the inventor of title to inventions resulting from federally sponsored research is always contingent on permission from the sponsoring agency. If permission is not granted, or if an inventor wishes to decline title to an invention, then title shall be assigned to the sponsoring federal agency.

#### **F. Distribution of Income**

The inventor shall receive 50 percent of IIT's net income from the invention. Net income is the income remaining after deductions for payments or obligations directly attributable to patenting, marketing, licensing, protecting, or administering the invention. IIT shall begin to share royalty income with the inventor when IIT begins to receive royalty payments and before expenses have been recovered. The IIT share

of invention proceeds will be used to support research after IIT's expenses have been recovered.

The Patents Committee may determine that under certain circumstances it would be appropriate for the inventor and/or his or her department to pay some portion of the expenses associated with patenting and marketing the invention. The committee may propose such an arrangement to the inventor and/or to his or her department, and the parties may negotiate an agreement with terms that are different from those stated in this policy. If no agreement is reached, the Patents Committee shall make a final determination either to proceed with the invention under the terms of this policy or to assign title to the invention to the inventor.

#### **G. Multiple Inventors**

In the case of multiple inventors, the inventor's share of 50 percent of IIT income from an invention will be divided among the co-inventors according to any agreement they may reach among themselves. If the co-inventors cannot agree on an equitable distribution of the inventor's share, they may ask the Patents Committee to arbitrate an agreement, and the decision resulting from such arbitration shall be final.

#### **H. Overriding Agreements**

The Provost may authorize agreements that entitle a sponsor to ownership of any discovery or invention made under a grant or contract, if such terms are necessary as a prerequisite for university participation in a project. In such cases the terms of the grant or contract agreement override any stipulations of this policy. However, in entering into any research agreement the university reserves the right to a nonexclusive, royalty-free license as to any invention resulting from sponsored research.

For federally sponsored projects the terms of federal laws and regulations affecting patents override the stipulations of this policy in any case where the two conflict.

#### **I. Exceptional Cases**

If an inventor feels that the circumstances surrounding an invention are highly exceptional and make inappropriate the provisions of this policy, the inventor may request a meeting of the Patents Committee to review the case. Any committee decision regarding ownership, administration, or royalty distribution for an invention shall be final and binding on the inventor.

### **II. Copyright Policies**

#### **A. Policy Objectives**

The policy of IIT is to encourage the development of copyrightable material by its faculty, staff, and students, and the dissemination thereof. The university seeks both to protect the traditional academic freedom of its faculty and students, and to balance the rights of authors, sponsors, and the university. The university also seeks to encourage the wide distribution of scholarly works produced by the faculty. Further objectives of the policy include recovery of expenses from significant use of university facilities and sharing of revenues when the university has been a significant partner in the work.

## **B. Statement of Policy**

Ownership of copyright shall remain with the author in all cases except where: (a) the specific work is assigned as part of university employment and thus is a work for hire; (b) creation of the work involves extensive use of university personnel, facilities, or funds; or (c) the university's contractual obligations under a grant award or other agreement require other arrangements. Ownership in these cases will be determined according to the provisions of Section D below.

## **C. Summary Explanation of Copyright and Copyright Protection**

1. **Copyright.** Under federal copyright law, copyright subsists in original works of authorship that have been fixed in any tangible medium of expression from which they can be perceived, reproduced, or otherwise communicated, either directly or with the aid of a machine or device. These works include: (1) literary works such as books, journal articles, and computer programs and databases; (2) musical works; (3) dramatic works; (4) pantomimes and choreographic works; (5) pictorial, graphic, and sculptural works; (6) motion pictures and other audio-visual works; and (7) sound recordings. Copyright does not extend to any idea, procedure, process, system, method of operation, concept, principle, or discovery.
2. **Rights of Copyright Owner.** Subject to certain exclusions and limitations in copyright law, the copyright owner has the exclusive right: (1) to reproduce the work; (2) to prepare derivative works based on the copyrighted work; (3) to distribute copies to the public by sale or other transfer of ownership, or by rental, lease, or lending; and (4) to perform or display the work publicly.
3. **Works for Hire.** A work prepared by an employee within the scope of his or her employment is a work for hire. The employer, by law, is the "author" and therefore the owner of works for hire for copyright purposes.

## **D. Interpretation and Implementation of Policy**

The following guidelines will be followed in implementing the policy.

1. Books, Articles, and Similar Works Relating to Scholarly Activity. In keeping with scholarly tradition, the university does not claim ownership of books, articles, or similar works authored by faculty or staff. Ownership of these works vests in the author.
2. Course Syllabuses, Notes, Slides, and Recorded Lectures. Ownership of materials created in the normal course of preparing and teaching a class vests in the author.
3. Master Courses or other equivalent material covered under the following provisions.
  - a. **Definition:**  
Master Courses consist of pre-recorded lectures and pre-packaged instructional materials (handouts, assignments, assessments) that may be presented to students as a complete course for self-paced study or to instructors as the core material in support of an instructional section offered

during an academic session, whereby the ownership is shared by the faculty and university as detailed in this Appendix.

b. At the initiation of a faculty member, or in response and agreement to a request by an academic unit head or dean, faculty may contract with the Office of Digital Learning to create and maintain Master Courses for the purpose of offering prepared courses during regular academic periods and summer sessions, or as self-paced study on a per-learner basis, subject to the approval of the academic unit within which the course is offered. Ownership of Master Course vests with the university, but the university shall grant the author a license to use any developed material created specifically for or in support of Master Courses for other purposes, including publication or teaching. Reuse of Master Course materials in another teaching context shall be limited to use in a class setting where the instructor has personal, individual contact with, and control and assessment of, specific students. The author shall not be able to assign this right to any other person or entity. The faculty member responsible for creating the Master Course shall be compensated as described in the Distribution of Income section below.

4. University-Assigned Works. Copyright of materials produced by an employee shall be the property of the university if the materials are works for hire. These are materials for which the individual was paid specifically for the production of the materials, was employed by the university for the specific purpose of preparing or producing the materials, or was assigned to do so as part of his or her general employment duties.
5. Works with Extensive Real Costs to the University. University facilities are not to be used for personal gain or commercial advantage. Copyright of materials may be claimed by the university if the production involves extensive real costs to the university. Clearly insubstantial usage shall not cause ownership to vest in the university, nor shall use of facilities for which the individual has paid use fees from personal funds.
6. A faculty member may use materials that he or she has developed in preparing a course, to produce a textbook or other work. The resulting work, like the original materials developed, is the property of the faculty member.
7. Determination of when use of university facilities is “extensive” is a matter of judgment based on the situation and the practices in particular academic units. Generally, the university intends to encourage individual initiative and creativity.
8. Sponsor-Supported Work. Copyright in works developed as a result of work supported partially or fully by an outside agency through grant or contract with the university shall be disposed of in accordance with the terms of the grant or contract.

#### **E. Distribution of Income**

1. Income derived from a work in which the university claims no copyright belongs to the author of the work.

2. Income derived from a university-assigned work belongs to the university.
3. Income derived from Master Courses shall be retained by the university. Faculty creating Master Courses will be compensated for the original creation of the class pursuant to a contract agreed to by the faculty member and the office designated by the Provost. In addition, such faculty will be paid residuals according to a schedule, negotiated every three years, by the University Faculty Council and the Office of the Provost.
4. Income derived from a sponsor-supported work shall be distributed as provided in the agreement with the sponsor.
5. The university may have reason to make other arrangements with members of the faculty and staff for the production of copyrightable materials. In such cases, individual written agreements will be entered into and the provisions of these agreements shall take precedence over the provisions of this policy.

**F. Administration of the Policy**

1. If the copyrightable material is developed with the assistance of, or in the course of employment at, IIT Online, the Academic Resource Center, the Center for Study of Ethics in the Professions, the Office of Marketing & Communications, or a similar administrative unit that regularly develops and distributes copyrightable material, the director of that unit shall be responsible for administration of the policy with respect to that material. If the copyrightable material is developed with the assistance of, or in the course of employment in, some other department, the Office of Sponsored Research shall be responsible for such administration.
2. Wherever possible, the administrator of the policy and the author shall reach agreement prior to the commencement of work on the copyrightable material with respect to the category in which that material will fall.
3. The following copyright notice is to be used on all university-owned materials:

Copyright [year] Illinois Institute of Technology.  
All rights reserved.

No other institutional or departmental name is to be used in the copyright notice.

**G. Resolution of Differences**

Disagreements about administration of this policy in any particular case, including a determination as to the category in which a work falls, shall be referred to the Committee on Copyrights. This committee shall be made up of three members of the faculty, the Provost, and the General Counsel, and shall be chaired by the Provost. No fewer than five faculty members of the committee shall be nominated by the University Faculty Council, and three of them shall be appointed by the Provost. The committee shall meet within 30 days of submission of a dispute to the Provost. The committee decision resolving the dispute shall be final within the university.

## **H. Return of Copyright to Author**

Authors of works whose copyright is owned by the university may petition the Committee on Copyrights to have the copyright returned to the author if, in the author's assessment, the university does not offer the copyrighted materials for sale in a timely fashion. In this case, the university retains a non-exclusive, royalty-free license.

## **I. Copying of Works Owned by Others**

Members of the university community are required to observe the rights of other copyright owners. Copies of guidelines for classroom and library use are available from the Dean of Libraries and the Director, IIT Downtown Campus Library.

## **III. Special Provisions Relating to Distance Learning**

### **A. Transmission of Live Instruction**

The university may transmit any classroom instruction, lecture or other instructional or performance event produced by faculty members as part of a program of distance learning with the consent of the instructor. The faculty member agrees to these provisions when accepting a teaching assignment that includes remote delivery. Objections to this are considered objections to a teaching assignment, and are dealt with according to established procedures to cover objections to teaching assignments. The faculty member has the right to object to transmission to more than 1000 individuals.

The university may record such instruction and provide it online for students who have missed particular classes or who wish to review material covered in class for the duration of the academic period or summer session in which the class is offered. The university, however, may not sell or re-transmit in future semesters any such recording except under the terms of such written agreement as stipulated in this appendix.

### **B. Other Policies Relating to Course Materials**

1. The university is responsible for the technological support infrastructure and integrity of any online instruction in support of university programs. If a faculty member independently contracts with a third-party vendor offering the delivery of online instruction, he or she must inform the university of the nature and extent of that instruction and shall obtain permission from his or her academic unit head before beginning any such online instruction.
2. The faculty are responsible for the academic content of their courses and degree programs. As such, all classes offered to IIT students, including classes delivered using Master Course material in whole or in part, will be under the pedagogical control of an IIT faculty member, and under curricular control of the academic unit in which they are offered.
3. Faculty members have the right and obligation to update, edit or otherwise revise out-of-date course materials for Master Courses or other equivalent work governed by these provisions, and the university has the right to request that faculty members update their Master Courses. If the university

requests that a faculty member update a Master Course, the faculty member should be allocated sufficient time to do so and be compensated for the work according to the initial Master Course agreement between the faculty member and the university. If a faculty member declines to update a Master Course when requested and three years have passed since the Master Course was created or last updated, then the university shall be free to contract with others to update it, and the original author shall forfeit their right to residuals otherwise provided for in Article II, Section E(3).

4. It is anticipated that faculty members might separate from the university, by retirement, resignation or any other means during the lifetime of the Master Course materials. Contractually obligated payments will continue unless specific separation provisions are included in the contract created at the time of creation or revision.
5. Faculty may place a time limit upon the use of course materials that are particularly time sensitive, if these are negotiated and placed into the contract developed at the time of Master Course creation or revision
6. The Vice Provost for Academic Affairs will promulgate procedures for development and delivery of online instruction consistent with this policy.