



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

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May 10, 1978

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Mr. William O. Burke
Vice President, Eastern Region
Society of University Patent Administrators
Office of Vice President for Research
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia 30602

Dear Mr. Burke:

Thank you for your letter of April 28, 1978, requesting information on how Federal patent regulations impact on the university's industrial grant and contract work.

Generally, it can be said that they impact on us relatively little. While we do conduct a sizable amount of industrial and Federally sponsored research and development, there is very little cross-over between the two sectors of activity. It should also be pointed out that Virginia Tech has no IPA with any Federal agency.

I will attempt to answer your questions in sequence.

1. There have been no instances to the best of my knowledge.
2. No.
3. Not applicable.
4. This institution supports the stand of SUPA in promoting more realistic patent policies on the part of the Federal government with regard to universities. In order to achieve commercialization of an invention it is absolutely essential that a period of exclusivity be granted to the licensee in order that his investment can be recovered and a profit can be made. This will be no give-away on the part of the government, but instead will be a stimulus to the economy returning more dollars to the treasury. This is far better than having a patent portfolio which produces no revenue at all.

Sincerely yours,

Charles D. Waring
Charles D. Waring
Executive Secretary
University Committee on Patents