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SUPA Filed



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

Office of the Administrator

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Patents
University-Sponsored Educational Materials
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Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455
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January 11, 1978

Mr. Howard W. Bremer
Patent Counsel
Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation
P.O. Box 7365
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Dear Howard:

I am responding to your January 25th letter regarding the omnibus disclosure agreement which PPG has developed for use with universities.

The idea of developing suggested format for disclosure agreements between industry and universities is a good one and I will be happy to serve on your committee and participate in the discussions at the SUPA meeting.

The disclosure agreement that PPG industries developed does not meet with as much opposition here as Larry Gilbert encountered at Boston University. We do not look upon this agreement as giving PPG the exclusive right to review the technology, nor do we feel that the several concurrences that are required at Boston University before the agreement can be entered into are necessary here. Our attitude is that once an invention has been turned over to the University for patenting and development, the full-time patent management people have the authority to arrange these agreements without other approvals. This is based in the assumption that the agreement is legally enforceable.

There are three comments that I would make with respect to the agreement itself. First, it should state that the disclosure is made for the purpose of ultimately entering into a license agreement on the technology involved. Second, the statement in paragraph 1 "that the disclosure will be made in accordance with the terms of and Northwestern University policy" is ambiguous in that the Northwestern policy is not stated or attached to the agreement. Third, the escape clauses for PPG in paragraph 2 seem to be pretty standard in agreements of this type, and not unreasonable.

Sincerely,

Will

G. Willard Fornell
Patent Administrator

GWF:dl