

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
MINNEAPOLIS 14

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OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

February 10, 1964

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Gentlemen:

The Committee on Governmental Relations' Subcommittee on Patents, chaired by Mr. Robert B. Gilmore, has recently met with Mr. Dave Beckler and staff of the President's Committee on Science and Technology to review the impact on university patent management practice of the President's Memorandum on Government Patent Policy dated October 10, 1963. This Subcommittee also met for the second time with representatives of the U. S. Public Health Service and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

In the course of these discussions a requirement was established that the universities document, with cases, representative instances wherein the public interest had been best served by management of inventions at the local level. This requirement is to be satisfied by case studies from files of the institutions represented on the Subcommittee or from information that can be gathered from other universities in the region. Obviously, our case with the government is strengthened if we can draw upon the experiences of many. I am contacting universities in the Midwest who might be willing to lend their assistance in this matter.

The President's Committee on Science and Technology is attempting to bring about, insofar as is possible, a uniform handling of inventions by all government agencies. It is extremely important that the role of American universities in serving the public interest in the area of patents be clearly established and adequately documented before this Presidential Committee. Failure to do so may bring about a deterioration in the patent title position of universities on government grants and contracts.

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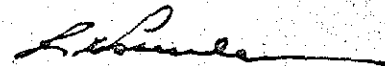
The cases desired should be described in 150 to 200 words and be instances where:

- (1) Local patent management efforts, including frequent contacts and close relationships between the inventor, the institution, and industry, were necessary to establish a license or licenses so that the discovery could be made available to the public, or
- (2) That the inability to bring about these working relationships due to the intervention of outside factors resulted in the failure of the invention to be made available for public use.

Within the next few weeks Mr. Wahlatrom will circulate a statement in which the universities' attitudes towards management of patents in the public interest is set forth. After approval by the Committee on Governmental Relations this statement will then be transmitted to Mr. Beckler and to Dr. Price, Deputy Surgeon General. The case studies that are accumulated will be attached to this statement to document our case for continued university autonomy to manage patents in the public interest. Subsequent meetings with these individuals will be concerned with gaining acceptance for our position and with the specifics of patent terms under grants and contracts.

There is an element of time involved in these deliberations with the federal agencies as many of the agencies are now in the process of revising their patent policies and regulations to bring them into line with the President's Memorandum. We must establish our position before new agency policies become hardened. We would appreciate having your case studies in our hands not later than February 28.

Sincerely yours,



Vice President.

L. R. Lunden/GWF/lt