

### **Goal 3: Excellence in Civic Engagement**

#### ***B. Intensify commitment and accountability to Indianapolis and Indiana***

##### **Technology transfer and translational research**

*Re-examine the status of patents, incubators, and the general technology transfer process. Tabulate ongoing translational research and encourage further related activities—the federal funding climate favors such activity, and it is appreciated by the general public. TRIP (Translating Research into Practice) program will highlight this work.*

*Committee: Hasan Akay [chair], Ali Jafari, and Anna McDaniel.*

##### **Current Status**

- Technology transfer at IUPUI is handled through the IU Research and Technology Corporation (IURTC), an independent not-for-profit corporation. IURTC presently has its main office in Indianapolis. The office owns, manages, and markets IU's intellectual property. It also owns and operates a business incubator that assists new start-up companies.
- The level of entrepreneurial activity among IUPUI faculty and administrators is lower than at peer institutions.
- The number of IU start-up companies has historically been low, although a dramatic increase was noted for 2006-2007.
- The university's Research and Sponsored Programs office lacks strong connections with industry.
- A Translating Research into Practice (TRIP) initiative was launched at IUPUI in February 2007 with the purposes of studying and promoting translational research for society's use and benefit.

##### **Recommendations**

- Establish an industry research programs office within the newly created Office of the Vice President for Engagement at IU with direct ties to the Research and Sponsored Programs Office and the IURTC.
- Bring more university oversight and faculty involvement to the IURTC in order to enhance its value to the university.
- Enhance communication and networking between faculty members and the IURTC to promote entrepreneurial culture, transfer of technology, and commercialization of inventions.
- Strengthen science, engineering, and technology programs, in addition to IU/IUPUI's flagship life sciences programs, to enable IUPUI to respond quickly and flexibly to new opportunities created by emerging technologies in the region and nation.
- Work with University Counsel to develop a university-wide Technology Control Plan similar to those that exist at other universities. Such a plan will enable IUPUI to receive industry and government grants involving non-classified proprietary data or laws pertaining to export or arms control.
- Prepare master agreements with major corporations and government agencies that faculty frequently collaborate with, in order to ease the process of signing research contracts with them.
- Develop a database that documents and highlights ongoing translational research in order to encourage collaboration and entrepreneurship.
- Revise policies and guidelines for promotion and tenure, merit pay, salary increases, and other rewards to support and enhance the value of faculty work on technology transfer and translational research.
- Establish an infrastructure that will enable the campus to increase the value and amount of industry-sponsored research to a level comparable with that of research conducted for government agencies.
- Develop policies, guidelines, and procedures for faculty-owned and -operated start-up companies.

##### **Implementation**

- The TRIP committee has begun developing a database to document IUPUI translational research for external and internal marketing purposes.

(Revised October 28, 2007)