

AUTM Recommends Universities Review the 'Nine Points to Consider in Licensing University Technology'

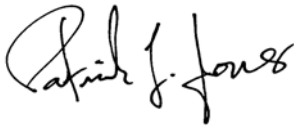
Licensing approaches, even for comparable technologies, can vary considerably from case to case and from institution to institution based on circumstances particular to each specific invention, business opportunity, licensee and university. In spite of this uniqueness, universities share certain core values that can and should be maintained to the fullest extent possible in all technology transfer agreements. Although we may generally agree on the commonality of goals in nurturing future research and using the innovations of university research to provide the broadest possible benefit to the public, there is a multiplicity of approaches for achieving the desired result.

In July 2006, a group of university research officers, licensing directors and a representative from the Association of American Medical Colleges met to brainstorm about important societal, policy, legislative and other issues in university technology transfer. These universities recognized that each license is subject to unique influences that render cookie-cutter solutions insufficient. Their aim was to encourage our colleagues in the academic technology transfer profession to analyze each licensing opportunity individually. When crafting agreements with industry, a balance must be struck between business needs of our licensing partners and the shared values of our respective institutions. The participating universities put forth these considerations in an aspirational sense to encourage all of our colleagues to set a higher standard by stretching the boundaries of conventional licensing practices and share with the greater technology transfer community the insights that they gain in doing so.

On behalf of the AUTM Board of Trustees, I am sending this document to AUTM members, first and foremost, because these points are about university technology transfer practices. We recognize that many of these points are already being practiced. We applaud these efforts and urge adoption and implementation by the wider community of universities. Given the current political environment that questions the motives and methods underlying our activities, however, it is important that the principles used to support our decision-making be recognized as serving the best interest of our nation -- not just our individual institutions. Beyond the simple economics of any agreement, it is our hope that our colleagues will give serious consideration to these additional points before finalizing all the terms and conditions. In the end, we hope to foster thoughtful approaches and encourage creative solutions to complex problems that may arise when universities license technologies in the public interest and for society's benefit.

The Nine Points to Consider white paper was released on March 6, 2007. [Read the white paper.](#)

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick L. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "J".

Patrick L. Jones, Ph.D.
AUTM President