

AAU-APLU Technology Transfer Management Survey Results



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Purpose of Survey

Given recent federal- and state-level lawmakers' interest in university technology transfer practices, AAU and APLU conducted a survey to gauge the extent to which member universities have implemented [AAU's Working Group on Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property](#) and [APLU's Task Force on Managing University Intellectual Property](#) 2015 recommendations regarding the management of intellectual property (IP).

These recommendations include:

- Develop and state a clear mission and vision for university management of IP.
- (Re)affirm university's commitment to adhere to technology transfer practices that best serve the public interest and are aligned with the [Nine Points to Consider in Licensing University Technology](#).
- Highlight institutional policies that restrict the university from working with patent assert entities or "patent trolls."

Key Results

- 87 percent of institutions **employ practices, are developing or have already developed written policies** that ensure that technology transfer practices are consistent with advancing the public good and the university's core missions, and adhere to the [Nine Points to Consider in Licensing University Technology](#).
- 84 percent of surveyed institutions do not have a **specific policy** restricting their university's ability to license intellectual property to patent assertion entities. However, almost 20 percent stated that their university does not in **practice** license to patent assertion entities. Additionally, many institutions have crafted license agreements that allow the institution to revoke a patent license if the licensee fails to develop and/or appropriately commercialize the invention embodied in the patent.
- Six institutions have gone through a review process, benchmarking their policies with AAU working group and APLU taskforce IP management recommendations.

Survey Fast Facts

- 89 institutions participated in the survey.
- 74% of technology transfer offices operate wholly within their respective universities.
- 26% operate as independent 501(c)3 foundations.
- The majority of institutions have policies in place to ensure their technology transfer practices advance the public good and align with their universities' core missions.

For more information about how to conduct technology transfer in the public interest read [Technology Transfer for All the Right Reasons](#), featured in the Volume 18, Number 4, March 2017 publication of *Technology & Innovation* by James Woodell, APLU Assistant Vice President for Innovation & Technology Policy and Tobin Smith, AAU Vice President for Policy.

Next Steps & Campus Examples

from AAU-APLU Technology Transfer Management Survey

Recommended Next Steps for Campus Technology Transfer Offices

- Review the technology transfer management recommendations of [AAU's Working Group on Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property](#) and the [APLU Task Force on Managing University Intellectual Property](#) recommendations on technology transfer management.
- Benchmark institutional policies with AAU and APLU's recommendations and the [Nine Points to Consider in Licensing University Technology](#).
- Create written policies that reflect existing institutional practices prohibiting or restricting university licensing to patent assertion entities or "patent trolls." Publish policies online and share examples with AAU and APLU members.
- Share progress and challenges with APLU and AAU (Email James Woodell, APLU, at jwoodell@aplu.org and Hannah Poulson, AAU, at hannah.poulson@aau.edu)

Institutional Examples of Proactive Steps to Improve Technology Transfer Management

Iowa State University

- Conducted a review process matching the university's policies with AAU and APLU recommendations.
- Written policy to insure that licensees commercialize: "The University must...assure that arrangements will be made so that its obligations to the public and to granting/supporting agencies will be met...The University must be satisfied that the patent will be beneficially used."

Louisiana State University

According to [LSU Bylaws](#):

- LSU does not permit brokerage of LSU intellectual property.
- Licensees are expected to be directly active in developing and commercializing licensed IP.
- Exceptions to this policy will only be permitted upon the written authorization of the Chancellor, President, or designee.

University of Illinois System

- [Article III, Section 7 F of the General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure](#) states, "...licensee must demonstrate capability to commercialize the intellectual property. The license may include clear performance milestones with a provision for recapture of intellectual property if milestones are not achieved."

Washington State University

- [Conducted an internal review of current policies](#) and detailed how they align with AAU/APLU recommendations
- Exclusive licenses are structured to encourage diligent development of the technologies and ways to pull the technology back if licensees are not actively pursuing the technology.