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Faculty Senate

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Another major issue is that the section dealing with patents is far more restrictive than the section on copyrights. Another concern focuses on paragraph (4) under section b, patents; it suggests that if we enter into an agreement with a sponsor willing to fund research but stipulating ownership of any patent resulting, EIU can waive the right to ownership, but it ultimately requires approval by the Board, specifically the Chancellor. Seeking any waiver at the Board level is time-consuming and could ultimately cost the university research opportunities. More comfort was expressed with a Board mandate to each university to develop its own copyright/patent policy. Concerning a determination of 50% of the cost of producing a copyrightable work, it was felt that any monies spent to support the teaching and research expected of all faculty should not be calculated as part of the cost. It was also noted that the BOG is now encouraging the increased procurement of federal funds, and we don't want to make things more difficult for our faculty, in terms of bureaucracy or incentive, and it is possible that the proposed amendment, though unintended, could have that effect. No callous intent is attributed to the Board and the proposed amendment, but the broad, general language permits rather restrictive interpretations. On the other hand, the Senate does support the local/university-level interpretation facilitated by the proposed amendment.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. President Rives will deliver the State of the University Address on Tuesday, March 14, at 3:00 pm, in Coleman Hall 120.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25pm. Next meeting, 2:00pm, March 7, Martinsville Room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gary S. Foster