

Senate Growth and Development Committee
Meeting Minutes 1.27.2017
11:00-12:00pm
Senate Conference Room, Hall Building

Guests: Andrew Zehner, Associate Vice President for Research, Technology Commercialization and Industry Relations and Greg Gallo, Director of Technology Transfer

Present: Faquir Jain, Robert Bird, Greg Bouqout, Katrina Higgins, Carolyn Lin, David Benson, Louise Lewis, Nick Ferron, Joerg Graf, Lyle Scruggs, Tracie Borden, Tina McCarthy, Danielle Bergmann

Minutes

The minutes for the Senate Growth and Development Committee meeting held on December 12, 2016 were approved.

The office of technology commercialization services was introduced and our guests explained how it focuses on the facilitation of the commercialization of innovations. The office is also helpful in bringing commercialization to innovations that may not be possible to do so without a commercial partner.

The office engages in a variety of functions. The office identifies and protects new sources of intellectual property, support start-up creation, and incubate company startups through the Technology Incubation Program (TIP). Companies join to obtain advice or to be part of innovative ecosystem. Firms also build connections between one another as well as provide opportunities for faculty research and student internships. TIP is about more than just renting space but providing a program with collaboration. Companies eventually grow and 'graduate' from the program, with a target departure of three years.

TIP companies are able to use equipment and facilities on campus at the same rate that faculty are charged. Firms can access sophisticated technology and equipment at competitive rates. UConn does not take an economic interest in independent TIP companies, though this may be discussed further at some point. We don't have requirements that they stay in Connecticut, but we do our best to try to keep them in the Storrs area. Research activity at UConn (over \$200M annually in competitive grants from external sponsors) is generally at similar level as our peers.

The SPARK technology commercialization fund was also discussed, which has \$400K in a fund available to make requests to translate research discoveries into product commercialization.

The Innovation partnership building (IPB) currently being built was also discussed. Approximately half of the building will be centers, often with an endowed chair attached. The goal is to have long-term corporate partnerships, which may offer fellowships and scholarships. Another goal is to have these relationships result in student hires on graduation as well as companies providing mentorship. UTC's hiring of 100 engineers a year from our graduates is an example of such a relationship.

The potential for the office to support software commercialization was also discussed. The office does not currently have an expert with that capability, but could be on wish list for the future.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05am.