

Project Title : Institutional Policy and Practice of Student Intellectual Property Management in Hong Kong Higher Education

Leading University : City University of Hong Kong

Participating UGC-funded University(ies) : Hong Kong Baptist University, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

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Layman Summary of Proposal

In order to prepare students with creativity competency, institutions in the Hong Kong higher education sector encourage students participating activities such as undergraduate research and entrepreneurship programs. Students may generate intellectual property (IP) in these activities. Therefore, it is important for institutions to develop and implement institutional IP policies and practices that facilitate the management of student-generated IP.

In this project, a 2-day seminar will be conducted, bringing together senior management, legal advisors, officials and professionals from local and overseas institutions to –

1. Exchange experiences and share visions on the management of undergraduate student IP;
2. Examine, analyze and evaluate the policies and practices of different institutions, both local and overseas; and
3. Develop a best practice that can serve as a standard for the Hong Kong higher education sector.

After the seminar, we will solicit suggestions and prepare a best practice and list of recommendations for IP policy which will help local institutions advance and perfect their institutional IP policies to address the issues of IP generated by undergraduate students while still fostering their creativity and innovation.

We intend to benefit from the previous work and experiences of local as well as

overseas institutions but to build upon these in order to produce a more sophisticated, well considered and effective set of policies.

Layman Summary of Final Report

The international conference and workshop featuring some of the world's leading authorities on Student IP management were held. Five key goals are identified:

1. Develop a clear Student IP policy that sets out clearly each stakeholder's responsibilities and rights. The aim of the policy should be to make the nature of Student IP and the university's aims and policies regarding Student IP as transparent and accessible as possible.
2. Announce and widely disseminate an institution's policies and protocols on Student IP, for example publishing on school web pages, in school newspapers, and distributed via flyers on departmental bulletin boards and in classrooms and other appropriate venues, and announcing by faculty members in classrooms, on university radio and TV programs, by administrators during orientation, and by student speakers at various student-run events.
3. Establish an office or program responsible for Student IP and make every effort to inform students of its presence and encourage them to visit and consult its members. The office or program is to centralize all activities, such as answering questions and resolving IP-relevant problems, in a one-stop location.
4. Designate and empower a single person to make decisions regarding Student IP. A single program officer should explicitly be given the authority to represent the university in IP decisions and render definitive decisions whenever problems arise.
5. Develop and make clear what values, principles and aims underlie, inspire, and guide the policies and protocols employed by one's institution. Institutions must decide issues such as the level of trust afforded to professors and students to make initial, low-level decisions about IP. Institutions may delegate such authority or may decide and promote the idea that whenever IP issues arise, professors and students must engage a standard institutional protocol, office, or program. In this and other regards, the situation with Student IP is not unlike that of student plagiarism; institutions of higher learning must reflect upon, deliberate, decide, and announce clearly their overall philosophy in approaching such issues.

Among the lessons learned through the conference, workshop and research, our web page will also find additional information, supporting exercises, and thorough

references on these key goals as well as on general issues and other specific challenges concerning Student IP.