

**Policy on Patents and Release of Reports  
Resulting from Senior Design Projects  
First adopted by the CEAS executive committee Feb. 9, 1989  
Revised and adopted by the CEAS executive committee June 30, 2008  
Revised by J. Gesink, October 8, 2010**

A copy of the written report from each senior design project must be submitted to the department.

A form to indicate permission to release a written report shall be furnished by the department. Each student must complete, sign, and turn in the form before the project is presented at the Conference on Senior Engineering Design Projects.

Sponsorship of a project may or may not involve financial support. If a project originated outside the College, it may be considered to have been sponsored by the originator.

The written report of a sponsored project may be published or released to anyone unless the sponsor requests in writing that its distribution be prohibited or restricted. A department may choose to accept only those projects whose sponsors agree to the department's conditions.

A department which releases a report on request may recover only the costs of publication and distribution.

Patent rights typically reside with the inventors, unless prior agreement has been made with the industrial sponsor or the Office of Research. If it is determined that a patent application may be made by a student or student team, all team members should be included in the application, to the extent that all team members have made a material contribution to the claimed invention.

**WMU POLICY STATEMENT ON THE OWNERSHIP OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY** From  
<http://www.wmich.edu/research/forms/Revised%20IP%20policy-RPC.doc>

For non bargaining unit WMU faculty, students, staff, and others participating in WMU programs, including visitors, whose activities lead to Intellectual Property (the "Inventor(s)"), all rights, title, and interest in said Intellectual Property shall belong to the Board of Trustees of Western Michigan University (the "Board") when the activities:

- are part of the work for which WMU is paying the individual(s) from any source; or,
- involve the use of WMU resources.

The Vice President for Research may choose to waive ownership rights for Intellectual Property that is derived primarily from classroom activities. Ownership of Intellectual Property in which the Board has an interest may be assigned to the Western Michigan University Research Foundation ("WMURF"), which was created to, among other activities, manage and commercialize the Intellectual Property of WMU. For information on royalty distribution, see Article 2.5

**In summary**, from the WMU IP attorney, "where CEAS senior design projects are concerned, WMU operates under the assumption that IP issues from these projects are between the students (representing themselves, not WMU) and the sponsoring company."

**ADDITIONAL ECE 4810/4820 CONSTRAINTS**

16 September 2009

The ECE 4810/4820 instructor has elected not to accept projects that will prohibit or restrict distribution of a comprehensive final written report.