Patent Policy-related Bayh-Dole Act Implementation Procedures

The Bayh-Dole Act, a federal law that governs University inventions, patenting, and technology transfer under federal awards, requires Princeton to impose, by “written agreement,” the following requirements on University employees with respect to inventions resulting from federally-funded research [37 C.F.R. § 401.14(f)(2)]:

1. To disclose inventions to the University’s Office of Technology Licensing (OTL) promptly and in writing;
2. To assign to Princeton the entire right, title and interest in and to each invention; and
3. To execute all papers necessary to file patent applications on such inventions and to recognize the government’s rights in the invention.

These requirements are incorporated in the University’s binding Patent Policy, which covers all University inventions (not only those made using federal funds). See Rules and Procedures of the Faculty, Ch. VIII(D)(2) (“Patent Policy”).

Given the regulations’ emphasis on a “written agreement” with employees that specifically addresses invention assignment, the University requires principal investigators and other researchers, upon receipt of federal awards, to sign an Intellectual Property Policy Acknowledgement & Agreement covering their patent activities at Princeton. Upon receipt of federal awards, researchers receive an email from the Office of Research & Project Administration (ORPA) with a link to the agreement, to be signed electronically. Each person need only sign the agreement once.

Please contact John Ritter (jritter, 8-1570) in OTL with any questions about this agreement or the University’s Patent Policy.