

Working Draft
CIC Statement of Principles
New Information Technologies and Intellectual Property
11/30/00

The ongoing revolution in the use of new information technologies for the production and dissemination of knowledge enables members of the university community to create new forms of scholarly work, to communicate with current audiences with new types of materials, and to reach new audiences. The dramatic changes in these new knowledge products and the ways in which they are employed provide an occasion to examine and clarify the fundamental principles that govern the creation and dissemination of such technologies.

- A central mission of the research university is the creation and dissemination of knowledge. Work in the classroom, the library, the office or the laboratory is ordinarily a joint enterprise. Even when it is driven by the special creativity and energy of a single individual, the process of creating and disseminating knowledge in a research university grows out of exchanges with students, colleagues and research associates and is made possible by facilities, salaries and other resources provided by the institution, as well as by the culture of the university itself.
- As with the creation of new inventions and discoveries, all partners in the development and dissemination of new knowledge products including the inventor, department, division, school or college, the university, and external partners (if any), should share in the rights, responsibilities, benefits and liabilities. To the extent the university accepts an intellectual property interest in the creation of new knowledge products, however, it should use any resources it receives to support both the specific research area that developed the project and the broader academic mission of the university.
- Because the technologies, tools and marketplace for new knowledge products will change rapidly, flexible and open policies that address the interests of all who participate in the development and dissemination of these new knowledge products are necessary.
- Neither new information technologies nor rules and procedures designed to accommodate them should interfere in any way with the ability of faculty members to pursue their research and teaching and to freely present their ideas to their colleagues, students and the world at large.

- The university should encourage and support faculty to take advantage of new information technologies. The dissemination of knowledge through new information technologies is consistent with the core mission of the research university. Much of the important work of the research university involves collaborations among faculty not only within the university, but with faculty at other institutions as well. These collaborations will increase with the advent of new information technologies, and the university must ensure that these new collaborations, with for-profit as well as with not-for-profit institutions, develop in a way that positively supports, rather than compromises, the central mission of the university.
- The university has an important interest in how its name is used. Individual faculty members cannot alone decide whether the university should sponsor a particular program. Thus, faculty members must be vigilant when using new information technologies, as elsewhere, to ensure that they do not engage in activities that inaccurately give the appearance of being sponsored by the university.
- Faculty and staff who are employed primarily by the university should not engage in activities that compete with the university's courses, educational programs, or any other activities that further the mission of the university.
- Because information technologies can change rapidly, faculty members who develop or otherwise exploit such technologies should disclose their activities promptly to their appropriate chair or dean. Only with such full and early disclosure can the university have a good sense of how new information technologies are being used and how it can fulfill its obligation to support such work.