Amendment to Patent Acknowledgment or Agreement;
Look for E-mail during Week of November 28th

UC Provost and Executive Vice President Lawrence Pitts and Executive Vice President Nathan Brostrom recently released a letter about the requirement that all faculty, staff, and others who use University resources or facilities sign an amendment to the patent document signed by all employees when they were hired in to the University of California. This letter provides important information about the Patent Amendment process that commences the week of November 28, 2011.

Background
The Patent Acknowledgment or Agreement signed by all UC employees requires individuals to promptly report and fully disclose potentially patentable inventions. UC employees also acknowledged an obligation to assign to the University rights to inventions and patents conceived or developed while employed by the University or while using University research facilities or UC gift, grant, or contract research funds.

As a result of recent court decisions, UC’s ability to meet its various obligations associated with rights to inventions and patents are at risk. It is important that all UC employees sign an Amendment to the Patent Acknowledgment or Agreement previously signed. Patent amendments are not unique to UC. Other universities are taking similar action to protect their intellectual property rights.

Some particular points to highlight are:
- The University Patent Policy itself is not changing.
- The scope of inventions that are assignable to the University has not changed.
- The Amendment does not reach backward to pre-existing inventions.
- The Amendment helps to protect the University and its employees should future consulting or visitor arrangements inadvertently give rights away.

Signature Process
UC has engaged VR Election Services Corporation (VRES) to administer an electronic process for signing the Patent Amendment. VRES successfully conducted the recent election of staff representatives to the UC Retirement System Advisory Board.

Beginning the week of November 28, VRES will send an email to the employee’s UC email address of record with a copy of the Patent Amendment and directions for submitting electronic signatures. It is imperative that UC employees sign the Amendment promptly when received.
For employees who do not have a UC email address, VRES will mail a paper copy of the Amendment to their address of record. The mailing will include instructions for submitting electronic signature or returning the signed amendment by mail.

More information about the Patent Amendment and the signing process, including answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs), is available on the At Your Service website: [http://atyourservice.ucop.edu/employees/policies_employee_labor_relations/patent-acknowledgment/index.html](http://atyourservice.ucop.edu/employees/policies_employee_labor_relations/patent-acknowledgment/index.html).

If you have questions not answered in the FAQs, please contact Teresa Porter, our Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer at teresa.porter@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu.

This project is very important to the University’s ability to meet its intellectual property obligations, accept sponsored research funding, and establish relationships with outside partners.

Thank you for your ongoing contributions to the University and for your cooperation.