

Work Group on Economic Development & Technology Commercialization
Summary of actions & decisions
March 24, 2010 meeting

Present: Gary Attman, chair; Cliff Kendall, David Nevins, John Young, Linda Gooden,
Tom McMillen
Joe Vivona, Janice Doyle, Brian Darmody, Carol Berthold, JoAnn Goedert
Guests: Asher Epstein, Stew Edelstein

The following key observations and decisions resulted from the March 24 meeting:

1. Asher Epstein, the Director of UMCP's Dingman Center, spoke to the group about UMCP's Dingman Center as an entrepreneurial model. Several observations emerged from the presentation and the ensuing discussion with the regents.
 - UMCP's entrepreneurial programs are varied and disparate and lack overall coordination of the collective efforts. The collective efforts need coordinated marketing and promotion so that they are presented and seen as one coordinated effort, rather than a group of disparate programs.
 - The real challenge of technology transfer is to create a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, not simply programs.
2. Brian Darmody reported briefly on the January 2010 TEDCO report which compares technology transfer practices at USM with those at several groups of peers. The Work Group recommended that staff talk to TEDCO about reviewing and revising the lists of peers that will be used in future reports.
3. Staff reported that AUTM data will be reported in aggregate for USM institutions beginning this spring.
4. The serious shortage of research facilities, including its implications for attracting research funding, was discussed. There is a direct correlation between the addition of research facilities and increased research funding. USM institutions are currently losing substantial research funding because there is no place to put the researchers. The State does not recognize research as an *industry* – one that plays an important role in economic development. The recession has meant the loss of two major sources of State funds for research facilities – HEIF and electronic games revenue.
5. Stew Edelstein briefed the group on USM's role in Montgomery County. The question that needs to be answered is what transformation do we want to drive economic development in Montgomery County.
6. The Work Group was asked to think about what characteristics it wants in USM's point person for Montgomery County.