**UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY, NIGERIA.**

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW AND MODIFICATION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP) POLICY**

**FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF BENIN**

1. **PREAMBLE**

The Committee for the review and modification of the existing draft on Intellectual Property Policy for the University of Benin was set up by the Vice Chancellor via memo REG/RO/C51 dated 7th November, 2022.

1. **MEMBERSHIP**
2. Prof. F. E. Okieimen, Dean, School of

Postgraduate Studies - Chairman

1. Prof. A. E. Ogbeibu, Director, IPTTO - Member
2. Prof. W. A. Udezi, Director, CRPU/ICTU - Member
3. Prof. O. A. Enabulele, Director, Legal Services - Member
4. Prof. C. C. Osubor, Dept. of Biochemistry - Member
5. Prof. J. I. Osagie, Dept. of History & Int’l Studies - Member
6. Mr. M. I. Owie, DR, Senate Matters - Member
7. Bursar’s Representative - Member
8. University Librarian’s Representative - Member
9. Mr. C. Edebiri, IPTTO - Secretary
10. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**
11. To critically examine/study the Intellectual Property Policy for Nigerian Universities developed by the Association of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities (ACVNU) in collaboration with the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC).
12. To review the existing Intellectual Property Policy document in comparison with the draft IP Policy by ACVNU stated above and modify to conform to present realities.
13. To come up with suggestion on how best to implement the Policy in order to improve the University’s Intellectual Property portfolios and facilitate access to strategic linkages to industries, partnership and investors nationally and internationally.
14. To render periodic report to the Vice Chancellor on its assignment.

1. **PROCEDURE**

The inaugural meeting of the committee was held on Thursday, 8th December 2022, where members unanimously resolved to set up a five man sub-committee to undertake the review process. The Sub-Committee comprised:

1. Prof. A. E. Ogbeibu, Director, IPTTO - Chairman
2. Prof. C. C. Osubor, Dept. of Biochemistry - Member
3. Prof. J. I. Osagie, Dept. of History & Int’l Studies - Member
4. Mr. O. W. Imagbe, Director, Legal Services

Representative - Member

1. Mr. K. A. Emokiniovo, University Librarian’s

Representative - Member

1. Mr. C. Edebiri, IPTTO - Secretary

The Sub-Committee held several meetings, where necessary modifications were effected after a painstaking research and evaluation of the aforementioned document in the Terms of Reference and from other useful materials sourced locally and internationally.

Upon the presentation of the draft on the modified Intellectual Property (IP) Policy to the full Committee for ratification on 21st February, 2023, members exhaustively deliberated on it and unanimously adopted the draft as the Intellectual Property (IP) Policy document for the University, subject to the approval of Senate.

1. **FINDING/ OBSERVATION**

In the course of its assignment, the Committee discovered that the existing draft of the IP Policy produced over ten (10) years ago was neither approved by Senate nor implemented, thus impacting negatively on the capacity of the IPTTO to manage and implement effective systems for translating Research and Development (RD) results to products and services for the benefits of Researchers, Innovators and the University in general.

1. **RECOMMENDATION**
2. The Committee emphasized on the expedient consideration of the modified IP Policy by the Senate in order to facilitate its approval as the official Intellectual Policy document of the University of Benin.
3. Additionally, the need for adequate publicity and enlightenment on the modified IP Policy is recommended, as this would help create the necessary awareness on the framework and operation of the Policy to students, staff and other relevant stakeholders in the University through the mechanism of seminars, orientation workshops and other information dissemination mediums such as circulars and Webmaster.
4. **CONCLUSION**

In the light of the foregoing, the Committee concluded that the absence of a functional Intellectual Property Policy, which is a prerequisite for the effective management of the University's IP portfolios (Patents, copyrights, Technology licensing etc) is inimical to the promotion and advancement of Research, Innovations and Technology Transfer activities in the University.

The Committee further posited that the modified IP policy should be visible on the website of the University, thereby helping to expose the Institution's potentials in Research, Innovation and Commercialization to Industries, Partnerships and Investors through strategic linkage.

Finally, the Committee hereby articulates her gratefulness to our Distinguished Madam Vice-Chancellor, Prof. (Mrs.) L.I. Salami, for the opportunity to serve in this capacity, while being optimistic that the modified IP Policy and recommendations advanced will be effectively and meticulously implemented in line with global best practices, thus positioning the University of Benin amongst the top rated in Research, Innovations and Technology transfer process in Nigeria and beyond