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TO: Jose Wudka, Chair
Riverside Division

FR: Akula Venkatram, Chair
Executive Committee, Bourns College of Engineering

RE: Pilot Program to accept an equity position in a company in return for access to University facilities or services

The Executive Committee supports the pilot program to accept an equity position in a company in return for access to university facilities or services. Several members of the Committee are aware of similar programs at other public universities. However, the Committee sees the potential for conflicts of interest that might compromise the Academic mission of the University. The Committee emphasizes the need for close monitoring of the program by a Committee that does not have a vested interest in the commercial aspects of the program. This monitoring should lead to reformulation, if necessary, of the regulations governing the program.

Some of the details that need to be worked out before the program is initiated are: 1) assessment metrics that will be used to judge the success of the pilot program, 2) costs and procedures associated with the appointment of a DCM and 3) establishment of a conflict of interest committee, and the associated guidelines for its operation.