

# UNIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

(Office of the Registrar)

## MEMORANDUM

**FROM** : Registrar  
**TO** : Distribution  
**DATE** : June 26, 2024  
**SUBJECT** : **APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER OF THE UDS TECHNOLOGY  
TRANSFER OFFICE (TTO) WORKING COMMITTEE**

Please, I write on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor to appoint you as a member of the University Technology Transfer Office (TTO) Working Committee.

The membership of the Committee is as follows:

1. Prof. Alexis Dun Bo-ib Buunaaim - Chairman
2. Prof. Courage Kosi Setsoafia Saba - Member
3. Prof Abdul-Rahman Ibn Iddriss - Member
4. Dr. David Abdulai Salifu - Member
5. Dr. Joseph Owusu-Marfo - Member
6. Dr. Lydia Quansah - Member
7. Dr. Miriam Linda Akeriwe - Member
8. Dr. Joseph Kwowura Kwodaga - Member
9. Dr. Adinan Bahahudeen Shafiwu - Member
10. Dr. Salamudeen Alhassan - Member
11. Dr. Akanganngang Joseph Asitik - Member
12. Mr. Mukaila Hadi - Member
13. Mr. Fuseini Inusah - Member
14. Mr. Issah Zabsonre - Member
15. Mr. Jerry Xorla - Member
16. Mr. Richard Adusei - Member
17. Mr. Bernard Alando - Secretary

As a technical Committee with oversight over the TTO, your Terms of Reference (ToR) are to:

1. Provide strategic guidance and advice to the TTO on technology transfer policies, procedures, and priorities.
2. Evaluate and examine technology disclosures, patents, and other IP assets with commercial potentials.
3. Assist in identifying relevant stakeholders such as industry partners, licensees, and investors interested in university created technologies.
4. Promote networking opportunities and partnerships between researchers, entrepreneurs, and industry stakeholders.
5. Advise on marketing and promotional activities to display university technologies and attract potential collaborators and licensees.

6. Appraise the effectiveness of technology transfer programmes, initiatives and recommend improvements, where necessary.
7. Promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship by collaborating with other university stakeholders, such as research centres, institutes, and academic departments.
8. To work with the TTO on any other matter that is relevant to the above Terms of Reference.

Your appointment is for a period of **two (2) years**, effective **June 18, 2024** and shall continue until **August 31, 2026**.

Kindly note that this reconstituted University TTO Working Committee replaces the earlier Tamale Campus and the Nyankpala Campus TTO Working Committees. **This appointment therefore supersedes the earlier one dated June 19, 2024.**

You are required to indicate in writing, your acceptance or otherwise of this appointment, **not more than one week** after the receipt of this memo.

Thank you.

**Mr. Nurudeen Issah Abubakar**  
(Registrar)

**Distribution:**

Prof. Alexis Dun Bo-ib Buunaaim  
Prof. Courage Kosi Setsoafia Saba  
Prof Abdul-Rahman Ibn Idriss  
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Mr. Fuseini Inusah  
Mr. Issah Zabsonre  
Mr. Jerry Xorla  
Mr. Richard Adusei  
Mr. Bernard Alando

**cc:**

Vice-Chancellor  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor  
Director of Finance  
University Librarian  
Director of WPD  
Director of Internal Audit  
Principal of Nyankpala Campus  
Dr. Joseph A. Asitik  
'P' Files

MINUTES OF A TWO-DAY WORKSHOP TO DEVELOP AN OPERATIONAL STRATEGY  
FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER MODEL, HELD AT  
THE NAZARETH HOME GUEST HOUSE, SANG.  
ON 11<sup>TH</sup> AND 12<sup>TH</sup>, JULY, 2024.

**1. Attendance**

Present

S/N	Title	Full name (surname first)	Gender	Faculty/School	Position
1	Prof.	Alexis Dun Bo-ib Buunaaim	Male	School of Medicine	Chairman
2	Prof.	Abdul-Rahman Ibn Iddriss	Male	School of Veterinary Sciences	Member
3	Prof.	Courage Kosi Setsoafia Saba	Male	Faculty of Biosciences	Member
4	Dr.	Akangannnan Joseph Asitik	Male	School of Buiness	Member
5	Dr.	Akeriwe Miriam Linda	Female	Library	Member
6	Dr.	David Salifu-bakar	Male	School of Nursing and Midwifery	Member
7	Dr.	Alhassan Salamudeen	Male	Physical Sciences	Member
8	Dr.	Owusu-Marfo Joseph	Male	School of Public Health	Member
9	Dr.	Joseph Kwowura Kwodaga	Male	Faculty of Agriculture Food and Consumer Sciences	Member
10	Mr.	Fuscini Inusah	Male	Education	Member
11	Mr.	Alhassan Issah Zabsonre	Male	School of Allied Health Sciences	Member
12	Pharm.	Jerry Xola Sosu Esq.	Male	Pharmacy	Member
13	Mr.	Richard Adusei	Male	Faculty of Sustainable Development Studies	Member
14	Mr.	Hardi Mukaila	Male	School of Buiness	Member
15	Mr.	Bernard Alando	Male	WACWISA	Secretary

**Absent with apology**

1	Dr.	Quansah Lydia	Female	Biosciences	Head of Department
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**1. Introduction/welcome remarks**

Welcoming participants to the two-day session, the Chairman of the Technology Transfer Working Committee, Prof. Buunaaim, indicated that the development of an operational strategy for implementing the University's Intellectual Property (IP) policy was long overdue, and expressed his delight at the quality of committee members assembled to carry out the assignment. He explained that the strategy was critical for harnessing the University's research outputs and innovative potential in fostering meaningful collaboration with industry partners. He therefore lauded WACWISA for championing the initiative, which he said was vital in creating a sustainable ecosystem where academic research will translate into practical solutions, driving economic growth and improving the quality of graduates from

UDS. He therefore encouraged all the committee members to contribute actively and bring out their best for the success of the assignment.

## **2. Purpose of the Presentation**

The purpose of developing an operational strategy for the Intellectual Property (IP) and Technology Transfer Model for the University for Development Studies (UDS) is to create a structured and efficient framework that maximises the value of the university's intellectual assets. This strategy will help to create an environment that encourages research and innovation, enhances collaboration with industry, and ensures that the benefits of academic discoveries are translated into tangible societal and economic impacts. The ultimate goal is to position UDS as a leader in technology transfer and innovation, contributing to national and regional development through the effective utilisation of its intellectual capital.

## **3. Proceedings**

### **DAY ONE**

Day one was dedicated to learning and preparing the grounds on how to proceed with developing the IP Operational Strategy document.

#### **3.1 Presentation on “Understanding Intellectual Property as a Strategy for University and Industry Collaboration.”**

To set the stage for meaningful engagement and discussion, the morning session was dedicated to a presentation on “Understanding Intellectual Property as Strategy for University and Industry Collaboration.” This was facilitated by the Acting Administrator of the Copyright Office for the Northern Sector, Mr. Ibrahim Nayi Issahaku. His presentation was in three parts, including:

- Part One: Introduction to Intellectual Property Rights, Emphasis on Patent Procedures,
- Part Two: University Intellectual Property Strategy, and
- Part Three: IP Policy Development

*Part one* of the presentation gave a broad overview of the concept of intellectual property and patents.

The critical areas that were covered in this presentation include:

- i. Concept of intellectual property
- ii. Patent System;
- iii. The Patent Application- Description, Claims, Drawings;
- iv. Conditions of Patentability;
- v. Process of Obtaining a Patent;

- vi. Rights at National, Regional and International Level;
- vii. Patent Ownership;
- viii. Patent Rights;
- ix. Compulsory Licensing;
- x. Exhaustion of Rights and Parallel Importation;

*Part two* of the presentation looked at areas as follows:

- i. IP strategy;
- ii. Internal IP Strategy;
- iii. External IP;
- iv. Explain the function and importance of an IP Strategy;
- v. Identify ways in which internal and external factors impact the IP Strategy;
- vi. Draft an IP Audit;
- vii. Explain the impact of public policy issues on IP Strategy;
- viii. Conclusion.

*Finally, part three* of the presentation covered the following topics:

- i. IP Policy;
- ii. Stakeholders;
- iii. Need for IP Policies in Universities;
- iv. Key Issues Covered by IP Policy;
- v. Conclusion.

At the end of the three-series of presentation, committee members appreciated that the topic was highly informative. It highlighted the need for IP in academic institutions and how UDS can leverage IP to attract industry collaborations, drive innovation, and generate revenue. The resource person also emphasised the need to develop a robust IP policy, to create mutually beneficial outcomes with industry. Overall, the presentation underscored the transformative potential of IP in bridging the gap between academic research and industrial application.

## DAY TWO

At the end of day one, the Committee was divided into two groups to discuss and develop the two major aspects of the IP Operational Strategy, which include the internal IP strategy and the external IP strategy.

### 3.3 Development of an IP Strategy for UDS

After intense brainstorming and considerable discussion at the group level, the following were presented for discussion at a plenary session:

#### 3.3.1 Internal IP Strategies

- The Internal IP strategies will focus on the policies and practices within UDS to identify, protect, and manage intellectual property assets effectively.
- The first step in the internal IP strategy is to foster a culture of innovation where employees, students, collaborators and partners are encouraged to create and document their ideas, inventions, and creative works. This will involve establishing clear guidelines and processes for IP disclosure and ensuring that all potential IPs created within the University are reported and evaluated promptly.
- Additionally, it will include providing training and resources to all university employees, students, collaborators and partners about the importance of IP and how to protect it.
- Another crucial aspect is the review of the existing IP policy to ensure that it outlines ownership, rights, and responsibilities concerning IP generated within the University. This will help to prevent disputes and ensure that UDS capitalises on its innovations.
- It also means setting up an IP management team or office to oversee all IP-related activities within the University, maintain IP portfolios, and ensure compliance with relevant laws and regulations.

#### 3.3.2 External IP Strategies

Externally, the IP Strategy involves:

- Engaging with external entities such as industry partners, other research institutions, and IP professionals to maximise the value of the University's intellectual property.
- One key aspect is developing strategic partnerships and collaborations where IP can be shared, co-developed, or licensed. These kinds of partnerships will not only provide additional resources and expertise but also open up new markets and commercialisation opportunities.
- Another critical external strategy component is for UDS to participate in IP networks and consortia actively, which can offer support, information, and potential collaboration opportunities.
- Also, engaging in robust IP marketing efforts to attract potential licensees or buyers for UDS' IP assets. This will involve making presentations at industry conferences, engaging with IP brokers, and utilising online platforms to display available IPs at UDS.
- Furthermore, engaging legal experts for international IP protection and enforcement is vital to expanding the University's global reach.

- The external IP strategy will also ensure that UDS' IP assets are not only protected but also effectively leveraged in the broader market.

### 3.4 Discussions and Comments

After the presentations by the two groups, the following views were captured, and form the basis discussions that ensued:

- There is a need to conduct a university-wide IP audit using the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) standard to assess the university's IP potential and collate patentable innovations and inventions across the various Schools, Faculties, Institutes, and Research Centres within the University. This exercise would contribute substantial information to the operational strategy. An IP audit document is a very important document that needs to be urgently put together and used to support the implementation of the IP.
- An IP database must also be set-up to collect and maintain IP assets, research outputs, innovations, reports and IP filings at all times.
- A non-disclosure clause must be highlighted in the UDS IP Policy and Operational Strategy, and enforced to ensure that it is binding on all people working within the IP office, to uphold the privacy and confidentiality of information that is available to them.
- There is also a need to institute incentives to motivate members of the committee and all others working with the IP office to curtail the temptations of leaking IP information for monetary gains.
- Faculty-related IP activities should be undertaken by the Faculty Quality Assurance Officers as part of their regular faculty quality assurance activities.

### 3.5 Immediate action points

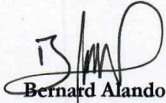
The agreed immediate action points included

- i. Finalise and submit the Operational Strategy of the University.
- ii. Undertake the creation of awareness on IP and Technology Transfer Services for staff of UDS both physically and virtually.
- iii. Make a case to UDS management for revision of the current UDS Intellectual Property Policy.
- iv. Appointment of IP Advisory Board.
- v. Appointment of IP Administrator with the required staff, office space, and logistics.
- vi. Conduct an IP audit to identify the University's IP assets as well as streamlining processes for IP management and the creation of dedicated support structures, which are set to significantly strengthen UDS's position in the intellectual property landscape.

4. Conclusion

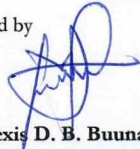
In conclusion, the IP Operational Strategy development workshop was highly productive, culminating in the development of a comprehensive Operational Strategy document with key directives and actionable steps to advance UDS's intellectual property framework. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment by all committee members to support the implementation of these strategies effectively to ensure that UDS remains at the forefront of academic and research excellence.

Compiled by:



**Bernard Alando (ChPA, CMC)**  
Secretary

Approved by



**Prof. Alexis D. B. Buunaim**  
Chairman





UNIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

REPORT OF A ONE-DAY WORKSHOP FOR DEANS AND DIRECTORS OF UDS

TITLE:

“UNDERSTANDING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AS A STRATEGY UNIVERSITY AND  
INDUSTRY COLLABORATIONS”

Wednesday, 23rd October 2024  
WACWISA Auditorium, UDS Nyankpala Campus.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The University for Development Studies (UDS) Intellectual Property Office, with support from the West African Centre for Water, Irrigation and Sustainable Agriculture (WACWISA), organized a one-day workshop under the theme “*Understanding Intellectual Property as a Strategy for University and Industry Collaborations*” on Wednesday, 23rd October 2024. The workshop, held at the WACWISA Auditorium on UDS’s Nyankpala Campus, was aimed at sensitizing the Deans and Directors of UDS on the importance of intellectual property (IP) in fostering strategic collaborations between academic institutions and industry. The session also highlighted the role that a well-structured IP strategy can play in boosting innovative research output, commercialization, and economic development.

The workshop was part of the ongoing efforts by UDS and WACWISA to promote research commercialization and create stronger links between academia and industry. It focused on building the capacity of UDS deans and directors to harness the intellectual property assets of their various faculties, institutes and centres within the University to drive meaningful partnerships with industries, thus supporting the sustainable development goals and contributing to the growth and development of UDS.

## 2. OPENING REMARKS

The workshop was officially opened by the Director of WACWISA, Prof. Felix K. Abagale, who delivered an insightful welcome address. He emphasized that intellectual property is a key driver of innovation and plays a crucial role in translating research outputs into practical, real-world solutions. He further stressed the need for academic institutions to collaborate closely with industry to ensure that research outputs and innovations do not remain confined to academic settings but are commercialized to bring value to the University and benefit society at large.

The Director pointed out that “Intellectual property is the foundation for translating academic research into solutions that have real-world impact.” He highlighted the centrality of IP assets, such as research findings, inventions, and discoveries, in creating mutually beneficial partnerships between universities and industries. He, therefore, encouraged the Deans and Directors to actively engage in the development of IP strategies that would enable their faculties, centres, and directorates to take full advantage of research outcomes and turn innovations into profitable ventures for the benefit of the University.

## 3. WORKSHOP FACILITATION AND FOCUS AREAS

The workshop was facilitated by **Mr. Ibrahim Nayi Issahaku**, Administrator of the Northern Sector, Copyright Office at the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General. He is a renowned expert in intellectual property law, and he brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the discussions, ensuring that participants gained a clear understanding of the intricacies of IP management and strategy development. His facilitation was highly interactive, incorporating case studies and real-world examples to make the

content relatable and practical for participants. Mr. Issahaku was supported by Mr. Mu-Utasin Yahaya, a Senior Research Officer at the Copyright Office.

## 4. KEY TOPICS TREATED

### 4.1 Intellectual Property Strategy

The facilitators started the first part of the presentation by outlining the concept of intellectual property strategy; explaining its critical importance in institutions that seek to commercialize their research. They broke down IP strategy into three main components:

- **Key Issues for an Institutional IP Strategy:** This section covered the challenges universities face in managing intellectual property, such as determining IP ownership (whether by the institution, individual researchers, or jointly with industry), licensing processes, and maximizing the value of IP assets.
- **Elements of an Institutional IP Strategy:** This looked at the fundamental elements of a robust IP strategy, including the need for clear policies on IP ownership, protection mechanisms (patents, trademarks, copyrights), and technology transfer offices to facilitate commercialization.
- **Formulating an IP Strategy:** This process includes identifying the types of IP assets the institution generates, determining how they will be protected, and creating a roadmap for commercialization. The key issues to consider drafting an IP strategy include:
  - Linking IP strategies with national development goals
  - Vision, mission and goals of the IP strategy
  - Strategic objectives
  - Project/programs
  - Work plans/ action plans
  - Implementation framework
  - Monitoring and Evaluation

### 4.2 Internal and External IP Strategies

The facilitators also addressed the dual nature of intellectual property management within institutions:

- **Internal IP Strategy:** This focused on the internal mechanisms put in place for managing intellectual property created within the institution, such as research outputs, inventions, and creative works. Participants were encouraged to establish internal frameworks for protecting IP, incentivising researchers, and fostering a culture of innovation.

An Internal IP Strategy is comprised of:

- IP Audit,
- IP Policy and
- IP Acquisition & Maintenance Strategies.

- **External IP Strategy:** The external strategy examined the systems and structures that need to be established to ensure that universities are able to effectively collaborate with external partners, including industry stakeholders, startups, and other research institutions, to co-develop, license, and commercialize intellectual property. The facilitator emphasized that universities need clear agreements in place to safeguard their IP rights when working with external partners.

An External IP Strategy is comprised of:

- Enforcement of IP Rights (monitoring and policing, litigation, ADR, civil and criminal remedies).
- Strategies to enhance Competitiveness (Patent information and competitive intelligence, e.g. Automated Patent Analysis (APA)) and Public-Policy Issues.

### **4.3 University Intellectual Property Strategy**

One of the core areas of the workshop was the need for universities to develop and implement their own IP strategies. Mr. Issahaku explained that having a university-wide IP strategy is essential to ensure that research outputs are systematically managed, protected, and commercialized. A structured IP strategy helps institutions maximize the value of their innovations while protecting them from legal and financial risks. The facilitator urged the Deans and Directors to prioritize IP management as a strategic asset that contributes to their reputation and competitiveness in the global knowledge economy.

### **4.4 Functions and Importance of an IP Strategy**

The facilitator discussed the practical benefits of having a well-defined IP strategy. An effective IP strategy helps institutions attract funding, form strategic partnerships with industry, and contribute to national economic development through innovation. Participants were informed about how a robust IP strategy can help a university such as UDS to become a key player in regional and national innovation ecosystems, positioning it as a hub for technology transfer and commercialization.

### **4.5 Drafting an IP Audit**

Another critical aspect of the workshop was the concept of an **IP audit**. Mr. Issahaku explained that an IP audit is a systematic review of an institution's intellectual property assets, rights, and risks.

Participants were taken through the process of conducting an IP audit, which includes identifying existing IP assets, evaluating their legal status (e.g., whether patents are up to date), and assessing their commercial potential. The facilitator emphasized that regular IP audits are essential for institutions to stay aware of their intellectual property portfolio and to make informed decisions about IP management.

#### **4.6 Impact of Public Policy Issues on IP Strategy**

The workshop also explored how public policy issues, such as national IP laws, international treaties, and regulatory frameworks, impact institutional IP strategies. Mr. Issahaku stressed that universities must stay informed about policy changes that could affect their ability to protect and commercialize intellectual property. He also discussed the importance of aligning institutional IP strategies with broader national development goals to ensure that universities contribute to the socio-economic development of the nation.

#### **4.7 Strategies for Successful University-Industry Engagement**

This topic discussed ways of fostering open communication and building trust between academic institutions and industry partners to align goals and expectations. Mr. Nayi explained that establishing dedicated liaison offices or technology transfer units can streamline collaboration, ensuring effective coordination and intellectual property management. Universities should focus on developing industry-relevant curricula and research agendas that address real-world challenges, while industries can offer internships, funding, and mentorship to bridge the skills gap. Joint ventures such as collaborative research projects, innovation hubs, and co-hosted conferences can further strengthen partnerships. By prioritizing mutual benefits, addressing regulatory and legal considerations, and maintaining a culture of innovation and flexibility, both universities and industries can achieve sustainable, impactful outcomes.

Some of the elements in ensuring university-industry engagement include:

- *Developing Clear IP Policies:* Establishing clear guidelines for the ownership, licensing, and commercialization of IP can help prevent disputes.
- *IP Management Teams:* Dedicated teams can manage the IP portfolio and ensure proper protection and commercialization of research outcomes.
- *Collaboration Agreements:* Establishing formal agreements that outline the terms of the collaboration, including IP rights and responsibilities, can help mitigate risks.

##### **4.7.1 Industry's Perspectives in collaboration with universities**

- Universities are so slow

- Poor understanding of market needs
- Academics incentives are very much associated with publishing
- University's procedures are so cumbersome and not flexible
- Universities propose unrealistic royalties
- Universities do not understand that industries need to take high risk and significant investment to bring the technology to the market
- Universities business plan is poorly done (lacks market assessment)
- Universities lack a realistic assessment of industry's circumstances

#### **4.8 Challenges in university-industry engagement**

- *Ownership Disputes:* Deciding the ownership of jointly created IP can be a major challenge in collaborations.
- *Confidentiality Concerns:* Protecting sensitive information and research findings can be a barrier to open collaboration.
- *Legal Complexity:* Negotiating licensing agreements and navigating IP laws can be complex and time-consuming.

#### **4.9 Discussion Session and Participant Engagements**

The workshop featured an interactive session where participants engaged in discussions, shared experiences, and sought clarifications on complex IP issues. Participants raised several questions about how to protect IPs generated through single authorship, joint authorship and collaborative research, and also about how to maximize gains from partnerships and commercial ventures. The facilitator provided practical examples of successful university-industry collaborations that leveraged IP assets to create value for both parties.

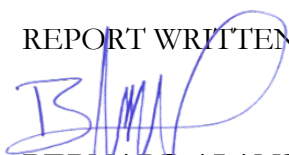
#### **4.10 Closing remarks**

Closing the day's workshop, the Director of WACWISA urged the Deans and Directors to take the lead in supporting their faculty members and researchers to excel in impactful research and publications, by dedicating resources and fostering an environment that prioritizes innovation in their various faculties, centres, and directorates. He added that this will not only advance the frontiers of knowledge in UDS but also elevate the image of UDS on the global stage. Such efforts will undoubtedly attract beneficial collaborations, funding, and partnerships and position UDS as a beacon of academic and research excellence.

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the one-day workshop on intellectual property and university-industry collaborations, organized by the UDS Intellectual Property Office with support from WACWISA, was a significant step towards fostering innovation and strengthening partnerships between UDS and industry. The workshop provided Deans and Directors with valuable insights into the importance of protecting intellectual property, aligning research with industry needs, and leveraging collaborations for mutual benefit. It highlighted the pivotal role of faculty and researchers in driving impactful research and encouraged institutional leaders to support these efforts.

REPORT WRITTEN BY:



**BERNARD ALANDO (ChPA, CMC),**  
Secretary, UDS TTWC

## LIST OF ATTENDANCE

NO.	Name	Faculty	Position	E-MAIL ADDRESS
1	Prof. Gideon Helegbe	School Of Medicine	Vice Dean	<a href="mailto:ghelebgbe@uds.edu.gh">ghelebgbe@uds.edu.gh</a>
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11	Prof. Benjamin Tetteh Anang	Faculty Of Agriculture, Food And Consumer Sciences	Hod (Rep. Dean)	<a href="mailto:benjamin.anang@uds.edu.gh">benjamin.anang@uds.edu.gh</a>
12	Ing. Prof. Abdul-Ganiyu Shaibu	School Of Engineering	Dean	<a href="mailto:sganiyu@uds.edu.gh">sganiyu@uds.edu.gh</a>
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19	Prof. Adadow Yidana	School Of Public Health	Dean	<a href="mailto:a.yidana@uds.edu.gh">a.yidana@uds.edu.gh</a>
20	Dr. Humphrey Garti	School Of Allied Health Sciences	Dean	<a href="mailto:hgarti@uds.edu.gh">hgarti@uds.edu.gh</a>



21	Prof. Adams Sulemana Achanso	Faculty Of Sustainable Development Studies	Dean	<a href="mailto:dr.aadams@uds.edu.gh">dr.aadams@uds.edu.gh</a>
22	Mr. Bernard Alando	Wacwisa-Uds	Administrator	<a href="mailto:alanben@uds.edu.gh">alanben@uds.edu.gh</a>
23	Dr. Eliasu Mumuni	Faculty Of Communications And Media Studies	Vice-Dean	<a href="mailto:meliasu@uds.edu.gh">meliasu@uds.edu.gh</a>
24	Dr. Esther Ekua Amoako	Centre For Gender And Career Mentorship	Director	<a href="mailto:eamoako@uds.edu.gh">eamoako@uds.edu.gh</a>
25	Prof. Abdul-Rahaman Bin Iddris	School Of Veterinary Sciences	Dean	<a href="mailto:ai.iddriss@yahoo.co.uk">ai.iddriss@yahoo.co.uk</a>
26	Dr. Ruth N. Nukpegah	School Of Nursing And Midwifery	Vice-Dean	<a href="mailto:nimotaruth@gmail.com">nimotaruth@gmail.com</a>
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UNIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

ONLINE TRAINING FOR UDS FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

TITLE:  
"UNDERSTANDING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AS A STRATEGY FOR UNIVERSITY  
AND INDUSTRY COLLABORATIONS"

July 2024

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

An online engagement session with staff of the University for Development Studies (UDS) was held on Wednesday, 24th July 2024, to discuss the topic: *"Understanding Intellectual Property as a Strategy for University and Industry Collaborations."* The session was chaired by Prof. Alexis Dun Bo-ib Buunaaim and facilitated by Mr. Ibrahim Nayi Issahaku, an expert in intellectual property (IP) and technology transfer. The primary objective of the engagement was to enhance the participants' understanding of intellectual property and explore how IP could be leveraged to strengthen collaborations between universities and industries.

## **OBJECTIVE OF THE ENGAGEMENT**

The primary objectives of the sensitization seminar were to:

1. Educate staff on the different types of intellectual property (e.g., patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets) and how they can be protected and managed.
2. Highlight the importance of intellectual property in transferring academic research outputs to industry for commercialization and innovation.
3. Discuss strategies for building strong university-industry collaborations through intellectual property portfolios.
4. Address challenges related to IP ownership, management, and commercialization in the context of university research and industry partnerships.

## **STRUCTURE OF THE ONLINE ENGAGEMENT**

The online seminar was structured into the following segments to ensure comprehensive coverage of the topic. These segments included:

1. Opening Remarks
2. Presentation on Intellectual Property
3. Interactive Session (Q&A and Discussion)
4. Summary and Closing Remarks
5. Conclusion

## **2. OPENING REMARKS**

In his opening remarks, Prof. Alexis Dun Bo-ib Buunaaim emphasized the critical role of intellectual property in fostering innovation and economic growth. He noted that universities, as hubs of research and knowledge creation, are uniquely positioned to collaborate with industries in ways that benefit

both academia and the commercial sector. He encouraged participants to actively engage in the session and learn how intellectual property can be a strategic asset in these collaborations.

### **3. PRESENTATION BY MR. IBRAHIM NAYI ISSAHAKU**

Mr. Ibrahim Nayi Issahaku began the session by introducing the concept of intellectual property, highlighting its different forms, including patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets. He explained how these forms of IP could be protected and monetized, making them valuable tools for universities and industries alike. Mr. Issahaku emphasized that universities should consider intellectual property as a means of transferring research outputs into the market, thereby bridging the gap between academia and industry.

He further discussed how intellectual property rights could facilitate partnerships between universities and industries, especially in research and development (R&D). He pointed out that industries are often interested in collaborating with universities that have robust IP portfolios, as this provides a competitive advantage and offers opportunities for innovation. Mr. Issahaku also provided insights into best practices for managing IP within academic institutions and the need for strong IP policies to ensure that both researchers and the university benefit from commercial ventures.

### **4. DISCUSSION SESSION**

Following the presentation, participants had the opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussions. Several staff members raised concerns about the current state of IP management at UDS and how to navigate challenges related to IP ownership, especially in collaborative projects with industry. Mr. Issahaku addressed these concerns by suggesting that UDS should enhance the implementation of its IP Strategy and ensure clearly defined ownership, sharing of royalties, and responsibilities in collaborative research. He also recommended training workshops for staff and students on IP management and commercialization.

### **5. CLOSING REMARKS**

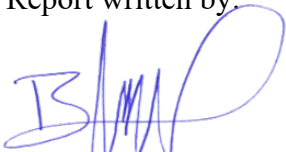
In his closing remarks, Prof. Alexis Dun Bo-ib Buunaaim thanked Mr. Issahaku for the insightful presentation and urged UDS staff to take proactive steps toward enhancing their knowledge of intellectual property. He reiterated that understanding and managing IP effectively would not only boost university-industry collaborations but also increase the impact of UDS's research on society. Prof. Buunaaim concluded by expressing his hope that future engagements would delve deeper into

specific aspects of intellectual property and innovation management. He also thanked the management of WACWISA for supporting the training programme.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

The online engagement on "Understanding Intellectual Property as a Strategy for University and Industry Collaborations" was successful in raising awareness among UDS staff about the importance of intellectual property in fostering partnerships between academia and industry. The session underscored the need for comprehensive IP policies at UDS and encouraged staff to embrace intellectual property as a vital asset in the commercialization of research outputs.

Report written by:



**Bernard Alando (ChPA, CMC)**

Secretary



UNIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

ONLINE SENSITIZATION SEMINAR FOR STUDENTS OF UDS

TITLE:  
**"THE PROSPECTS OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS A TRIMESTER COURSE IN UDS."**

JULY 2024

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

On Tuesday, July 23rd, 2024, the University for Development Studies (UDS) Technology Transfer Working Committee organized an online sensitization seminar for students, titled "*The Prospects of Entrepreneurship as a Trimester Course in UDS.*" The event aimed to highlight the significance of entrepreneurship education at the University level, and discuss its integration as a common trimester course across all disciplines within the University.

## 2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR

The primary objectives of the sensitization seminar were to:

1. Inform students about the importance and relevance of entrepreneurship education.
2. Motivate students to engage with and embrace entrepreneurship as a critical component of their academic and professional development.

## 3.0 STRUCTURE OF THE SEMINAR

The online seminar was structured into several segments to ensure comprehensive coverage of the topic. These segments included:

1. Opening Remarks
2. Expert Presentation on the prospects of entrepreneurship training and the structure of the UDS entrepreneurship curriculum
3. Discussions and Q&A
4. Closing Remarks

### **3.1 Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The seminar commenced with opening remarks from Prof. Alexis Buunaaim, Chairman of the UDS Technology Transfer Working Committee. Prof. Buunaaim emphasized the growing importance of entrepreneurship in today's economy and the critical role of universities in fostering entrepreneurial skills among students. He highlighted UDS's commitment to providing a holistic education that prepares students for the dynamic and competitive job market and therefore encouraged participants to listen attentively to the presentation and engage actively in the discussions.

### **3.2 Expert Presentation on the Prospects of Entrepreneurship Training and the Structure of the UDS Entrepreneurship Curriculum**

The resource person for the expert presentation was Dr. Akanggang J. Asitik, Head of the Department for Entrepreneurship and Marketing of the School of Business of UDS. He started his presentation by first highlighting the global trends in entrepreneurship education, the benefits of incorporating entrepreneurship into the curriculum of university education, and the prospects for UDS students and graduates.

#### *3.2.1 Expert Presentation on the Prospects of Entrepreneurship Training*

**Global trends** in entrepreneurship education have been marked by a growing emphasis on experiential learning, digital innovation, and interdisciplinary approaches. Educational institutions worldwide are increasingly integrating entrepreneurship into their curricula, not just as standalone courses but also as cross-disciplinary programs that encourage collaboration among students from diverse fields. He indicated that this trend reflects a broader recognition of the importance of entrepreneurial skills in fostering innovation and economic growth. He emphasized that the use of digital platforms and online learning tools has expanded access to entrepreneurship education, allowing students to engage with a global network of peers and mentors. Moreover, Dr. Akanggang noted that there is a rising focus on social entrepreneurship, where students are encouraged to develop business solutions that address social and environmental challenges. These global trends highlight a shift towards a more practical, inclusive, and impact-oriented approach to entrepreneurship education, equipping students with the skills and mindset needed to navigate the complexities of the modern world after graduation.

Narrowing the presentation to the local setting, Dr. Akanggang explained that entrepreneurship training as a trimester course in UDS offers invaluable **benefits for personal and professional growth**. It helps students cultivate a mindset of innovation, critical thinking, and problem-solving, essential skills in today's fast-paced and ever-changing global market. He said he was not surprised that these points came out in a survey involving students about the value of entrepreneurship as a trimester course. He therefore emphasized that by learning how to identify opportunities, assess risks, and develop sustainable business models, students are better equipped to navigate the complexities of the modern economy. Moreover, entrepreneurship training encourages students to think creatively and independently, fostering a sense of agency and confidence that can be applied to various aspects of life. He emphasized that the benefits of entrepreneurship training extend beyond the classroom, providing practical skills that can be directly applied in the real world. He explained that with entrepreneurship as a common trimester course across all disciplines, UDS students will gain hands-



on experience through business simulations, case studies, and interactions with industry experts. This practical exposure will help them to understand the intricacies of starting and managing a business, from ideation and market research to financing and operations. Furthermore, the training often includes mentorship and networking opportunities, connecting students with successful entrepreneurs and potential investors. These connections can be crucial in providing guidance, support, and resources as students embark on their career journeys.

**The prospects** for UDS graduates with entrepreneurship training are promising, as the skills and knowledge gained are highly transferable and sought after in various industries. Graduates can pursue diverse career paths, including starting their own businesses, joining startups, or taking on leadership roles in established companies. He said the entrepreneurial mindset and skills acquired also prepare graduates to adapt to and thrive in an increasingly competitive job market, where employers value innovation and the ability to drive growth. Additionally, the entrepreneurship training will empower UDS graduates to contribute to their communities by identifying and developing business ideas during their Third Trimester Field Practical Programme (TTFPP) and nurturing such ideas into business opportunities for creating jobs that address local challenges through innovative solutions. In essence, entrepreneurship training as a trimester course will equip UDS students and graduates with the tools to succeed and make a meaningful impact in their chosen fields.

### *3.2.2 Structure of the UDS Entrepreneurship Curriculum*

Turning to the contents of the entrepreneurship curriculum, Dr. Akanggang explained that the curriculum was designed by experts who were carefully selected from across the different disciplines in the university. He said the process was preceded by a survey involving students, teaching, and non-teaching staff of the university community, to gauge the views and opinions of all stakeholders about entrepreneurship training as a common course at UDS. He said the survey results, which were overwhelmingly positive, were incorporated into designing the curriculum. He then went on to discuss the course description, objectives and contents as presented below:

#### **a. Course Description**

The course focuses on equipping students with the requisite knowledge and skills in entrepreneurship. The fundamentals of entrepreneurship will be discussed, such as business processes and start-ups, critical thinking, and fundamental intellectual property issues. Additionally, the practicum component of the course exposes the students to real-world experiences to prepare them for effective entrepreneurial engagement.

## **b. Course Objectives**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- i. Explain the concept of entrepreneurship.
- ii. Identify and analyse potential ideas and assess their viability as entrepreneurial opportunities.
- iii. Demonstrate entrepreneurial skills relevant to business operations.
- iv. Demonstrate skills in identifying sources of financing and their risk
- v. Demonstrate skills in financial management.
- vi. Apply skills of entrepreneurial marketing in the real-world context, and
- vii. Explain the basic principles of intellectual property

## **c. Course Contents**

- i. Concept of Entrepreneurship
- ii. Identification of Entrepreneurial Opportunities
- iii. Creativity and Innovation
- iv. Entrepreneurial Types, Financial Management, and Ethical Consideration
- v. Managing an Entrepreneurial Organisation
- vi. Entrepreneurial Marketing and Marketing Mix
- vii. Taxation in Ghana
- viii. Business Mergers and Acquisitions
- ix. Introduction to Intellectual Property
- x. Predictors of Success in Entrepreneurship
- xi. Predictors of Success in Entrepreneurship - Continue

Dr. Akangangang noted that in addition to the above theoretical contents, students will be supported to undertake the following practical training programmes including:

- i. Internship with start-up
- ii. Real-world business process (Problem-based learning (PBL), Case studies
- iii. Workshops and Bootcamps
- iv. Guest lectures

## **d. Teaching Methodology**

Lectures, discussions, student presentations, audiovisual, Problem-Based Learning (PBL), case

studies, simulation (Maker space, marketplace software), written assignments, assigned readings (texts, journals, electronic).

#### **e. Student Evaluation**

- |                                  |   |     |
|----------------------------------|---|-----|
| i. Continuous Assessment         | - | 25% |
| ii. End of Trimester Examination | - | 75% |

### **3.3 Discussions, Questions and Answers**

The questions and answers session allowed participants to engage with the resource person and committee members. The students and some faculty members asked questions and shared their perspectives on various aspects of the entrepreneurship curriculum.

**Question:** How will this course be added to TTFPP, and at the end will you be given start-up support to implement your ideas? **Answer:** He explained that the course is designed to complement whatever discipline a student is studying. It will therefore enhance students' community experiences during TTFPP, as students would easily be able to spot opportunities and develop them. With regards to start-up support, students who have commercially viable ideas would be recommended for further assistance by the Business Innovation and Incubation Centre (BIIC).

**Question:** Is mentorship included in the course? how do you develop business plans and acquire a business registration certificate? **Answer:** The course is designed to help students unearth their entrepreneurship potential regardless of the discipline. It then helps students to identify their mentors and support structures through practical training programmes such as internships, workshops, boot camps, and guest lecture series. Business registration is done at the office of the Registrar General. Therefore, students will be guided on how to go about business registration as part of the course delivery.

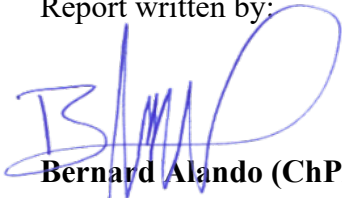
**Question:** How can graduates and final-year students benefit from this course since it is a trimester course which can only be taken while still studying? What measures are there to ensure that the course is made more practical than theoretical? **Answer:** Graduates of UDS can still benefit through the Business Innovation and Incubation Centre, which is now a department of the School of Business and has all the necessary support services and structures for helping students translate their innovative ideas into commercial ventures. Measures put in place to ensure that the course is more practical are the practical training programmes, which include internships, workshops, boot camps, and guest

lecture series. These activities will be scored and, therefore, will be compelling for students to participate more seriously.

### **3.3 Closing Remarks**

The programme concluded with closing remarks from Prof. Buunaaim. He thanked all participants for their active engagement. He reiterated UDS's commitment to fostering a culture of entrepreneurship aimed at closing the yawning gap in knowledge of entrepreneurship among students and graduates of the UDS. He acknowledged that he had received appeals from several quarters requesting a repeat of the seminar to benefit more students who could not participate due to the ongoing deployment of students for the 2024 TTFPP. He noted that the appeal would be looked into.

Report written by:



**Bernard Alando (ChPA, CMC)**

Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SELECTION INTERVIEW FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF AN  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICER FOR UDS. HELD ON 30<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024 AT THE  
WACWISA BOARDROOM, NYANKPALA CAMPUS

**Present:**

1. **Prof. Alexis Don-Ebo Buunaaim** – Chairman, UDS TTWC
2. **Dr. Linda Akiriwe** – Member
3. **Prof. Courage Saba** – Member
4. **Mr. Bernard Alando** – Secretary, UDS TTWC

**Agenda**

1. Opening Remarks
2. Background and Review of Recruitment Attempts
3. Interview of Dr. Akanganngang Joseph Asitik
4. Panel Deliberation and Decision
5. Closing

**1. Opening Remarks**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by the Chairman, Prof. Alexis Don-Ebo Buunaaim, who welcomed all present and thanked them for their commitment to the recruitment process.

He emphasized the importance of the Intellectual Property (IP) Officer's role in promoting innovation, protecting intellectual property, and strengthening UDS's position in university-industry collaborations. Prof. Buunaaim highlighted the challenges the university had faced in filling the position and expressed optimism about this internal selection process.

**2. Background and Review of Recruitment Attempts**

The Secretary, Mr. Bernard Alando, provided a detailed account of the previous efforts to recruit an Intellectual Property Officer.

- **First Attempt:** Conducted as an external competitive selection, this attempt failed to attract applicants with the necessary qualifications and expertise.
- **Second Attempt:** While the process yielded applicants, the candidates failed to meet the expectations of the selection panel, particularly in the areas of intellectual property management, innovation strategy, and collaboration skills.

Given the urgent need to fill the position and ensure the operationalization of the work of the Intellectual Property Office, the decision was made to pursue an internal selection approach. Dr. Akanganngang Joseph Asitik, an experienced faculty member and Head of Department of the Department for

Entrepreneurship of the School of Business with a demonstrated interest and background in intellectual property and innovation management, was nominated for consideration.

### **3. Interview of Dr. Akanggang Joseph Asitik**

The panel invited Dr. Akanggang Joseph Asitik for an interview. The candidate was assessed across several criteria relevant to the position, including:

#### **a. Understanding of Intellectual Property Management**

Dr. Asitik showcased a deep understanding of intellectual property concepts and their application within an academic context. He discussed how intellectual property could be used to protect research outputs, facilitate commercialization, and enhance UDS's reputation as a research-intensive university.

#### **b. Experience in University-Industry Collaborations**

The candidate outlined his previous roles in fostering collaborations between the university and industry partners. He emphasized the importance of creating platforms that encourage joint research, innovation, and commercialization of academic outputs.

#### **c. Vision for the Intellectual Property Office**

Dr. Asitik presented a clear and compelling vision for the Intellectual Property Office. He proposed initiatives to:

- Increase awareness of intellectual property among faculty and students.
- Strengthen partnerships with industry and government agencies.
- Support faculty in patenting, licensing, and commercializing their innovations.

#### **d. Strategy for Capacity Building**

Dr. Asitik shared his ideas for organizing workshops, training sessions, and mentorship programs to build capacity in intellectual property management across the university.

### **Response to Panel Questions**

Panel members asked specific questions regarding policy development, challenges in managing IP in academia, and strategies for increasing the university's IP portfolio. Dr. Asitik responded with confidence and demonstrated a proactive approach to addressing these challenges.

### **4. Panel Deliberation and Decision**

After the interview, the panel held a closed-door deliberation to assess Dr. Asitik's suitability for the position. Key points from the discussion included:

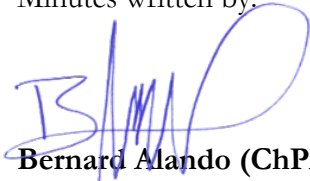
- **Expertise:** Dr. Asitik's comprehensive understanding of intellectual property and experience in promoting research and innovation made him a standout candidate.
- **Vision and Dedication:** The panel was impressed by his clear vision and practical strategies for advancing the Intellectual Property Office's objectives.
- **Alignment with UDS's Goals:** His proposals aligned closely with the university's mission to promote impactful research, foster innovation, and enhance university-industry linkages.

The panel unanimously agreed that Dr. Akanggang Joseph Asitik was the ideal candidate for the role of Intellectual Property Officer. They recommended his immediate appointment to the position.

## 5. Closing Remarks

Prof. Alexis Dun Bo-ib Buunaaim expressed his gratitude to the panel members for their thoughtful deliberation and to Mr. Bernard Alando for effectively coordinating the process. He highlighted the strategic importance of the Intellectual Property Office in advancing UDS's vision and expressed confidence in Dr. Asitik's ability to excel in the office.

Minutes written by:



**Bernard Alando (ChPA, CMC)**

Secretary, UDS-TTWC