

Resolution Number:	W-15-01	Sponsored By:	Vice President St. Louis and the Educational Affairs Committee
Introduced On:	January 15, 2015		
Voted On:	January 22, 2015		
Result:	Passed with unanimous support		
Vote Count:	40-0-0		

A RESOLUTION TO: (1) Commend the current GVSU policy on intellectual property rights, and (2) support a revision to the Higher Education Reauthorization Act, developed by Students for Intellectual Property, in favor of at least 75% student ownership of royalties generated by student intellectual property.

Whereas, The Student Senate of Grand Valley State University (GVSU) encourages the student body to engage in opportunities for personal and professional development both within and outside the classroom, in order to maximize individual return on the serious investment that is a college education;

Whereas, One of many ways in which GVSU students may “shape their lives, their professions, and their societies” is through the development of startup companies that create and/or distribute innovative products and/or services;

Whereas, Fluition, LLC is one such example of a student-led company, currently staffed by GVSU students Kathryn Christopher, Briauna Taylor, Brittany Taylor, Andrew Van Dyke, and Leah Bauer;¹

Whereas, This company is developing a new sit-to-stand device for intensive care patients;²

Whereas, These students filed for a patent on their product and discovered that they were allowed 100% ownership of their device and their company under the current GVSU policy on intellectual property;³

Whereas, This policy states that the GVSU community of faculty, staff and students “seeks to establish an environment in which the creation of Intellectual Property is suitably recognized as an academic achievement and in which the benefits of intellectual property to the creators, the university community, and the general public are optimized”;⁴

Recognizing, This policy establishes fair guidelines that empower members of the campus community to enjoy the fruits of their vision and their labor;

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Whereas, Students for Intellectual Property Rights is an organization which advocates for the upcoming Higher Education Reauthorization Act to include a revision which would enable students at universities across the country to own their startups and also to keep at least 75% of royalties generated from their intellectual property;⁵

Recognizing, GVSU's current policy has proved vital to the success of Fluition, LLC, whose CEO now wishes to work with Students for Intellectual Property and help student entrepreneurs in the United States to advocate for similar policies at their own universities;⁶

Let it be resolved: The GVSU Student Senate commends GVSU's current intellectual property policy, applauds the leadership of the students at Fluition, LLC for vocalizing their support for the policy, and supports the Students for Intellectual Property group in its efforts to empower students to receive greater benefits from their innovative and entrepreneurial work.

¹ Fluition, LLC, "Meet the Team," accessed January 4, 2015, <http://www.fluitioninnovations.com/meettheteam>.

² Fluition, LLC, "Stratus X1™," accessed January 4, 2015, <http://bit.ly/1ByXrWR>.

³ E-mail message from Kathryn Christopher (CEO of Fluition, LLC) to Student Senate President Andrew Plague, November 9, 2014.

⁴ GVSU Administrative Manual, Section 1: General Personnel Policies, Subsection 1.10, Paragraph 2, last modified March 18, 2011, <http://bit.ly/1gSb8E4>.

⁵ Sections 159 and 160, accessed January 4, 2015, <http://bit.ly/1D8SHLr>.

⁶ Christopher to Plague, November 9, 2014.