

## **Industrial Sponsorship of Undergraduate Project Courses in Bioengineering: Information for Students, Staff and Industrial Sponsors**

The Department of Bioengineering of McGill University invites capstone design projects sponsored by industrial partners. The companies may provide information on their products or processes that is used to formulate interesting projects for students. In turn, the students benefit from working on a project that is relevant to current engineering practice. Sometimes the students come up with innovative solutions or prototypes. This document addresses issues that may arise as a result of the industrially sponsored projects that relate to confidentiality, publication, safety, liability and the assignment of intellectual property.

### **Confidentiality**

In some cases, a confidential document or information is provided by a company in the course of a project. In this case, the company should clearly indicate the information is confidential. This information should not be disclosed without mutual agreement with the company.

### **Publication**

One of the functions of the university is to disseminate information and make it available for the purpose of scholarship. For undergraduate project courses, usually the only publications that result are a student report which is reviewed by the course supervisor, and presentations either during a poster session or in a lecture format. In the event that a further publication may result, it should be reviewed by the supervisor and company personnel.

### **Safety and Liability**

The main purpose of industrially sponsored project courses is to teach our students how to solve the kinds of technical problems that they may encounter in the practice of engineering. The primary objective of the course is educational, rather than the delivery of a finished product suitable for commercial, industrial, or private use. As a result, the reliability and safety of any prototype that is developed during the course cannot be guaranteed.

Since students are not yet professional engineers, they generally cannot provide the professional judgement that would be expected from a member of the Order of Engineers of Quebec. Industrial sponsors wishing to use information, material or devices generated during the course of the project should first ensure that they are fit for the use considered and have them checked for safety prior to any use.

### **Intellectual Property**

In general, patentable intellectual property does not often arise from undergraduate project courses. Students who feel that some part of the work in a project course may be patentable are encouraged to discuss this with the Faculty course supervisor. In general, the ownership and rights to any intellectual property that directly results from a project will depend on the contribution of all parties involved, including the supervisor, students, and the industrial sponsor. The specific rules that govern intellectual property developed by McGill University academic staff and students are given in the following two documents.

#### **1) Policy on Inventions and Software**

([https://www.mcgill.ca/secretariat/files/secretariat/policy\\_on\\_inventions\\_and\\_software.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/secretariat/files/secretariat/policy_on_inventions_and_software.pdf))

#### **2) Policy on Copyright** ([https://www.mcgill.ca/secretariat/files/secretariat/policy\\_on\\_copyright.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/secretariat/files/secretariat/policy_on_copyright.pdf))