

From: Mary Sue Coleman
Sent: Friday, November 02, 2012 11:28 AM
To: fitf_guidance
Subject: Letter from the University of Michigan

Dear Ms. Till,

Please see the attached letter. Let me know if you have any difficulty opening the document.

Sincerely,

Mary Sue Coleman
President
University of Michigan



MARY SUE COLEMAN

PRESIDENT

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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November 2, 2012

Ms. Mary C. Till
Senior Legal Advisor
Office of Patent Legal Administration
Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy
Mail Stop Comments – Patents
Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Via email: fitf_guidance@uspto.gov

Re: Docket No. PTO-P-2012-0024

As a major research university that has helped develop thousands of patents, the University of Michigan strongly endorses the comments filed by the Association of American Universities and five other higher education associations with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on October 5, 2012. This endorsement reflects the views of our Technology Transfer Office, those individuals on the ground who help navigate the patent process for our campus.

In particular, we are in full agreement that the proposed examination guidelines related to treatment of the grace period raises serious concerns. These guidelines fly in the face of clear legislative intent as spelled out by both chairmen of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees. Such an interpretation of the America Invents Act could have serious and unnecessary negative consequences to innovation on American university campuses, at a time when we need that innovation more than ever.

We urge that the Patent and Trademark Office adopt language that interprets the new patent law in a manner that effectively implements the clear intention of Congress.

Sincerely,

Mary Sue Coleman
President