MINUTES OF SUPA BUSINESS MEETING

FEBRUARY 8, 1977

1. The meeting was called to order by President Ray Woodrow at 8:50 p.m.

2. Larry Gilbert made a presentation on behalf of the Society to each of the speakers.

3. The Secretary-Treasurer presented the minutes from the 1976 business meeting and the financial report for the 1976 year to the membership for their review and approval. No questions or comments were offered and the minutes and financial report were approved.

4. The Secretary-Treasurer explained the purpose of the Newsletter and asked the members to provide him with items to be included in future issues.

5. President Woodrow reviewed activities by the Trustees of the Society during the past year concerning issues or legislation which could affect the patent programs of a number of institutions. Items on which the President presented written comments or testimony included:

   (a) Statement on HR12112 amending Federal Nonnuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974 by adding a section on Loan Guarantees for Demonstration Facilities;

   (b) Statement before Subcommittee on Domestic and International Scientific Planning and Analysis of the House Committee on Science and Technology on University Patents and Federal Grants and Contracts;

   (c) Comments to Philip G. Read, Director of Federal Procurement Regulations regarding Institutional Patent Agreements;

   (d) Comments to the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects regarding proposed regulations permitting disclosure to the public of information contained in proposals;

   (e) Letter to Research Corporation asking that they do not reduce the effort and financial commitment to their patent program activities.

6. Ray Snyder, as Chairman of the By-Laws Committee, presented the following changes in the By-Laws for approval by the membership:

   Existing:

   ARTICLE IV

   TRUSTEES

   The Board of Trustees shall consist of the first President, the immediate retiring President, the three Regional Vice Presidents and the Secretary-Treasurer. The officer trustees, etc.

Change to:

ARTICLE IV

TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees shall consist of the President, the immediate Past President, the three Regional Vice Presidents, the Secretary-Treasurer and four Trustees-at-Large. The officer trustees, etc.

The title of ARTICLE VI should be changed to OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES and the following paragraph should be added to the end of the ARTICLE:

Trustees-at-Large: The four Trustees-at-Large shall serve for two year terms. The first two of the four Trustees shall serve for one year and the second two shall serve for two years.

Two Trustees-at-Large will be elected each year at the annual election thereafter.

Mr. Snyder moved that the membership adopt these changes in the By-Laws. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

7. Mr. Tom Martin, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, placed in nomination the following names for the four Trustees-at-Large:

Howard Bremer
Vladimir Dvorkovitz
Will Marcy
Ray Snyder
Cynthia Hanson
Edward MacCordy
Albert Gold

Additional nominations were requested from the floor but none were offered. Nominations were closed and the President indicated that each member would be entitled to four votes. The two candidates receiving the most votes would serve for two year terms while the next two individuals receiving the most votes would serve for one year terms. The results of the election were:

For two year terms:

Ray Snyder and Cynthia Hanson

For one year terms:

Howard Bremer and Ed MacCordy

Mr. Tom Martin then placed the name of Ralph Davis in nomination for Vice President, Central Region. There being no other nominations from the floor, Ralph Davis was reelected unanimously for a two year term.

8. Mr. Woodrow pointed out that incorporation of SUPA in Florida was in question, since there are no members to act as agents in the state. He suggested that incorporation in Illinois should be investigated since there are a number of members from Illinois. Ray Snyder will investigate.

9. Mr. Woodrow indicated that the 1978 annual meeting would again be held at the same general time and place as the Dvorkovitz World Fair. Larry Gilbert agreed to serve as Program Chairman for the 1978 Program. He requested suggestions from the members for the 1978 program.

10. Mr. Woodrow reported that questionnaires on University patent policy were sent to the members and that he would like an early response.

11. Mr. Woodrow reported that the Society was also considering distributing a questionnaire on the utilization of awarded patents. Data on patents from a selected group of universities, 56 in all, have been provided by the U.S. Patent Office. The Department of Commerce has expressed a real interest in the results.

12. Mr. Woodrow asked membership for endorsement of a proposed letter to NIH supporting the concept that patent costs be included in the indirect cost calculation. Considerable discussion ensued in which the following general points were agreed upon:

    (a) The President will only forward letters on behalf of SUPA on policy issues or matters of controversy after their content has been approved by the members of the Board of Trustees of SUPA;

    (b) Letters from the President will generally be viewed as having the endorsement of the membership.

    After the discussion the members voted 28 to 3 to forward a letter on indirect costs to the NIH.

13. Mr. Woodrow proposed establishing two committees to study special problems that are of concern to University Patent Administration.

    Committee A would examine how to obtain protection for computer software.

    Committee B would investigate the possibility of developing a general agreement form to be used between universities and industry.

    After some discussion the membership endorsed Mr. Woodrow's proposals.

14. Under new business, the membership gave a vote of appreciation to Larry Gilbert for arranging for this year's program. The vote was then extended to all the officers for their work during the past year.

15. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.