

Impact of Sources and Allocation of Research and Development Funds on Higher Education Policy and Technology Transfer in the United States

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This paper describes changes to the structure of the sources and allocation of research and development (R&D) funds in the United States after the 1950's. It focuses on the influence that the Bayh–Dole Act of 1980 has had on higher education policy and technology transfer. The main sources of R&D funds for higher education institutions are the federal government and the private sector. The biggest source of funding for institutions conducting basic research and science is the federal government. In addition, most institutions have established a Technology Transfer Office (TTO) and receive revenue from the private sector. This paper describes the historical trends in the revenue generated from patents at Columbia University and Stanford University as the case study. The results indicate that academic capitalism and globalization have been rising within the academic community since the introduction of the Act, and that R&D funds have been competitively allocated with market-based. Therefore, structural shifts and changes in policy since the 1980's have caused the institutions close to private sector and globalized market.