

## **Comments on Aghion-Dewatripont-Stein (A.M-C. 10/6/05)**

### **TENURE**

- \* Tenure: the commitment mechanism that makes the possibility of non-directed research credible in an academic environment.**
  
- \* The value of tenure? Can it be estimated?**
  
- \* Tenure may also be valued in other contexts (e.g. civil service).**
  
- \* Tenure also opens the door to shirking.**
  
- \* Tenure-track: period to sort out if the candidate is shirking-type or non-shirking type. (and if talented or non-talented)**

## **TOO SOON?, TOO LATE?**

- \* European perspective: perhaps the main concern is about insufficient transfer of technology (i.e. too late rather than too soon).**
  
- \* It would be convenient to have a model where the transfer bias could go in the two directions.**
  
- \* Why too late?: Any piece of knowledge has a protectible dimension (large or small) but recognizing it is in the hands (better: in the mind) of the researcher. The latter has to be “interested”.**
  
- \* In summary: One possibility is that the motivations of the academic researcher and of the transfer office be very different (the first rather uninterested in the transfer and the second very interested). Another possibility is that the motivations of researchers and transfer office be similar: either both very interested (USA) or both uninterested (Europe).**

## **KNOWLEDGE AND ITS PROTECTABILITY**

**\* The academic work of a researcher leads to “results”.  
Once a result has been obtained the decision is made to:**

- Publish. Simultaneously to publication  
the protectible dimension of the result  
should be protected (e.g. a patent).**
- Not to publish. In this case there is no IP protection  
and a further decision must be  
taken: to pursue the work in the  
academic environment or to go  
private.**

**\* An interesting issue: What knowledge is protectible?**

- Mathematic theorems?**
- Economic Results?**
- Bio has special characteristics.**

**\* Another interesting issue: How to protect very indirect  
forms of knowledge?**

**\* It would be convenient to dispose of some general model  
where one could assess the public good aspect of academic  
research versus the commitment-to-research-freedom aspect.**