



AUTM Board of Directors 2020 Candidate Form



Chase Kasper, MBA

Director of Business Development,
Clemson University Research Foundation
Clemson University

Candidate Biography

Chase Kasper, the former Assistant Vice President for research, technology transfer, and corporate engagement at the University of Southern Mississippi, has been the Director of Business Development for the Clemson University Research Foundation (CURF) since February 1, 2019.

As the Director of Business Development, Kasper will play a critical role in implementing CURF's mission. By collaborating with Clemson University colleges, departments, and the Division of Research, and to continue building upon the University's vision of supporting and guiding Clemson researchers who seek to mature their technologies, Kasper will be connecting faculty with the right industry commercialization partners.

During his tenure at the University of Southern Mississippi, Kasper helped establish and grow the newly formed Office of Technology Development, which serves as the technology transfer arm for the university. He also managed corporate relations and served as the Facilities Security Officer and Senior Insider Threat Program Officer. Under his leadership, the University of Southern Mississippi substantially increased the number of agreements negotiated and executed annually with the private sector.

Prior to joining the University of Southern Mississippi in 2013, Kasper worked at Mississippi State University for almost 10 years, transitioning from Manager of the MSU Research and Technology Corporation, to the Interim Director of the Office of Technology Commercialization, to the Associate Director of the Office of Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer. Kasper also worked in industry for nearly 14 years prior to working in university settings.

Kasper just finished his last year as Cabinet Chair of the Membership Portfolio for the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM), and he is a member of the National Association of Corporate Relations Officers (NACRO) and the Association of University Export Control Officers (AUECO). He has been involved with the University-Industry Demonstration Partnership (UIDP) and led the effort for the University of Southern Mississippi to join UIDP.

Kasper holds a Bachelor of Business and a Master of Business Administration, both from Mississippi State University, also a land-grant institution.

Candidate Q&A

Why do you want to be on the AUTM Board of Directors and what motivates you to join the AUTM Board of Directors?

Ultimately, I truly want to serve the AUTM Membership. My goal is to help continue to broaden AUTM's mission and Membership diversity while maintaining the core competencies that have made AUTM the outstanding - and relevant - organization that it is today.

Have you served in a volunteer leadership role for other organizations? If so, please explain.

I have served in volunteer roles for both professional and civic organizations. By way of example, I have served on the Gulf Coast Intellectual Property Association as a Board Member. Most recently, I was actively engaged with chairing the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee for the Governor's Defense Initiative for the State of Mississippi.

What special experience do you have that you feel will benefit AUTM and its members? What might distinguish you from other candidates?

Having served on the AUTM Cabinet and being engaged with the AUTM Board has allowed me to understand *how* AUTM works. This has been helpful in understanding which programs the AUTM Membership value most and how we can continue to provide professional development and advocate for the technology transfer profession. Also, I have been fortunate enough to have spent roughly half of my career in industry and half on the university side.

What do you see as the major strategic issues facing technology transfer today?

I see three large issues today: 1) Increasing diversity in the profession and in innovation; 2) The broadening and deepening of the definition of "technology transfer" and 3) The struggles of small offices and emerging offices that are often under-resourced and over-burdened

What challenges does AUTM face that you think could be addressed by strategic discussion at the Board level?

- 1) Diversity. Making sure that all aspects of diversity are addressed in our profession and we profess *inclusiveness.*
- 2) Advocacy. Continuing to make sure that all global players understand and take strides to promote and profess the value of innovation and technology transfer.
- 3) Relevance. Continuing to stay ahead of the fluidity of the definition of "technology transfer" and broaden its horizons where appropriate while advocating for the core of the profession: Innovation.

How do the terms (both responsibilities and time commitment) of the position fit within your other responsibilities?

Without question, this is completely synergistic with my current role, as it was in my previous roles at other institutions. The Clemson University Research Foundation has found incredible value in AUTM and supports membership.

How has AUTM benefitted you in your work and career?

The inherent value of AUTM is its Membership and the incredibly valuable network it creates. This network has allowed me to learn from the best and the brightest professionals from around the globe.

Is there anything else you would like AUTM members to know about you before they vote?

I fully enjoy AUTM and how it has transformed my career over the years. The AUTM Membership has made a positive impact on my life - both personally and professionally. I am proud to serve and give back to an organization that has provided so much to and for me.