Appendix E: Faculty Ownership of Copyright

Faculty at the University of Puget Sound are scholars as well as teachers. The results of their scholarship often take forms such as articles, textbooks, monographs, paintings, music and software. Faculty are interested in the free exchange of ideas, both within the university community and outside of the university, and so typically desire to see their ideas communicated to others. Individual faculty are the best to judge how to exercise the rights to their work granted by copyright. For this reason, faculty own the copyright in their works.

Faculty ownership of copyright is consistent with the tradition of academic freedom as described in Part I.E of the Faculty Code (July 2009): “Academic freedom is the right of all members of the academic community to study, discuss, investigate, teach, conduct research, publish or administer freely as appropriate to their respective roles and responsibilities… A faculty member is entitled to freedom in research and in publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of the faculty member’s other academic duties.”

There are three exceptions to faculty ownership.

1. When a faculty member receives extra support from the university for the creation of curricular materials for use at the University of Puget Sound, the faculty member will be expected to grant the university a perpetual license for the use of those materials within the University of Puget Sound academic program, whether or not the faculty member is still employed by the university. This license will be requested and granted only at the time the university commits the support.

2. When a faculty member is involved in a project related to the business functions of the university (such as materials used in Admissions), then the copyright in these works will be owned by the university just as would be the case for works created by staff.

3. When a faculty member receives support from an external granting agency, then the copyright in those works produced under the grant will be owned as stipulated by the granting agency.