Intellectual Property & Materials Created for Hire – Working w/ THE Studio

Working with THE Studio is an excellent opportunity to gain professionalism in development and production of written, visual, audio, video and digital materials. SPU is committed to providing faculty an avenue to not only explore their approaches to content, pedagogy and technology but to utilize high-end human and technical resources in the realization of such endeavors.

Resources developed, designed or produced through THE Studio are both the intellectual property of the faculty member(s) as well as the property of SPU based on what the SPU Handbook terms "materials created for hire" and “substantial use” (pg. 99), the utilization of SPU’s human and technical resources dedicated for such purposes.

As a Christian university, the spirit of developing and sharing materials is for the betterment of the SPU community and beyond. Works created in partnership with THE Studio are developed in the spirit of the diffusion of knowledge. Therefore, the created objects and materials are free to be used and shared by both parties in any open access or no-cost manner. Sharing will be noted with a copyright affixed to denote the faculty member(s) and SPU, as well as the year of creation through to the current year. SPU will not release its share of copyright for the material to be displayed in a closed or pay-gated space.

Works created through outside grants or agencies are subject to the copyright and patent terms and conditions of said grant, contract or agency. In the case of such external grants, the grants should include a line item for THE Studio as a conduit of research and development, and said monies should be transferred to THE Studio upon the completion of the work. If there are no terms, conditions or agreements regarding copyright, patent and exploitation stated in the external documentation, works are subject to the terms of this policy.

On occasion, there will be materials created where one or both parties believe there to be a commercial or financial opportunity from the creation. When both parties agree on this potential, they will be tasked with researching the validity of such a belief. If their thoughts bear fruit, both parties will strive to work out an agreement on ownership, later approaching the Faculty Affairs Committee with a written request to validate such an agreement. If one party believes there to be financial opportunity and the other does not, the seeking party shall go to Faculty Affairs and, through written request, provide the validity of the belief as well as the rationale for an ownership agreement. Faculty Affairs will then determine A) if the work should be removed from the SPU Commons and granted commercial audience, and B) what the ownership breakdown will be between SPU and the faculty member(s). More information on similar instances can be found in Section 12.3.3 (Procedures, pg 102) of the SPU Faculty Handbook.