Update on Copyright Flexibility and Important Information about Recorded Classes

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Dear Faculty Colleagues,

I write today to provide an update of the “copyright flexibility” information shared in my March 18, 2020 message, and to bring to your attention important U.S. Department of Education guidance about the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regarding use of recorded class sessions. There is no change to the “copyright ownership of online lectures” information provided in my April 17, 2020 message.

Course Materials and Copyright
This update extends the earlier guidance beyond the Spring 2020 semester:

In order to maintain compliance with federal copyright regulations, when providing photocopied/scanned versions of textbook portions and other materials via Blackboard, e-mail, or a similar electronic mechanism for the duration of the time course delivery is affected by the pandemic, faculty should restrict their electronic distribution solely to students for course purposes, and should distribute only what is absolutely necessary at a given time. For example, distribution of a scanned chapter or selection of pages (vs. an entire book/article) is prudent when only that portion of a full work is assigned.

Questions regarding the use of films in remote teaching, or library acquisition of streaming licenses, should be directed to your department’s subject librarian as usual.

- Pius Library: http://lib.slu.edu/about/directory/pius-research-librarians.php
- Medical Center Library: http://lib.slu.edu/mcl/about/mcl-liaison-librarians.php
- Law Library: https://www.slu.edu/law/library/faculty-staff.php

FERPA and Recorded Class Sessions
Faculty may record class sessions, as long as the recording is only shared within the Learning Management System for that specific course in that specific term, and only if the recording does not contain personally identifiable information from student education records. Student names (on screen or in the chat) are typically considered directory information, as opposed to personally identifiable information from student education records, which means that the recordings can include student names as long as the recording is not shared outside that particular class section.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Mike Lewis, Ph.D.
Interim Provost