University Committee on Copyright
Report to the Faculty Council
March 20, 2014


The Committee is responsible for monitoring trends in such areas as institutional or consortial copyright policies, changes in copyright ownership and guidelines for fair use; identifying areas in which policy development is needed; monitoring the application of University policies and guidelines regarding ownership and use of copyrighted or licensed scholarly works; assisting in identifying educational needs of the faculty and others related to compliance with copyright policies and guidelines and to advise on appropriate ways to address those needs.

The Committee met six times during the academic year and began by focusing on the group as a conduit for copyright and scholarly communications awareness. As a first charge the committee assessed the website insuring appropriate linkages and clear messaging for those seeking copyright information and referrals. Edits were also made on the Graduate School website to insure clearer guidelines for the dissertation submission process. A portion of each meeting was devoted to a guest speaker in order to increase the committee’s knowledge and awareness of critical issues. The speakers for the 2013-2014 academic year were:

- Dave Hansen – Copyright Issues and Higher Education
- Donald Hornstein – Intellectual Property: Faculty Ownership, the University, and Coursera
- Todd Vision and Anne Gilliland – Open Access and Scholarship
- Gunnar Wiebold and Jeremy Freifeld – Copyright Benchmarking Findings and Recommendations
- Anne Gilliland – The Copyright Office Notice of Inquiries

The two primary action items for the committee this year were:

- Passing a resolution proposing, “that the Faculty Executive Committee appoint a cross-campus faculty committee to consider an institutional-rights-retention-with-opt-out policy. The University Committee on Copyright further offers to work with the Administrative Board of the Library and the Faculty Executive Committee to develop the slate of members for the committee.” An Open Access Taskforce has been formed “to investigate how a university-wide open access policy would affect different disciplines at Carolina, and then make a recommendation on an institutional policy.”
- Forming a Copyright Policy Subcommittee to examine the current policy for revision especially addressing and clarifying the treatment of computer software and its eligibility for copyright and patent protection. The subcommittee will continue its work through the summer for reporting in Fall 2014.

Report submitted by Carol R. Hunter, Deputy University Librarian, chair.