

LEBANESE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY COPYRIGHT & PATENT POLICY

Approved by the University Executive Council on August 7, 2007

Approved by the Board of Trustees on September 6 & 7, 2007

Policy Statement:

The Lebanese American University encourages the notion that ideas, or creative works, produced at the University should be used for the greatest academic and public benefit. The central mission of the Lebanese American University is to create, preserve, and disseminate knowledge, educating the whole person through teaching and research. It is the policy of the University to carry out its scholarly work in an open and free atmosphere, and to publish results obtained therefrom. The Lebanese American University recognizes, however, that copyrighted material, and/or patentable inventions sometimes arise in the course of research conducted by its employees and students using University facilities.

Policy Purpose:

This Policy is designed to describe the rights and responsibilities of the University, its faculty, staff, and students who produce and create works during the course of affiliation with the University. Further, the purpose of this Policy is to explain the copyright rules applied at the University, and to encourage the production of copyrightable and patentable material by faculty, staff, and students, for the advancement of the University's Mission and Goals.

Scope and Coverage:

This Policy applies to the faculty, staff, and students of the Lebanese American University. Compliance with the terms of this Policy is a condition of continued employment for faculty and staff, and of continued enrolment for students.

Definitions:

Copyright is defined as the exclusive right of the creator of a work to reproduce, sell, lend, rent, or produce derivatives of their creation.

Patent is defined as the legal document issued by the government to the inventor in which the owner of the patent is given the right to exclude any other person from making, using, or selling the invention for a certain amount of years from the date of the issue of the patent.

Ownership of Works:

Normally, works developed within the scope of one's employment are the property of the Lebanese American University.

Normally, all copyrightable works developed by faculty members on their own initiative are the property of such faculty members. Exceptions may apply in the following cases:

- Specific Assignments: The University owns the copyright and works produced pursuant to specific assignments.
- Special Projects: The University owns the copyright for works created as special projects.
- Works developed in the course of assigned duties, or conducted wholly, or significantly, through the use of general funds the University owns.

Joint right of ownership shall be ensured when the University provides substantial assistance to the individual's work and effort.

As a principle, the University is the owner of the copyrighted work of students, such as; theses, dissertations, scholarly publications, texts, or other materials, when substantial use of University facilities, personnel, or resources is made in the development of the material, especially when unrelated to coursework. The student(s) may claim a share in the copyright ownership of a developed work for which academic credit is received, if the facts and the particular circumstances of the work support such a claim.

University Intellectual Property Committee:

Any dispute in a copyrightable work will be referred to the University Intellectual Property Committee whose mandate is to:

- Recommend whether the University has a proprietary interest in a faculty, staff, or student authored work, and if so, to what extent.
- Recommend the relative shares in the work of the faculty, staff, or student co-authors.
- Recommend whether to apply for a copyright, and/or market the work.
- Make recommendations on all matters pertaining to copyright, not resolved by this Policy
- Recommend modifications to the Copyright Policy that may be appropriate.
- Act as a mediator in cases of disagreement.

This Committee shall compose of:

1. Vice President for Academic Affairs
2. General Counsel
3. Faculty Senate Chair
4. Staff Advisory Council Chair (if the issues involve a staff member(s))
5. Dean of Students (if the issues involve a student(s))

This Committee will report and make recommendations to the President.

Procedures for identifying ownership of Copyrights when they are not normally owned by a Faculty Member:

Each faculty, staff, and/or student member shall report to his/her Chair, Supervisor, Advisor, respectively, any projects that might be subject to copyright.

The Chair, Supervisor, and/or Advisor shall forward a list of projects possibly subject to copyright to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, with a recommendation concerning which items the University may wish to claim.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs, in consultation with the Intellectual Property Committee, will prepare a final recommendation for the President regarding the University interests. If the President waives the rights of the University to a project, then the University shall have no later claim.

Members of the Lebanese American University are urged to comply with the University Copyright Policy and to report to the University Intellectual Property Committee whenever the Policy is not honored.