

**Stephen F. Austin State University**  
**SFASU Faculty Senate**  
**Resolution on Intellectual Property and Distance Education**  
**(Resolution 2001-02.04)**

WHEREAS, faculty invest significant sums of both money and time in the production of courses, syllabi, and other instructional materials, and

WHEREAS, these courses, syllabi, and other instructional materials represent intellectual property, and

WHEREAS, the current university policy is too ambiguous as relates to the rights of instructors to retain ownership of the intellectual property they produce, and

WHEREAS, the University seeks to formulate and implement distance education policies where concerns about intellectual property are of the utmost concern, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Phil Turner, an expert in distance education from the University of North Texas, advised SFA faculty not to engage in distance education contracts with the university without a revised intellectual property policy, and

WHEREAS, in order to protect the intellectual property of faculty the Senate has previously proposed a revised intellectual property policy statement for university consideration, and

WHEREAS, no action has been taken by the university concerning this revised policy, therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the Senate asks the university not to formulate additional distance education policies until the senate proposal is addressed, and further be it,

RESOLVED, that because of concerns about ownership of intellectual property the senate cautions faculty to be careful about engaging in distance education contracts with the university until an adequate policy concerning intellectual property.