Spring 2014: Graduate Student Copyright/IP Task Force

- Charge: examine inconsistencies and identify issues with current graduate student intellectual (including copyrightable works) property rules and policies.
- The Task Force met three times during Spring 2014
Spring 2014: Final Recommendations

- A copyright notice should be placed on the thesis/dissertation/record of study.
- A Contributors and Funding Sources section should be included within the preliminary section of the thesis/dissertation/record of study.
- A new task force should be convened by the Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Studies to examine the use of faculty-student agreements that outline expectations for responsibilities and authorship for the thesis/dissertation/record of study and other scholarly works.

Charges: Faculty-student agreement

- Copyright ownership of
  - i. The thesis/dissertation/record of study
  - ii. Derivative works (works based on the thesis/dissertation/record of study)
  - iii. Works NOT based on the dissertation but using the same underlying data
  - iv. Co-authored works not addressed in i-iv (e.g., a journal article written by a graduate student and his/her faculty advisor)
- Inclusion of a copyright notice, copyright registration, and use of Creative Commons licenses for the thesis/dissertation/record of study and/or derivative works
- Retaining authors rights when negotiating with a publisher and responsibilities of corresponding author for faithfully representing interests of co-authors in communications and negotiations with publishers
- Expectations for relying on fair use or seeking permission when including 3rd party copyrighted material in the thesis/dissertation/record of study or other scholarly works (e.g., how will these decisions be made; whose right/responsibility will this be?)
Charges: Faculty-student agreement

• Faculty and student ownership of all derivative works and/or IP for the following situations
  i. When the students work is not funded by the faculty/department
  ii. When the student is funded by the faculty/department, but the work is not related to the thesis/dissertation/record of study research
  iii. When the student is funded by the faculty/department and the work is related to the thesis/dissertation/record of study research

• Statement of existing University policies to inform the student up-front about issues such as the requirement to disseminate the thesis/dissertation/record of study publicly (following a limited embargo), thus prohibiting the inclusion of confidential or proprietary information in the dissertation and the requirement for doctoral students to give ProQuest a non-exclusive permission to distribute students work

• Order of authorship on publications/derivative works

• Data management

• Rights for the faculty to prepare and submit results for publication if a student does not submit the results of his/her thesis or dissertation within a certain time frame (e.g., > 1 year) following the formal defense of that project; how order of authorship will be negotiated in this case

Mandatory vs. Optional Nature of Agreement

• Should the decision for mandatory versus optional participation be made at the University, College, or department level?
First meeting: Oct. 31, 2014

- Library representative wants to clarify copyright issues.
- Some consensus for non-binding agreement.
- A meeting should take place at the beginning of the thesis to discuss all the points above.
- A document should be signed acknowledging that the discussion took place.

Next meeting: Dec. 2014

- What is your position?
- What should I report?