



Intellectual Property

Adopted: May 31, 2017

POLICY

To establish ownership of copyrights, protectable discoveries and other intellectual property rights and to provide guidelines for the distribution of income received for the sale of those works. While SFPE claims ownership of intellectual property, the underlying purpose of such claim of ownership is to foster and advance the development of intellectual property through rigorous scientific investigation and research, and to develop, acquire and license intellectual property for the growth and development of the Society.

SCOPE

This policy applies to members, instructors, speakers and participants who are involved with content for SFPE programs, including conferences and educational programming.

DEFINITIONS

Computer Program – A set of instructions that direct a computer to perform a sequence of tasks.

Copyrightable Works – Anything protectable by copyright, such as:

1. Study guides, tests, syllabi, course materials, bibliographies, texts, books, and traditional scholarly publications.
2. Films, filmstrips, photographs, slides, charts, transparencies, illustrations, and other visual aids.
3. Programmed instructional materials.
4. Audio and video recordings.
5. Simultaneously recorded live audio and video broadcasts.
6. Dramatic, choreographic, and musical compositions.
7. Pictorial, graphic, and sculptural works.

However, Computer software, including computer programs, procedural design documents, program documents, and databases as defined below shall be treated for purposes of this policy as a Protectable Discovery and not as Copyrightable Works.

Course Materials – Any materials prepared by an instructor for use in teaching a course offered by SFPE to its participants, including lectures, lecture notes, syllabi, study guides, bibliographies, visual aids, images, diagrams, multimedia presentations, examinations, web-ready content and educational software.

Database – A collection of data elements grouped together in an accessible format.

Electronic – Relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities.

‘Employee’ or ‘Employees’ –Staff, or instructors, speakers of SFPE

Natural Person(s) – Individuals or business entities involved in the creation, invention or development of intellectual property. This term is construed broadly as including producers of creative works in the arts and sciences and creators of literary or scholarly writing.

Net Proceeds – The gross receipts from royalties and all other income from the license, option, sale, lease or rental of Intellectual Property minus (a) the monies specifically directed within the license, option, sale, lease or rental agreement for additional sponsored research or development activities and (b) the amount recovered by SFPE for reasonable expenses incurred in the development, marketing, protection, registration or dissemination of the materials, including legal expenses.

Procedural Design Document – Material that describes the procedural steps involved in the creation of a computer program.

Program Document – Material created for the purpose of aiding the use, maintenance, or other interaction with a computer program.

Protectable Discoveries – Anything that might be protected by utility patent, plant patent, design patent, plant variety protection certificate, mask work, or trade secret and computer software, including computer programs, procedural design documents, program documents, and databases as defined above.

SFPE-Sponsored Materials – Copyrightable materials produced by instructors, or speakers where the Natural Person(s) made use of SFPE resources not openly available to members of the general public in the creation or development of the specific materials.

‘Written’ or ‘in writing’ – Shall include information created, generated, sent, communicated, received, or stored by electronic means, including without limitation email, telecopy, and facsimile transmissions.