

CONTRACT CONNECTION

STRONGER TOGETHER



Faculty Ownership – Article 23, Section 4, Subd. 1

Contract Language

Subd. 1. Faculty Ownership. A faculty member shall be entitled to complete ownership and control of any patentable discoveries or inventions, or of intellectual property and copyrighted material, except where the faculty member's normal workload was reduced for purposes of the development project, where the college has provided substantial support for or involvement in the project, or where the inventions or discoveries are produced as a result of agreements or contracts between the college and external sponsors. Intellectual property produced during a sabbatical leave shall be considered scholarly work.

Key Concepts

- Faculty have complete ownership of the material they produce, unless one of the specific conditions listed in the contract language is met.
- This provision covers all material an instructor produces in the course of doing their job.
- If an external party is involved in an agreement regarding intellectual property, you should consult with the MSCF state office prior to signing or agreeing to anything.
- If ownership is to be shared, the conditions of such ownership should be agreed to in writing in advance.
- Material produced for online courses is protected by this language.
- Ownership has value. A request to take your property for someone else's use is the equivalent of asking you to give up something you own for free.
- Taking your property, giving it to someone else, and/or using it for some other purpose, without your permission, is the equivalent of theft.
- Material produced during a sabbatical is owned entirely by the faculty member, absent a written agreement to the contrary.