**Proposal: Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria proposal for Open Access of student class notes and study guides**

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**Problem statement:**

The Faculty of Veterinary Science realises the important role that it plays in developing veterinary science globally and in particular on the African continent. The Faculty developed AfriVIP, an online Open Educational Resource to make material available to external persons. The Faculty regularly receives requests from external persons (SAVC, SAVC examination candidates, faculty members of African and other vet schools) to make undergraduate study material available. This includes study notes, PowerPoint presentations and study guides of modules offered by the Faculty. Current University of Pretoria intellectual property policy prevents the publication of these documents as Open Educational Resources (using creative commons licencing). All University of Pretoria class notes and study guides are copyrighted in terms of this policy. For any material such as text, figures and diagrams originating from someone else’s work the author is responsible to clear the copyright use of such material. More and more material is published under creative commons share alike licencing, which prevents authors from publishing it under their own copyright. The Faculty does not make study material available to external persons due to the current IP restrictions. Previously the Faculty provided class notes to some external persons by selling a CD with class notes on. This is however not conducive of the Faculty’s drive in support of Open Educational Resources.

**It is proposed that:**

1. In the short term the Faculty establishes a repository of class notes and study guides (hard copies) of all Faculty modules in the Jotello F Soga Library, which is updated annually. This will be handled similarly to the reserved section of the library, in that users will be able to view the material in the library, or make photo copies of the material subject to the 10% rule (10% of material may be photocopied for educational purposes). External users of the library can get access for one day at a fee of R70 (current fee), or a selection of longer term packages can be purchased. Typically day-users do not get access to the electronic library, but may use the reserved section and the rest of the library. This solution protects the Faculty from being liable for breaking copyright rules and the current IP policy of UP. It however does not allow the Faculty to publish the material in an Open Access format.
2. In the interim the Faculty writes a proposal to amend the Intellectual Property policy of UP so that study material (class notes and study guides) will have a creative commons licence as default. If the author(s) feel(s) that there is a commercial value to the material, a clause by which the author may opt out of the creative commons licence agreement will exist, and the material will be copyrighted as is currently the case.

**Considerations:**

1. Faculty members should consider the commercial value of copyright vs the academic and marketing values of creative commons licencing.
2. Faculty members should familiarise themselves with creative commons licencing.
3. Faculty members should consider the implications of claiming copyright for their study material – both in terms of potential liability and also their responsibility to contribute to the wider academic community.
4. Faculty members should be committed to Open Educational Resources.