Movie and Film Policy

This policy is intended for organizations and departments wishing to show a movie or film inside the Student Union.

Copyright infringement is a serious federal offense. Organizations and departments who show a movie or film inside the Student Union without purchasing a performance license is not only breaking a Student Union Policy, but also breaking federal copyright laws.

Organizations and departments wishing to show a movie or film in the Student Union are required to purchase a performance license. The Office of Student Union and Activities will NOT approve any request for space to show a film until a copy of the performance license is received.

A performance license is required for all public performances regardless of admission being charged.

Obtaining a Performance License
SWANK Motion Pictures Incorporated and Criterion are the two major film distributors. For information on obtaining a performance license and the cost contact one of the film distributors listed below:

SWANK Motion Pictures Incorporated
www.swank.com 800-876-5577

Criterion
www.criterionpic 800-890-9494

FAQs
What constitutes a public performance?
Any exhibition of a movie outside the privacy of a home setting is considered a public performance.

Do we need a license even if we don’t charge admission?
Yes! A license is required for all public performances regardless of whether admission is charged.

What if a video store or equipment provider says it is okay to exhibit rented or purchased movies?
These stores rent and sell movies for “Home Use Only” and cannot provide legal permission for use outside the home. You can only obtain licensing directly from a licensor such a provider listed above, not from a third party.

I own the movie. Do I still need a license to show it outside my home?
Yes! Neither the rental, purchase or lending of a videocassette or DVD carries with it the right to exhibit movies publicly outside the home.

I want to show an old movie. Do I still need a license?
Yes! Copyright pertains to all movies regardless of the year it was produced.

If I purchase a license to show a movie, can I show that movie whenever I want?
No. Licenses are for a specific designated time frame. There are not annual licenses available to colleges and universities.
A small group is having an informal gathering in our facility. Do we still need a license?
Yes! A license needs to be obtained regardless of the number of people attending the screening, if the movie is being shown outside the home.

Penalties
Organizations and departments who fail to comply with the Student Union Movie and Film Policy and are found showing a movie or film without purchasing a performance license will be revoked of all usage for one year from the date of the violation. Organizations and departments can be prosecuted by The Motion Picture Association and its members which could include penalties of a fine and jail time.

Some information taken from SWANK Film & Video Copyright Infringement