Showing Movies as Student Organizations

• The film must be a legitimate copy obtained through an authorized company that provides licensed movies. The use of personal or rented videos or DVDs is not exempt from public viewing licensing fees.

• The cost for showing a film in a public setting is $200-$850 per showing. The cost range is dependent upon the status of the film (recent release, international release, available for home rental, etc).

• There is also the belief that if there is educational value to be obtained from the film (i.e., discussion following the movie), then films are exempt from said licensing fees. This only pertains to academic situations, more specifically, academic courses (officially recognized by the college). The film may only be viewed by participants of the class.

• When you advertise a film showing, which turns the event into a public viewing of the film, regardless of the venue. If your organization has advertised a viewing of a film and has not properly handled the coordination of obtaining a licensed film, the organization is now liable for the risks that occur with showing an unauthorized movie.

• There are several companies that offer licensed films that are available to the college. These films can often be shipped within a week’s time to the college and in time for an organization’s event (www.swank.com or www.criterionpic.com). The UIU Library also offers films which licensing fees may already be covered due to the fact Upper Iowa University owns these films, but this must be confirmed by library personnel.

• Contact Amy Tucker, Director of Student Activities with questions.

Adapted from http://www.wartburg.edu/orgs/guide/