

Date: May 9, 2005

To: All UCLA Students

From: Robert J. Naples, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Dean of Students
Jim Davis, Associate Vice Chancellor, Information Technology

Re: File sharing and copyright infringement

We are writing to remind you of the personal risks involved with illegal file sharing. Regardless of where it occurs – over the commodity Internet, Internet2, i2hub or within a local area network (LAN) – it is both illegal and a violation of the [Student Conduct Code](#). UCLA students found culpable of illegal file sharing face possible sanctions including dismissal from the University.

Last month, UCLA received a letter from the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) showing alleged copyright infringement occurring on this campus. Although UCLA's students are not being sued, UC Berkeley and UC San Diego both received letters of intent from the RIAA to file "John Doe" lawsuits against students at those campuses. UCLA is proceeding to act accordingly with the list it has received.

Trading of copyrighted music, movies, games and software over the Internet has become commonplace using file sharing programs such as i2hub or BitTorrent. Without permission of the copyright holder it is illegal to do so by Federal law, and legislation in this area is growing: for example, the Family Entertainment and Copyright Act, signed by President Bush on April 27, 2005, says that anyone who has even one copy of an unreleased movie, song or software file in a shared folder could face fines and prison terms of up to three years. These penalties would apply whether that file was downloaded or not, and there is little the University can do to protect students accused of this activity.

Of course, there are legitimate applications of file sharing software and networks. We will continue to take appropriate steps to ensure that such legitimate applications remain unimpeded and balance all needs fundamental to our institution.

If you have any questions about the Student Conduct Code as it relates to these issues, please contact Christine Coons, Assistant Dean of Students, at christinec@orl.ucla.edu

or (310- 20)6-2895. If you have questions about technology policies, please contact Kent Wada, Director, IT Policy, at kent@ucla.edu or (310-20)6-3874. Further information is also available at <http://www.ucop.edu/irc/policy/copyright.html>, or, if you are an On-Campus Housing resident, information is also available at <http://www.resnet.ucla.edu/>.