



April 3, 2007

Notice to Students Regarding Letters from the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) Concerning Illegal Downloading

As many members of the University community are aware, there has been increased activity on the part of the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) to address illegal downloading of music and other protected property.

The RIAA recently announced a new strategy for responding to illegal downloading by students on college campuses. The RIAA announced that it will send "settlement letters" to students notifying them of claimed violations. These letters will be sent to the students via their college or university internet service providers. The RIAA advises that it will propose in this letter a settlement to the student to resolve the alleged claim of illegal downloading by the student. The RIAA will also be contacting colleges and universities with "preservation notices" requesting that the schools preserve contact information for those students whom the RIAA believe to be in violation of RIAA member copyrights.

Fairfield University has not received any letters from the RIAA. In the past, the University has recognized its responsibilities under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) and has forwarded appropriate notices of alleged illegal downloading on to students. Illegal downloading on the campus network in violation of Fairfield University's Acceptable Use Policy has also been addressed through appropriate follow up with the Office of the Dean of Students.

Fairfield University does not monitor its network for illegal downloading nor does it issue notices of illegal downloading. The University's Acceptable Use Policy (which is posted on StagWeb) sets forth the expectation that network users will take individual responsibility for understanding and observing all applicable copyright laws and licensing restrictions. In accordance with the letter and spirit of our policy, Fairfield University will forward letters from the RIAA directly to the student-user. Fairfield University is not a party to claims between a copyright holder and a student-user. As such, any student who receives a letter claiming illegal downloading by the holder of a copyright is individually responsible for responding to the letter. Students may wish to consult individual counsel when deciding how to respond to any such letter.

We close by noting that copyright issues are a growing national concern. This concern is not relegated to college campuses, but it is nonetheless of particular importance for our community members, the vast majority of whom comply with intellectual property and copyright laws. Students, faculty and administration are encouraged to take every opportunity to learn more about these important issues so as to allow for informed decisions. It is critically important for students in particular to take the lead in understanding their rights and responsibilities and advocating for themselves so that they can make the best and most appropriate use of electronic media in this ever-changing and dynamic climate.

Sincerely,

Donald Adams
Assistant Vice President for
Computing and Network Services

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Pellegrino
Dean of Students