



4/11/07

To: All Students

From: Vice Chancellor Student Affairs Manuel Gómez

Subject: Copyright Law and Illegal Downloading

Dear UCI Students,

Universities across the nation including UCI are receiving notices from the Recording Industry of America (RIAA) that it is approaching alleged copyright law violations by university students, such as downloading or sharing unlicensed music more aggressively than in the past.

Specifically, the RIAA has instituted an "early settlement process," which has two main steps: (1) first, the RIAA sends a notice to the university asking it to preserve records relating to a network user's activities, and (2) second, the RIAA member sends the network user an "early settlement letter" in care of the university. You can read more about the "early settlement process" at <http://www.riaa.com/news/newsletter/032107.asp> and at [http://www.iff.org/IP/P2P/RIAA\\_v\\_ThePeople/college\\_faq.php](http://www.iff.org/IP/P2P/RIAA_v_ThePeople/college_faq.php)

In the past, the university has notified students when we have received a notice of copyright infringement from the RIAA, and we have worked directly with the student to rectify the situation. Under the new "early settlement process," we will forward both the RIAA preservation notice (which is addressed to the university) and the RIAA member's "early settlement letter" (which is addressed to the network user) to the network user.

By forwarding communications from the RIAA, the university is making no determination that those users have engaged in copyright infringement or that those users should enter into an "early settlement" with the copyright owner(s). It is solely the network user's personal decision whether to avail him- or herself of the "early settlement" process.

If a notice is received, network users may want to seek advice from a private copyright attorney. Sharing music and other materials such as videos, movies, games and software violates copyright law and is both illegal and a clear violation of the campus computer use policy. UC Irvine offers several legal music services to students at <http://www.vcsa.uci.edu/music/>

To learn more about the array of resources concerning copyright matters available to you and about your responsibilities when using the UCI network, please visit <http://www.nacs.uci.edu/policy/copyright.html>

Sincerely,  
Manuel N. Gomez  
Vice Chancellor Student Affairs