

## Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) "Settlement Letters" and "Preservation Notices"

No doubt you have already heard about the Recording Industry Association of America's (RIAA) new strategy for addressing copyright violation. The RIAA sends campus Internet Service Providers (ISP) "settlement letters" with Internet Protocol addresses of alleged offenders requesting that the ISP forward the letters to users whom they allege have infringed upon RIAA copyrights. In addition to these "settlement letters," the RIAA has also sent a number of "preservation notices" to many colleges and universities requesting that the ISP preserve contact information for persons associated with an Internet Protocol address they allege is being used to violate their copyright.

Louisiana State University (LSU) already acts on Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) notices as a matter of University Policy. Please see PS-107 ("Computer Users' Responsibilities") and "File Sharing at LSU" at <http://www.lsu.edu/itpolicy> for additional details.

The University will treat RIAA "settlement letters" and "preservation notices" in the following manner:

- "Settlement Letters": Should LSU receive a RIAA "settlement letter" it will treat it as a DMCA notice so long as it meets all the legal elements. As already is our practice, the University will forward the "settlement letter" together with LSU's standard DMCA notice letter to the user.
- "Preservation Notices": If LSU receives a "preservation letter," which does not meet all the elements of a DMCA notice, we will preserve the requested information and simply forward the letter to the user for his or her information.

Louisiana State University respects the privacy of users and does not generate DMCA notices. Please note that if a user receives one of these "settlement letters" or "preservation notices" he or she has complete responsibility to decide or choose how to respond to the RIAA and may want to consult with his or her counsel before making a decision. Sample RIAA settlement letters can be found at: <http://www.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/CSD4832.pdf>.

At this time it is worth reminding students that, in addition to the RIAA, many content owners send DMCA letters for videos, movies, games and software. Students may want to reconsider network activity that involves copyright infringement in light of the pervasive monitoring of file sharing that content owners do on the Internet. Also, copyright is a national policy issue as well as a concern for students who enjoy entertainment protected by intellectual property legislation. Please take the opportunity to learn more about these important issues through classes, reading newspapers and journals. Finally, if you have specific questions about this message, please e-mail [its-policy@lsu.edu](mailto:its-policy@lsu.edu).