

HIGHER EDUCATION ACTIONS TO ADDRESS ILLEGAL CAMPUS PEER-TO-PEER FILE SHARING

History and Past Activities

- Formation of the Joint Committee of the Higher Education and Entertainment Communities: The higher education community joined with the entertainment industry to form the Joint Committee, operating through the support and guidance of the American Council on Education (ACE), the Association of American Universities (AAU), EDUCAUSE, the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), and the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA)
December, 2002
- Work of higher education through the Joint Committee
 - Distribution to colleges and universities of Background Discussion of Copyright Law and Potential Liability for Students Engaged in P2P File Sharing on University Networks
August, 2003
 - Joint Committee-sponsored meeting of higher education and entertainment association officials, representatives of entertainment companies and online digital delivery services to discuss how these sectors can collaborate to reduce illegal and promote legal P2P
June, 2003
 - Report to colleges and universities of results of Request for Information on technologies that may assist in reducing unauthorized P2P file sharing
October, 2003
 - Report to colleges and universities on legitimate online digital content delivery services that might be engaged as alternatives to unauthorized P2P file sharing programs
December, 2003
 - Distribution of University Policies and Practices Addressing Improper Peer-to-Peer File Sharing
April, 2004
 - Collaboration with RIAA to produce and distribute a video on P2P intended for college freshmen orientation
spring - summer, 2006
 - Meeting of university, entertainment industry, and technology vendor officials to examine network technologies to reduce illegal P2P file sharing
October, 2006
 - Distribution of updated paper on legal aspects of campus P2P, Background Discussion of Copyright Law and Potential Liability for Students Engaged in P2P File Sharing on University Networks
November, 2006
 - Joint Committee meeting to assess past work, current challenges, and future steps
November, 2006
- Numerous presentations at higher education association meetings, written communications to colleges and universities, about illegal campus P2P file sharing and reference to resources to address the problem
Ongoing

Current and Projected Activities

- Formed new Technology Task Force to work with commercial vendors to facilitate development of effective technologies to reduce campus P2P
- Formed campus officials group to work with RIAA to revise video for freshman orientation and promote broad adoption by campuses
- Letter from ACE President David Ward to college and university presidents and chancellors transmitting an RIAA letter announcing a new round of lawsuits accompanied by a “pre-notice plan” that allows settlement of claims before filing of a lawsuit
- Conduct survey of colleges and universities to identify effective policies and practices for reducing illegal P2P file sharing, develop updated best practices recommendations for distribution to colleges and universities
- Continue to discuss P2P activities and share information through national meetings and written communications

Joint Committee of the Higher Education and Entertainment Communities

The Joint Committee of the Higher Education and Entertainment Communities was formed in December 2002 to discuss and address matters of mutual concern between higher education institutions and the content community, including the steady growth of peer-to-peer (P2P) network use on college campuses. The Joint Committee has taken three basic approaches: (1) campus education policies and practices concerning copyright rights and responsibilities and their implications for P2P file-sharing; (2) the use of computer network management technologies to control inappropriate file-sharing; and (3) the development of legal, campus-based, online digital entertainment services.

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