

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: All NC State University Faculty and Staff

FROM: W. Randolph Woodson, Chancellor

SUBJECT: Illegal Peer-to-Peer File Sharing: Annual Notice

DATE: November 2, 2011

This annual notice is to alert all NC State University employees of the personal risks and legal consequences of unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials, including illegal peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing.

Music, movies, videos, games and other online media are protected by or subject to copyright law and are usually illegal to share through peer-to-peer (P2P) file applications. Downloading or uploading even small portions of a copyrighted work without permission in most situations constitutes a copyright infringement, which could subject you to great personal financial risks and legal consequences, including the possibility of six-figure monetary fines, loss of employment and/or criminal conviction. File sharing also creates a substantial risk that others can gain access to confidential data on your computer or plant destructive computer viruses that could spread across the university's network.

Incidents of illegal file sharing are increasing, but so are the odds of getting caught. From August 2010 to July 2011, the university received 2,403 notices of copyright infringement related to illegal file sharing on university computers or coming across university networks. Copyright holders, such as the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and the Motion Picture Industry of America (MPAA), are aggressive in their use of automated methods to identify infringements, and even small amounts of file sharing can be detected.

To deter the use of P2P file transfers for illegal purposes, the university may use technology that monitors copyrighted traffic on university networks and computers. The university takes quick action when notified of alleged copyright infringements. Incidents are referred to appropriate campus officials, and steps are taken to stop the unauthorized download or distribution of copyrighted materials. A copyright violation using a university network or equipment may result in a permanent record at the university, may serve as evidence in court and may adversely affect your employment, up to and including discharge.

To read the university's regulation on copyright infringement, see NCSU REG 01.25.02 at <http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-01-25-02>.

To learn more about P2P file sharing and for a list of legal alternatives, visit <http://oit.ncsu.edu/p2p> or call the NC State Help Desk at (919) 515-4357.

To learn about copyright, visit the U.S. Copyright Office website at <http://www.copyright.gov/>, the Provost's Copyright Administration website at <http://www.provost.ncsu.edu/copyright/> or contact NC State's assistant general counsel, Shawn Troxler, at (919) 515-1527.