

Napster

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MP3 provider.

"We don't disagree with what they are trying to accomplish," Grier said, "but with the way they want to go about it."

According to Grier, the University does not seem to be in a position where it will soon see a lawsuit.

"I am pretty comfortable with our legal position," she said. "We don't feel we have taken a risky position, especially since a number of other universities have also taken this position."

Some universities have already decided not to comply with the request to ban Napster. In a recent Chronicle of Higher Education article, seven universities, including the Georgia Institute of Technology, Princeton University, Stanford University, the University of California at Berkeley, the University of California at Los Angeles, the University of Michigan and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, stated they would not bow to the attorney's requests.

A number of students at the University agree with the institutions that refuse to block Napster.

"I hope the University doesn't give in to the pressure from the attorney," Jessie Kirk, a sophomore journalism major, said. "It seems like if they block it there will just be another program on its heels."

Other students agreed.

"I don't think it is fair [to block access]," Amy Shearer, a sophomore business major, said. "College students don't have the money to go out and buy music. What I do is sample a few of the songs from an artist and then if I like the CD I go out and buy it."

While the University will not block Napster from its servers, officials said they are still concerned with students illegally downloading copyrighted material. The University's proper Internet guidelines are outlined in detail in the University's acceptable use policies.

"All members of the University of Oregon community should familiarize themselves with the University's acceptable use policy," said Jon Miyake, acceptable use policy officer.

As of spring 2000, the University's position on the Napster issue is to "closely monitor Napster usage" and "continue to cooperate fully with law enforcement authorities when copyright infringements are reported," according to the University's spring 2000 computing news Web site.

Penalties for violating the acceptable use policy or downloading illegal copyrighted material could result in civil or criminal action or University sanctions. For more information or questions about the appropriate use of computer programs on campus go to <http://cc.uoregon.edu/docs/acceptableuse.html>.

WRC

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would be difficult for him to fulfill his role under the rules of the House [of Representatives], which would prevent him from using congressional staff," Weiss said. "And when Congressman Miller gets involved in something, he likes to really get involved."

Shortly after Miller's resignation, the WRC's Advisory Council elected Mark Barenber, a professor at Columbia University's law school, to fill his seat.

Kahle said as a result of limited membership and funds, governing board members have realized that there probably won't be funding for on-the-spot surprise monitoring. Instead, the WRC plans to gather complaints from workers, which will then be investigated by non-governmental organizations.

"The students who are participating have very admirable ideas," Kahle said. "I think they are making progress, but slowly."

He also said although some student protesters at the University demanded that the University refrain from joining the Fair Labor Association, another labor-monitoring group that, unlike the WRC, is industry-driven, WRC board members took no stance on that issue.

"They explicitly said the WRC has no position on whether people should join the FLA," he said.

The University joined the FLA shortly before the beginning of fall

term.

Kahle added that board members, although still opposed to industry participation on the WRC's board, discussed developing processes for working on resolving problems with labor conditions. After all, Kahle said, problems cannot be fixed without incorporating factory representatives.

But while the WRC's board is

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Lynn Kahle
professor, Marketing

working on finding ways to incorporate industry cooperation into the WRC's monitoring processes, McDonald said he came away from Tuesday's meeting with the impression that industry representation on the group's board is out of the question.

"It's my view... that the issue of corporate participation on the board is dead in the water," McDonald said. "On the other hand, there seemed to be a somewhat more conciliatory tone about ways to engage licensees."

The lack of industry representation on the WRC was one of the concerns University officials voiced when signing on to the

group in April, after students staged protests and camped outside Johnson Hall for days, and the University Senate recommended that the University join the organization.

New concerns raised by some member universities involve insurance and liability issues, McDonald said. Initially the WRC had been founded on the idea that students from member universities would conduct some of the monitoring, information gathering and reporting abroad.

However, McDonald said whether the universities or the WRC will be responsible for providing insurance, coping with issues of liability and possible defamation, and training students for accurate information-gathering remains to be decided.

Many of these issues go back to money, which universities still haven't been able to contribute because of the WRC's lack of official status and a bank account, he said.

"You're going to need a lot of members if you are going to be able to fund some of those things," McDonald said.

He said the group will have to tackle one issue at a time and will have to take up the ratification of bylaws again once it gains its official status.

McDonald said he hopes the group will have filled the chair of executive director and an opening on the governing board, and taken up other outstanding issues by its next governing board meeting, which is scheduled for early next year.

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Mind Body Spirit

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