

To: Carnegie Mellon Faculty
From: Mark Kamlet, Provost and Senior Vice President
Date: November 14, 2006
Subject: Taping or Recording of Classroom Activities

Recently there have been several high profile national cases where students videotaped faculty members without their knowledge and uploaded the files to the public website YouTube.com. Also recently another public website, RateMyProfessors.com, asked students to send pictures of their professors to accompany ratings of those individuals.

A group of administrators, faculty and students are currently reviewing Carnegie Mellon's Code to address community values and standards with regard to such behaviors.

In the meantime, if you do not want to have classroom activities taped or recorded, I suggest you conspicuously state in writing in your course syllabus words to the following effect: "No student may record or tape any classroom activity without the express written consent of [insert name of faculty member]. If a student believes that he/she is disabled and needs to record or tape classroom activities, he/she should contact the Office of Disability Resources to request an appropriate accommodation."

Alternatively, depending on your preference you might state:

"Classroom activities may be taped or recorded by a student for the personal use of that student or for all students presently enrolled in the class only, but may not be further copied, distributed, published or otherwise used for any other purpose without the express written consent of [insert name of faculty member]."

Thanks,
Mark
