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Dr. Michael V. Drake, President  
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Columbus, Ohio 43210

Dr. Bruce A. McPheron  
Executive Vice President & Provost  
The Ohio State University  
203 Bricker Hall  
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Columbus, Ohio 43210

Dear Dr. Drake and Dr. McPheron,

As you requested, I am providing a brief progress report on Perkins Coie's independent investigation of the allegations that Dr. Richard Strauss committed acts of sexual misconduct against University students while employed by the University, and the extent of the University's knowledge of such allegations at the time.

The investigation of the allegations regarding Strauss is continuing to make significant progress. To date, the Perkins Coie team has completed over 335 interviews with former students and University staff, including 145 former students who report firsthand accounts of physical sexual misconduct committed by Strauss. The allegations range from the period 1979 to 1997, and were reported to the investigative team by former students who were treated by Strauss in Student Health Services, or by former students who were engaged in University athletics, including male student-athletes in the following programs: wrestling, swimming, diving, water polo, cheerleading, volleyball, lacrosse, gymnastics, ice hockey, football, fencing, soccer, baseball, tennis, track and cross country, and golf. In August 1996, Strauss established a private medical office in Columbus outside the University setting, where former students have reported that additional acts of sexual misconduct occurred. The Perkins team's investigation into whether, and to what extent, Strauss may have examined high school-aged students during his time at the University is also ongoing. Finally, the investigative team has received reports of a sexually-exploitative atmosphere in Larkins Hall, the University gymnasium and natatorium demolished in 2005, and is running those to ground.

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The investigation regarding the University's knowledge of Dr. Strauss' alleged sexual misconduct also is progressing appropriately. To date, the investigators interviewed over 95 individuals who worked at the University during the relevant time period, including athletic department, medical center, and student health center staff, as well as faculty. Former administrators, human resources professionals, and legal counsel also have been interviewed. The Perkins team is seeking to interview additional former University staff based on investigative leads. The investigative team is using all reasonable means to locate and interview any former employees who are believed to have relevant information relating to Strauss's time at the University. The investigators are appreciative of the University's efforts to publicly and repeatedly encourage all former University employees having relevant knowledge to make themselves available to be interviewed.

With the extraordinary assistance of the University Compliance Staff and Archivists, the Perkins team has identified, retrieved, and searched 525 boxes of University records believed to potentially contain materials relevant to their investigation; the number of boxes retrieved and searched could likely double over the next month. The investigative team has also reached out to third parties not affiliated with the University who are believed to have documents or information relevant to the investigation.

It must be recognized that, as a result of the temporal span of this undertaking, the investigators are searching for documentary evidence dating back several decades, from the largely "pre-digital" age. The significant passage of time that has occurred since Strauss's tenure at the University brings with it the additional challenge of scattered witnesses who must first be identified, then located, and then willing to cooperate. In fact, some key witnesses are no longer alive. The Perkins team has committed significant resources and is moving as rapidly as possible given the number of interviews conducted, documents retrieved and reviewed, and outreach efforts launched.

In part because of the ongoing influx of witnesses and continuing searches for relevant documentation, there is no predetermined date by which the factual investigation will be completed. That said, our best estimate is that, assuming no additional avenues of investigation emerge, the fact-gathering phase of the investigation could draw to a close in the Fall of this year. I can confirm that the investigators are working as expeditiously as possible, are covering a tremendous amount of ground, and are working with the independence and professionalism that will validate both the investigative process and integrity of the results.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as Special Counsel, and will continue to provide progress reports when appropriate.

Very truly yours,

  
Kathleen M. Trafford