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June 6, 2018

Dr. Michael V. Drake  
President  
The Ohio State University  
205 Bricker Hall  
190 N. Oval Mall  
Columbus, Ohio 43210

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

Dear Dr. Drake and Dr. McPheron,

As you requested, I am providing this brief progress report on Perkins Coie's engagement by Porter Wright, as Special Counsel to the University, to serve as the independent investigator for the inquiry into the sexual misconduct allegations concerning former University physician Dr. Richard Strauss. Markus Funk and Caryn Trombino, lawyers with significant experience in investigating complaints of sexual misconduct, head up the Perkins Coie investigative team. The scope of the engagement is two-fold: 1) identify and evaluate the allegations that Dr. Strauss committed acts of sexual misconduct against University students while employed by the University, and 2) determine the extent of the University's knowledge of such allegations. The investigation is proceeding on both tracks simultaneously.

The investigation spans a period of two decades. University records indicate that Dr. Strauss joined the Ohio State medical staff as an attending physician at University Hospital on September 1, 1978. He served as a team physician in Athletics from July 1, 1981 to June 30, 1995, and as a part-time physician in Student Health Services from July 1, 1994 to August 7, 1996. While Dr. Strauss resigned from the medical staff on December 31, 1994, he remained a university faculty member until his retirement as professor emeritus on July 1, 1998. Dr. Strauss died in 2005.

The Perkins Coie team is interviewing former students and others who have come forward with information about Dr. Strauss' alleged misconduct. At the same time, they are working with University employees under the direction of the Office of Legal Affairs

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to locate written records from the time of Dr. Strauss' employment that could be relevant to the investigation. Some of the challenges inherent in an investigation of this nature are that records have been archived or even destroyed in the ordinary course of business and many of the OSU employees from the relevant time period are no longer associated with the University.

To date, Perkins Coie has conducted or scheduled over 130 interviews with individuals who may have information relevant to the investigation. Each individual who self-identifies as a potential victim of alleged sexual misconduct by Dr. Strauss is confidentially interviewed by the lead investigators on the case. While interviews commenced immediately after Perkins Coie was retained, there was a significant uptick in the number of individuals coming forward after President Drake sent his May 21, 2018 email to OSU alumni asking those with relevant information to contact the investigative team.

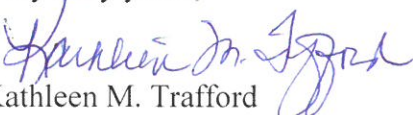
Most of the individuals reporting allegations of sexual misconduct are former student athletes who were examined or treated by Dr. Strauss in his role as a team physician in Athletics. These student athletes participated in a variety of men's athletic programs: wrestling, swimming, cheerleading, volleyball, lacrosse, gymnastics, ice hockey, football, fencing, soccer, baseball, tennis, track, and cross country. Other students, who were not student-athletes, also report allegations of sexual misconduct by Dr. Strauss. Dr. Strauss examined or treated these students as a part-time physician at Student Health Services. In August 1996, Dr. Strauss established a private medical office in the city of Columbus, outside of the University setting, where additional acts of sexual misconduct are alleged to have occurred.

As referenced earlier, the second prong of the investigation, regarding the University's potential knowledge of Dr. Strauss' alleged sexual misconduct is proceeding at the same time. The investigators have identified and are interviewing physicians, administrators, and other University employees who may have been in a position to know about allegations of sexual misconduct committed by Dr. Strauss. At the same time, they are conducting a search of archived University records to locate documents that may demonstrate whether or not Dr. Strauss' alleged sexual misconduct was known to the University at the time.

The investigation, in short, is ongoing, and it is therefore premature to predict when it will be completed and when findings will be available. As I mentioned, there are unique challenges inherent in investigating actions that may have occurred as far back as 38 years ago. And new lines of inquiry might yet be identified as former students, alumni, University employees, and others come forward.

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

Very truly yours,

  
Kathleen M. Trafford