

Theodore R. Kulongoski
Governor



February 10, 2005

George Pernsteiner
Acting Chancellor
Oregon University System
P.O. Box 3175
Eugene, OR 97403

Dear Chancellor Pernsteiner:

One of my top priorities as Governor is to expand access to higher education so that any student in Oregon qualified and committed to pursuing a post-secondary degree has the opportunity to study at one of Oregon's public universities. However, providing access is just one part of a larger obligation to ensure Oregon's students are equipped with the skills they need to compete and contribute in our economy and our communities. Another critical part of our obligation is to ensure that Oregon's universities are safe learning environments with clear policies about sexual harassment and inappropriate relationships between faculty or other staff and students.

I know that you join me in this commitment to student safety and that you do not tolerate or condone sexual harassment or any other inappropriate behavior that puts student safety and the integrity of our university system at risk. However, in light of recent events, I am writing to request that you ask each university president to conduct a comprehensive review of the current policies, procedures and practices related to sexual harassment and relationships at their institutions.

While my concern is prospective, I believe it is important that the June board meeting include a discussion of these policies, procedures and practices for possible policy direction and rule making by the board members if the reports find such action is necessary. I expect the following information to be provided by each university president: 1) a compendium of current policies and procedures; 2) an assessment of their efficacy; 3) an assessment of campus practices and beliefs surrounding these matters; and 4) recommendations for additional or changed policies, procedures and practices that will contribute to a safe and secure environment for students, faculty and staff. These reports should be included in the board packet for the June meeting.

George Pernsteiner
February 10, 2005
Page 2

Again, I know you join me in my commitment in the safety of our students, and in ensuring that our faculty and staff continue to create an environment that fosters academic excellence. I also recognize that our faculty and staff share this commitment to providing Oregon students with an education second to none. But like all quality organizations and professional staffs, we must conduct such internal reviews periodically to ensure we are accountable to our students and to the public. Now is that time and it is my hope that this analysis will lead to an increased awareness of best practices in this area.

I appreciate your immediate attention to this important issue and your continued dedication to our students, faculty and staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Theodore R. Kulongoski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'T'.

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor

TRK:js/cy

cc: Henry Lorenzen, President, Oregon State Board of Higher Education