



**Office of the President**

Oregon State University, 600 Kerr Administration Building, Corvallis, Oregon 97331-2128

Phone 541-737-4133 | Fax 541-737-3033

December 10, 2014

Dear Brenda,

Oregon State officials are very grateful that you took time to meet with us. We are so sorry for what you experienced in 1998 and have lived with since. What we have learned recently of your suffering is heart-breaking, and your bravery inspires us.

We are also grateful to you for raising the public dialogue about the consequences of sexual violence in our society and for raising a discussion of how society can better assist survivors of such violence. While we cannot undo this nightmare, we apologize to you for any failure on Oregon State University's part to better assist you in 1998.

As promised a few weeks ago, we conducted an exhaustive review of the facts of how OSU handled this matter 16 years ago. This review was completed this past Friday, and we want to share the results of that review with you.

One thing we learned is that in the late 1990's, the prevailing view nationally was that the law did not allow universities to pursue student conduct actions in the cases of off-campus events that involved a survivor who was not a student of that university. The way Oregon State and other universities address sexual violence today is far different than it was in 1998. As part of President Obama's national "It's On Us" campaign, Oregon State and I are deeply committed to substantially reduce sexual violence on our campus and in our community.

Our review of this case was challenging. Records dating back 16 years – and without the computer and data systems then as we have now – are difficult to pursue.

From our understanding of your phone call to us on August 1, initially we were mistakenly looking for records of a case involving a student named Brenda Tracy. Also, our official records of student conduct matters dating back so many years are limited to records of cases that resulted in student expulsions or suspensions. We only have complete records for those conduct cases. But our review turned up limited notes from 1998 of a case involving a non-student named Brenda Adams. These limited notes do indicate that sanctions were imposed in this case.

These student conduct records are still protected by student privacy laws. This is the case even though the two men involved in this case are no longer OSU students. We are allowed by law to share them with you as the survivor of this violence. We cannot share them with anyone else. You, however, are not bound by such privacy or confidentiality limitations.

The sanctions issued by the university in 1998 were different from what we would impose today. In our opinion, by today's standards, these sanctions are grossly inadequate. In our review, we learned that, in 1998, OSU's Office of Student Conduct imposed the following sanctions on Mr. Dandridge and Mr. Carlyle:

- 25 hours of community service,
- Participation in educational programs, and
- Conduct probation.

In addition, separate from these Student Conduct sanctions, both men were suspended for one game by then OSU Coach Mike Riley.

In our review, we interviewed Mike Riley and individuals employed in 1998 within OSU Athletics and the OSU Division of Student Affairs. In all cases, Coach Riley and the other individuals recall this case but do not recall specific details. They do generally recall that charges in this matter were brought by local law enforcement authorities and later dropped.

We also reviewed OSU's authority to pursue any sanctions now against your assailants. We learned that the law does not allow us to go back in time to impose sanctions for an offense that happened in 1998. And, secondly, actions were already taken in this case, and sanctions were issued.

If this case happened today and was reported to OSU, we would pursue more significant student conduct actions – even if this violence happened off-campus and involved a survivor who was not a student. Most importantly, we would work with the survivor to address the effects of the violence. With respect to confidentiality, we would strive to respect the survivor's wishes. But we would also work with the survivor to attempt to fully pursue conduct sanctions, including suspension or expulsion of those OSU students who committed such an offense. And we would work to stop the sexual misconduct, prevent a recurrence, and assist the survivor.

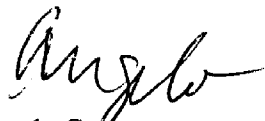
We would work very hard at all of this because, in addition to addressing impacts to the survivor, we would see such behavior as a threat to the community.

We remain open to having you speak with the OSU football team. We are also open to have you talk on campus with other students – as part of OSU's "It's On Us" campaign to help end sexual violence. But we are sensitive to your healing and don't want to suggest something that might interfere with that. It is Oregon State's hope that any role you are willing to pursue in helping educate our campus community about sexual assault could bring some healing for you. This would be of great interest to us but only if it is consistent with your wishes.

Sincerely,



Ed Ray  
President



Angelo Gomez  
Executive Director, Office of Equity and Inclusion

May 12, 2015

Senator Peter Courtney  
State Capitol Building, S-201  
900 Court St. N.E.  
Salem, OR 97301

House Speaker Tina Kotek  
State Capitol Building, 269  
900 Court St. N.E.  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear President Courtney and Speaker Kotek,

I am writing in support of the adoption of House Bill 3476 and Senate Bill 759 – two important pieces of legislation that will serve our state well in addressing sexual violence on – and off – college and university campuses and in supporting the victims of sexual violence.

**House Bill 3476** establishes privilege in communications between survivors of sexual violence and harassment and victim service providers. This bill will assure that those who seek services will have their contact and communications with service providers kept confidential as described in the bill.

**Senate Bill 759** requires all Oregon community colleges and public and private universities and colleges to adopt protocols to serve the survivors of sexual assault by fully providing information for available campus and community-based support services and resources, as well as written communications related to a survivor's legal options, campus disciplinary processes and campus confidentiality policies. The bill also ensures that universities have the tools they need to address students who are perpetrators of sexual violence.

Oregon State University is committed to create a campus environment free of sexual violence that rejects all forms of sexual assault and holds members of the OSU community accountable to be more than bystanders.

Oregon State University is expanding staffing in its Office of Equity and Inclusion to investigate and resolve reports of sexual violence or harassment and to support survivors. As well, we have increased the number of Sexual Assault Support Services counselors within our department of Counseling and Psychological Services. This summer, the University will open an advocacy center to confidentially provide a 24/7 destination for sexual violence survivors and others to navigate the services we offer. Meanwhile, Oregon State has long maintained confidentiality policies to protect students' personal health and counseling records that exceed state and federal laws and ethical and professional guidelines.

Thank you for your legislative efforts to address sexual violence and support survivors.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Ray  
President

Date: November 30, 2015

## **OSU adopts stricter student transfer admissions policy to address sexual violence, campus safety**

By Mark Floyd, [REDACTED]

Contact: Steve Clark, [REDACTED]

CORVALLIS, Ore. – Oregon State University will increase its efforts to address sexual violence and increase campus safety by requiring undergraduate and graduate students seeking to transfer to OSU to disclose whether they are ineligible to re-enroll at an institution they attended in the past seven years due to student conduct reasons.

Oregon State has a policy of denying admission to transfer students ineligible to return to their previous institution, but immediately will strengthen and better enforce the policy by requiring full disclosure from transfer students.

“We are committed to combatting sexual violence in society and to improving safety on the Oregon State University campus,” said OSU President Ed Ray. “This is an important step to strengthen the university’s admission policies for transfer students related to conduct that is not consistent with creating a safe and inclusive community at Oregon State.”

Ray is sharing Oregon State’s new policy with the leaders of other Pacific-12 Conference universities and encouraging them to consider similar policies. OSU’s new guidelines apply to all transfer students, officials say, and are not aimed exclusively at student-athletes.

“I recognize that transfer policies are a very complex subject and that universities should craft admission policies that serve their respective institutional mission while also addressing efforts to improve safety and combat sexual violence,” Ray said.

“The bottom line is, that if students seeking to transfer to OSU are ineligible at another institution because of student conduct violations, they automatically will be declined admission to Oregon State,” said Steve Clark, OSU’s vice president for University Relations and Marketing.

If students are ineligible at another institution because of academic reasons, Clark said they may be admitted if they meet Oregon State’s minimum academic requirements. All transfer students who are denied admission will have the right to appeal that decision with appeals being reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Meanwhile, Oregon State will continue to adhere to all NCAA requirements regarding student-athletes who seek to transfer to OSU from another institution, Clark said.