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November 3, 2017

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Michael Schill
President, University of Oregon
1226 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1226
Office: Johnson Hall, 110

Dear President Schill:

I am deeply troubled about recent news stories related to the University of Oregon's handling of an alleged serious student misconduct violation of a student athlete. If these reports are accurate, they raise major questions about the university's commitment to creating and maintaining a safe campus environment.

According to investigative reporting by the *Daily Emerald* and *Sports Illustrated*, on September 28, 2016, a University of Oregon Police Department (UOPD) detective received a phone call from Northern Wyoming Community College District (NWCCD) police.¹ The NWCCD police were seeking assistance in a case involving a University of Oregon student and basketball player related to allegations of sexual assault in the first degree. According to the news article, NWCCD police asked the UOPD detective to conduct a follow-up interview with the UO student. The UOPD detective was reported to have "reviewed the police report, texts and photos" related to the case and notified UO's Title IX coordinator as well as UO's deputy Title IX coordinator and deputy athletic director about the allegations. According to reporting, the police report contains multiple witness statements indicating the serious nature of the alleged sexual assault. It is unclear from news reports the nature of internal discussions related to this case or what immediate steps were taken by University of Oregon staff to investigate.

However, according to the *Sports Illustrated* article, UO did not follow its own student conduct standard operating procedures regarding sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, and unwanted sexual contact. Under the University of Oregon's procedures, "[s]ubject to being notified of a potential Sexual Misconduct violation, the Title IX Coordinator shall notify the Director [of Student Conduct and Community Standards]." The procedures further state that "[t]he Director or the Director's designee, in consultation with the Title IX Coordinator, will (1) determine whether the complaint or notice contains information that, if true, would violate the Student Conduct Code and (2) determine whether the university has jurisdiction over the underlying allegations."²

¹ <https://www.dailyemerald.com/2017/06/21/oregons-kavell-bigby-williams-is-under-investigation-for-sexual-assault/> and <https://www.si.com/college-basketball/2017/10/25/oregon-kavell-bigby-williams-title-ix-investigation>

² <http://dos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/SexualMisconduct.aspx>

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This sequence of events, if accurate, spotlights a larger problem, namely that colleges and universities repeatedly respond to calls for policies and legislation to increase state and federal oversight and enforcement of campus safety and sexual assault prevention with assertions that these issues are better left to campuses, without “one-size-fits-all” standards. Yet time and again, colleges and universities demonstrate to policymakers, students, the general public, and especially to victims, that too often they are acting to protect their own self-interests.

As a U.S. senator working to improve policies to better address sexual assault on college campuses, I have an obligation to determine where federal, state, local, and institutional policies are falling short or not being followed when it comes to ensuring students are safe on college campuses in Oregon and across the country. Accordingly, I am requesting responses to the following questions and requests no later than November 20, 2017:

- How are determinations made as to whether information related to a potential student sexual misconduct violation is deemed “insufficient” or “sufficient” to warrant notifying the director of Student Conduct and Community Standards?
- What actions did all University of Oregon staff or affiliated personnel take upon receiving information relating to the alleged sexual assault involving a UO student in September of 2016, which was reported by the *Daily Emerald* and *Sports Illustrated*?
- In this particular case, did the Title IX coordinator and deputy Title IX coordinator/deputy athletic director fail to follow the university’s own policies with respect to notifying the director of Student Conduct and Community Standards?
- What enforcement and disciplinary actions are taken when UO employees fail to follow standard operating procedures?
- Is there a written policy describing the disciplinary policies and enforcement actions related to UO employees’ failure to follow standard operating procedures?

As an alumnus of the University of Oregon School of Law, I know my alma mater cares deeply about the students at the University of Oregon. As such, I know you will treat these requests for information seriously.

I look forward to your reply and working together to ensure the safety of UO students, and all students, on campuses around the country.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
U.S. Senator