May 5, 2015

Professor Robert Kyr Senate President University Senate

Dear President Kyr and senators:

I am writing in response to Senate Legislation/Resolution 14/15-60, Return Therapy Records and Clarify and Strengthen Privacy and Confidentiality Guarantees for Clients of all Mental Health Clinic at the University.

Frances Bronet and I share your concern for survivors of sexual violence, and the need for all students to feel safe going to the University Counseling and Testing Center (UCTC) for support. Per the provost's memo on March 20, 2015, the University Counseling and Testing Center has requested and the Office of the General Counsel complied with returning all the records at issue so that they may be preserved and secured by the UCTC.

The provost has formed a committee made up of licensed therapists, faculty, the general counsel's office, and staff to propose new or clarified policies on how the confidentiality of medical and psychological records for any university departments that handle protected health information will be maintained and protected, and when records may be released.

The committee will has met twice in April (4/17 and 4/30). The group is still researching best practices at this time. The provost has asked the committee to provide recommendations from the committee before spring term is complete. The provost will communicate progress as the work continues.

As always, I welcome the senate's input and appreciate faculty participation in the provost's committee.

Sincerely,

Scott Coltrane Interim President