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ATTORNEY GENERAL

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February 21, 1997

Carl D. Holcombe
CORVALLIS GAZETTE-TIMES
600 SW Jefferson
Corvallis, OR 97339

Re: *Petition for Public Records Disclosure Order*
Oregon State University Records

Dear Mr. Holcombe:

This letter is the Attorney General's order on your petition for disclosure of records under the Oregon Public Records Law, ORS 192.410 to 192.505. Your petition, which we received on January 30, 1997,[1/] asks the Attorney General to direct Oregon State University (OSU) to make available the following records:

1. Transcripts of focus group discussions that Jill Schuster began conducting in October of 1996 with high school students, OSU students, alumni, and donors.

2. Any memoranda, e-mail, letters, and correspondence between Ms. Schuster and other OSU officials, and minutes of meetings, regarding the results of the focus groups.

3. Any summaries or reports concerning results of the focus groups.

For the reasons that follow, we respectfully deny your petition.

Jill Schuster, OSU Director of Marketing, informs us that OSU has given you copies of two e-mail communications concerning the focus groups and a document entitled *Presentation to Faculty Sebate of Results of Focus Groups*. Ms. Schuster informs us that OSU has no other records described in items 2 and 3 above. With respect to the transcripts

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[1/] We appreciate your agreement to extend the time within which the law otherwise would have obligated us to respond.

of the focus group discussions, OSU has agreed to provide you with transcripts modified to remove certain identifying and personal information about the participants, and you have agreed to accept such modified transcripts in lieu of the unmodified transcripts.[2/] Accordingly, we deny your petition as moot.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth S. Harchenko

ELIZABETH S. HARCHENKO
Special Counsel to the
Attorney General

ESH:SSB:AV/JAA0227F
c: Jill Schuster (OSU Director of Marketing)
Caroline Kerl (OSU Legal Advisor)

[2/] This agreement is described in a letter to you dated February 20, 1997, from Assistant Attorney General Stephen S. Brier, a copy of which is attached.