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From: OSUToday <osutoday@osu.edu>
Subject: Statement of William Shkurti regarding Anonymous
To: ihnat.1@osu.edu
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Reporting Line
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STATEMENT OF WILLIAM SHKURTI REGARDING THE ANONYMOUS REPORTING LINE

8/1/07

Recently the Columbus Dispatch filed a public records request for the results of the first 16 months of the Anonymous Reporting Line. Since there has been a great deal of interest in this issue, we also wanted to share this information with faculty and staff.

The Anonymous Reporting Line was established on March 1, 2006 to provide faculty, staff, students and other interested parties a formalized mechanism for reporting occurrences of fraud, abuse or non-compliance. The University has one anonymous reporting line for concerns relating to Athletics, Financials, Health Care, Human Resources and Research. The reporting line does not support reporting of academic matters involving faculty and/or students or non-academic student conduct matters.

Between March 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007, the University received a total of 169 reports. One hundred twenty six (126) or 75 percent of these reports have been closed. Of the closed reports, 19 (or 15 percent) were substantiated and 72 (or 57 percent) were unsubstantiated. The remaining 35 reports were questions or issues not pertaining to occurrences of fraud, abuse or non-compliance and were referred to other areas of the University for review. This ratio of substantiated cases to total reports is not unusual for this kind of reporting system.

Overall, we feel the reporting line has been successful. Among the substantiated reports were three cases of financial fraud involving more than $20,000, a significant case of failure to follow University policies involving the University Treasurer, as well as cases of improper conduct involving compliance with Human Resources policies, health care issues and Athletics.

We believe as the reporting line becomes more widely known, it will be a significant deterrent to the very small number of University employees who might be tempted to engage in inappropriate behavior.
If requested, further information about reported cases may have to be released in accordance with Ohio's public records law, and we will do that. However, the anonymity of those making these reports will continue to be protected.

We will continue to make periodic updates on reporting line activity to the campus as needed.