Student’s therapy records returned

The UO says it has given the rape accuser’s confidential files back to the counseling center

By Josephine Woolington
The Register-Guard

University of Oregon Provost Frances Bronet said Friday that the UO has returned a student’s confidential therapy records to the UO Counseling and Testing Center.

In an email sent on Friday afternoon, Bronet said that “all records at issue” were returned and are “preserved and secured” by the UO’s Counseling and Testing Center on campus.

The 18-year-old student who sought help at the counseling center said she was raped by three UO basketball players last year.

Bronet’s announcement followed national criticism and debate about whether universities should be able to access confidential health records under a federal student privacy law.

UO students, professors and other employees lobbied administrators to return the records. The University Senate last week unanimously passed a motion — led by psychology professor Jennifer Freyd — urging the UO to return the records and to strengthen and clarify confidentiality guarantees for students who visit a UO health clinic.

Bronet said she will form a committee made up of licensed therapists, faculty, general counsel and staff to propose new or clarified policies on how medical and psychological records for any university departments are maintained and protected, and when records may be released. The committee will share a draft of these policies with the UO community next month, she said.

“I am grateful for the advice and energy many members of our community have brought and continue to bring to this vital issue, and to our many members of the (Uni-

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Portland man accused in drug overdose death

By Don Kramer
The Associated Press

FREDONIA, N.D. — Federal court documents filed last week in North Dakota identify a man running a drug pipeline from California to the upper Midwest and China and led to the Jan.

10 death of 63-year-old Gerald T. Highway, of Portland, Ore.

Brannon Hubbard, 46, of Portland, was charged with one count of possession with intent to distribute drugs, and he was held without bail. His attorney, Wilma Johnson, said Hubbard is seeking to raise $75,000 bail, a figure set based on the seriousness of the charge.

The federal indictment alleges Hubbard and "an individual working on his behalf" sold a total of 510 grams of cocaine, a Schedule II controlled substance, to an undercover DEA agent on Nov. 10, 2012.

Federal court documents, as well as interviews with law enforcement sources, revealed that Hubbard, a former major league baseball player, is the key figure in what sources have called a broad and lucrative drug ring.

Hubbard is facing several charges, including money laundering, conspiracy to distribute drugs, and possession with intent to distribute cocaine and heroin. He has not yet appeared in court, and his attorney said a preliminary hearing is being scheduled.

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District: 'Accused does not mean guilty'

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When the winds blow, the miles of bare trees stand stark and exposed, first to the Oregon garden plots, then to the city streets of Portland, and finally to the Marching Band parade route. The trees are seen as tree- friends, nurtured by water and fertilized by the earth. Yet, they also serve as a reminder of the harsh winter that is just beginning.

For the past three years, the city has been addressing the problem of deforestation through a program called "Tree's Life." The program was started by Ronney, who is the executive director of the Oregon Parks and Recreation District.

Ronney said that the city's goal is to create a network of parks and open spaces where people can connect with nature.

"The purpose of the program is to provide people with an opportunity to experience nature and learn about the importance of trees," Ronney said.

Ronney also emphasized the importance of protecting the trees that are already in place.

"We want to preserve these trees as much as possible," Ronney said. "They are an important part of our city's history and culture."