

TO: Cathy Scroggs, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

FROM: Brady J. Deaton, Chancellor

DATE: December 13, 2007

RE: Proposed Plan for Availability of Sexual Health and Safety Products

Thank you for the Report of the Sexual Health and Safety Products Task Force and for your October 31, 2007, letter recommending my support of the student-led effort and plan designed to achieve better student health. Three primary factors lead me to support the proposed plan: (1) our commitment to the safety and physical health of our students; (2) the comprehensive and thoughtful process taken by students to discuss and evaluate this issue; and, (3) the preponderance of studies cited by the Task Force confirming that condom access does not increase sexual behavior, but does promote safer sexual practices.

I attended several open hearings on campus where students expressed deep concern about sexual health and unwanted pregnancies. I was impressed by their sense of responsibility. I am sensitive to concerns raised by some students about the provisions of condoms in residence halls, and these diverse views must be taken into consideration.

I agree with the four issues you identified as conditions of implementation, and I am adding the fifth:

-Given the current financial pressures on the campus and in the state, University funds will not underwrite the program. Funding should be secured from one or more of the supporting student associations and external sources.

-Any product dispensers recommended by our Student Health Center must be tamper-proof and placed in areas that will guarantee the privacy of users, while limiting exposure to other students.

-Dispensers must be requested by students through their residence hall governments.

-An independent evaluation of program effectiveness will be conducted consistent with our health objectives.

-Continued active student participation through at least one, but hopefully more, campus student associations in planning and implementation is required.

I am asking Dr. Susan Even, Director of Student Health, to coordinate with you in this initiative. I commend your leadership and the dedication of the entire Task Force in assessing the need for the action originally proposed by the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity in September 2006. The University applauds student efforts to expand existing health education programs and seeks their continued leadership on these issues.

c: Dr. Susan Even