University president says plan will end 30-year streak of student tuition increases

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NEWS REPORTER

Money issues are nothing unfamiliar for anyone, especially when it comes to university institutions and students. The University may have found a solution: revenue, and Wednesday morning that solution was discussed with faculty and community members.

Proponents for restructuring finance held a town hall meeting on

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Phil Barnhart discusses how statewide financial problems will affect University

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State Rep. Phil Barnhart (D) of District 13, which includes Eugene and the surrounding area, won re-election last November for the fifth time since 2007. The co-chair of the House Revenue Committee and a proponent of President Lariviere’s New Partnership plan, Barnhart sat down Wednesday afternoon to talk about his background, his
three steps drawn up into two separate bills. The first bill, SB 559, outlines the governmental structure for the board, and the second, HR 28, consists of the endowment.

First, a new publically appointed board will be set up and will have the responsibility of choosing the operations of the University. This board of 15 members, some of whom are students and faculty, will have the power to adopt and enforce benchmarks that the University would be required to meet. Secondly, the accountability will be increased for the board which oversees the University’s goals. Lastly comes the endowment itself.

The state will issue $900 million in bonds after locking down appropriations at $70 million over 30 years. As this is happening, the University will commit to raise an equal amount through private fundraising and donations before the public money from the bonds is used. This will make for a more stable financial stance with an investment of $1.8 billion. In addition, the private funds will be used to support the entire costs of the University, thus incentive is provided for unrestricted gifts.

"We are working under a system now that isn’t working. This is a risk, but it’s a high one," Lariviere explained at the meeting.

Lariviere did not by any means claim that the plan could go unstated, but did express full confidence in the fact that it would provide the University with a better shot at substantial increases in funding.

"This University cannot continue on its course for the sake of the University, students and faculty," said University Senate President Matthew Hibler, who organized and acted as the master of ceremonies for the gathering. "I strongly support this plan."

Some students present at the meeting expressed their support for the plan.

"It is important to talk about and understand what this plan is about and what it can do for future Ducks," Student Alumni Association President Cadis SueHome said, "Before now I never heard of anything so hard to bring down the outrageous tuition costs that we have."

Copies of both legislative bills and more information on the proposal can be found on the New Partnership website at newpartnership.uoregon.edu.