

NEWS FROM THE PORTLAND AREA AND THE NORTHWEST

Board reins in UO president

In offering Richard Lariviere a one-year contract, the state board says it wants a team player

By BILL GRAVES
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University of Oregon President Richard Lariviere must become a team player, show up at board meetings and stop putting his university at odds with the state system if he



Lariviere
Has sought UO
independence

wants to keep his job, says the State Board of Higher Education.

Meeting in a special telephone conference call Tuesday, board members voted to renew Lariviere's contract, but only for one year and with several conditions.

Those conditions reflect friction

that emerged in the Legislature this year with Lariviere's proposal for the UO to break away with its own governing board and financial independence pitted against the state board's agenda to win more autonomy for all seven campuses but still under a single university system.

"We want his participation as a member of the team," said Paul Kelly, president of the board.

Lariviere had little to say on the contract other than he has made a commitment to support Gov. John

Kitzhaber's legislative proposal to establish an Oregon Education Investment Board that would oversee all levels of education from preschool through graduate studies. The governor earlier this year said that his investment board would replace the state boards of education and higher education.

Lariviere believes some conditions in the proposed contract would be moot if the governor's plan, Senate Bill 909, passes, said Phil Weiler,

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Lariviere's spokesman.

"If the state board and the governor are at odds, or if that were to occur, particularly around SB909, (the president) has made a commitment to support the governor's approach," he said.

Weiler said he could not say whether Lariviere would accept the contract.

The board's conditions state Lariviere must attend meetings of the board and the university presidents' council and participate in the Oregon University System's ongoing discussions of governance.

He also must refrain from independently advocating a separate UO governance board and for authority to use \$800 million in state bond money to help run the school.

The state board in December said it opposed the UO independently seeking legislation for those initiatives. The board saw the UO bills confusing and conflicting with its own push for Senate Bill 242, which would end the university system's agency status, giving it more independence.

But the UO Foundation continued to lobby aggressively for the UO bills until late March, when Lariviere agreed to postpone them until next year after meeting with Kitzhaber.

The state board does not necessarily oppose an independent board or state bond money for the UO, but wants Lariviere to work with the system, Kelly said.

"He has terrific leadership potential, not only for the UO, but for the entire higher education system," he said.

Lariviere's contract offer includes no increase in salary and benefits. His annual salary is \$245,700 from the state and \$180,000, plus \$114,300 in deferred pay, from the UO Foundation.

The board typically renews president contracts for two or three years, and on Tuesday renewed the contract of Bob Davies, president of Eastern Oregon University, for two years. Both Lariviere and Davies are completing a two-year contract.

Kelly said Lariviere's contract is only for one year because of uncertainties posed for the UO, Oregon State University and Portland State University by the governance changes proposed in the legislative proposals from the state board and the governor. The regional universities would not be affected much by those changes, he said.

The board also on Tuesday unanimously elected Matthew Donegan, co-founder of Forest Capital Partners, as president, and Jill Elland, corporate affairs manager for Intel's northwest region, as vice president.

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