

AAUP

American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

November 29, 2011

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Matthew W. Donegan, President
Oregon State Board of Higher Education
c/o Forest Capital Partners, LLC
111 Southwest Fifth Avenue, Suite 3850
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Mr. Donegan:

Faculty leaders at the University of Oregon have consulted with this Association regarding the vote yesterday by the Oregon State Board of Higher Education to terminate the appointment of President Richard W. Lariviere effective December 28. According to the November 25 statement of the executive committee of the university senate (speaking for faculty, students, and staff), this decision was reached without any prior consultation with representatives of the university community. A similar statement of concern, dated November 23, has been posted on the website of United Academics, an organization consisting of UO faculty, postdoctoral students, and researchers.

We believe that the state board's action is sharply at odds with fundamental standards of academic governance, as set forth in the enclosed *Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities*, the joint formulation of the American Association of University Professors, the American Council on Education, and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. Under these widely adopted standards, releasing a university president in the midst of a term of appointment should not be effected unilaterally by the governing body. The AAUP's derivative *Faculty Participation in the Selection, Evaluation, and Retention of Administrators* (also enclosed) states that "[a]ll decisions on retention and nonretention of administrators should be based on institutionalized and jointly determined procedures which include significant faculty involvement." With respect to the president, "the *Statement on Government* specifies that the 'leadership role' of the president 'is supported by delegated authority from the board and faculty.'" Hence, "[n]o decision on retention or nonretention should be made without an assessment of the level of confidence in which he or she is held by the faculty."

We are informed that yesterday Professor Robert Kyr, president of the university senate, presented the state board with a petition containing 6,300 signatures asking the board to renew President Lariviere's contract. We understand that a second senate petition urging the

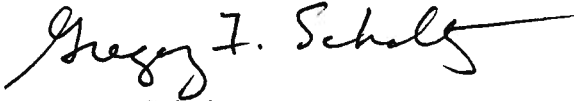
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president's reinstatement has already collected almost 7,000 signatures. We in turn urge you in strongest terms to reconsider your decision to terminate President Lariviere's appointment.

Sincerely,



Gregory F. Scholtz

Associate Secretary and Director

Department of Academic Freedom, Tenure, and Governance

Enclosures (via e-mail)

cc: Mr. John Kitzhaber, Governor, State of Oregon
Mr. George Pernsteiner, Chancellor, Oregon University System
Professor Robert Kyr, President, University of Oregon University Senate
Professor Debra Merskin, President, University of Oregon AAUP
Dr. Richard W. Lariviere, President, University of Oregon