

Discount

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A public hearing was held at the University on Tuesday to discuss the amendment and the criteria. There was some debate about the fairness of such criteria, but no formal complaint has been filed.

This board's decision to extend the tuition benefit to same-sex partners comes almost two years

after the court case Tanner v. Oregon Health Sciences University, in which an Oregon appellate court ruled that benefits guaranteed to married couples must also be given to same-sex domestic partners under the bill of rights of the Oregon Constitution.

"Courts have been pretty clear that to be truly equitable they have to extend the same benefits to same-sex couples as they do het-

"I think it's great they are making headway and that they are coming up-to-date."

Mary Dricken
University chemistry lab technician

erosexual couples," said Stephanie Carnahan, director of

the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Educational and Support Services.

The board's decision is the second significant employee benefit now extended to same-sex partners, Oregon University System Representative Philip Bransford said.

In April of 1998, the Public Employees Benefit Board awarded health and dental benefits not only to same-sex domestic part-

ners but to all domestic partners, he said.

Life insurance is one of the last benefits still not available to same-sex domestic partners. The board is not scheduled to address this issue until January 2000.

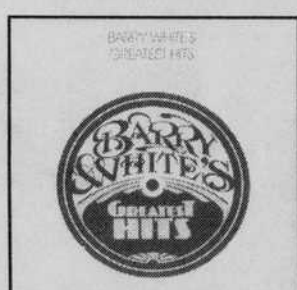
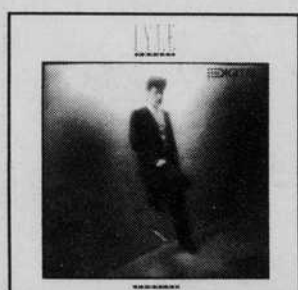
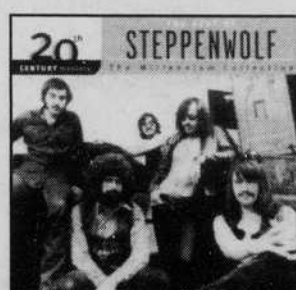
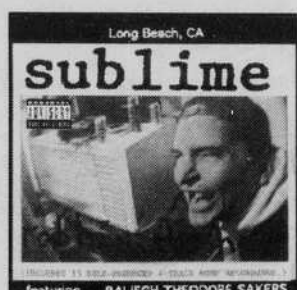
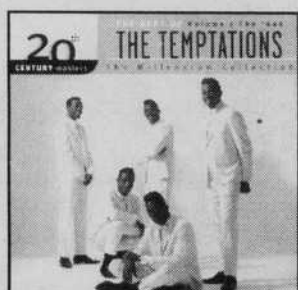
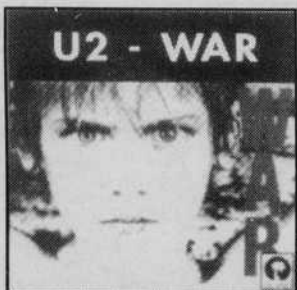
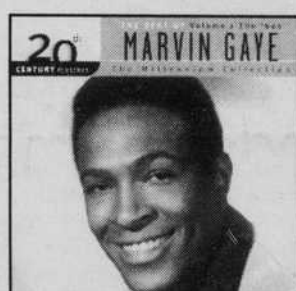
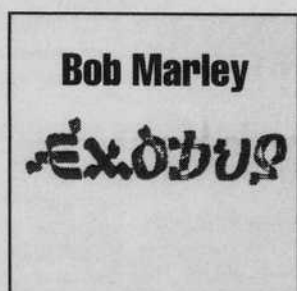
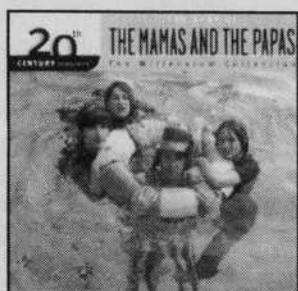
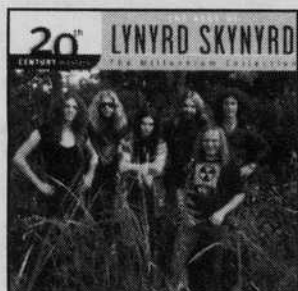
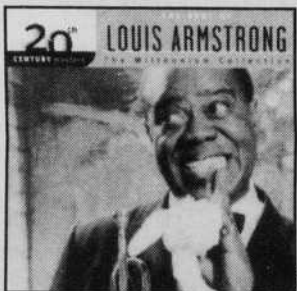
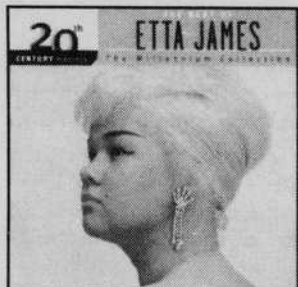
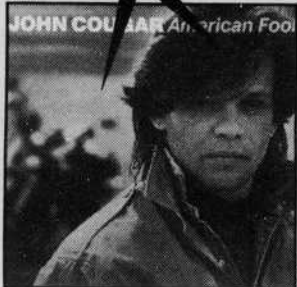
There are certain guidelines the board has to follow in order to change the rules, said Bransford, and these are happening as soon as possible.



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