

UO Independence

Bill has power over president, but not tuition

A bill being drafted by Eugene Rep. Phil Barnhart could create a transparent local UO board that's appointed by the governor and/or elected and has the power to raise salaries and veto the firing of the UO president, but has very limited power to raise tuition.

Barnhart said he's been talking to other elected officials, a legislative attorney and UO student and faculty leaders in drafting the bill. "Nothing is final yet," he said, inviting more input from the public.

But Barnhart said he has prioritized affordable tuition and public accountability in the change in governance. "I'm not interested in a private university," he said, "not even a little bit."

Barnhart laid out key provisions that may be included in a bill introduced

statewide organization," he said.

The local board would be free to give raises to faculty and administrators, Barnhart said. In doing so they could balance faculty retention against faculty-student ratios, tuition costs and other funding issues, according to Barnhart. "Obviously there would have to be financial constraints," he said.

Barnhart said he supported fired UO President Richard Lariviere's raises for faculty, but as for the administrative raises, "I don't know."

How exactly the powerful local board would be selected is a "big discussion item" that hasn't been decided, Barnhart said. "I think you could have the governor appoint all of them," he said. That's similar to the existing system with the state OUS board. But Barnhart said it would be different with a board focused on the UO.

'Tuition and fees need to be managed through a statewide organization.'

— Rep. Phil Barnhart

later next month for possible passage in February. "Exactly how this is going to pan out, I don't know," he said.

A key provision in the bill would give the local board veto power to block the firing or hiring of a UO president, according to Barnhart. In turn, a state board, perhaps the governor's new Education Investment Board, would also have the same hiring/firing veto power.

Barnhart said that to avoid "huge fights" in the Legislature, the UO board would still be under a state board when it comes to competing for state financing and borrowing authority and in establishing competing academic specialties.

Barnhart said the local UO governing board would improve the transparency of the current local decision making at the UO. Now, "the decisions get made by the president within Johnson Hall without much oversight," he said. For example, Barnhart faulted former UO president Dave Frohnmayer for deciding to sell Westmoreland family housing without public input.

A board could offer public meetings, hearings, public notice of deliberations, transparency and public accountability to such decisions, Barnhart said.

But Barnhart said he's heard concerns from students that a local board should not have a free hand to increase tuition and fees. "There's a whole bunch of concern," he said.

Barnhart said the Legislature or the governor's statewide Investment Board could set caps on tuition and fee increases of perhaps 2 to 3 percent a year. "Tuition and fees need to be managed through a

Some or all of the UO board members could also be elected statewide, he said. Asked if people in Pendleton would know or care enough to vote, Barnhart said it would be no different than electing Oregon Supreme Court justices statewide.

Barnhart said some of the board members could also be elected by faculty members and/or students. "You could do that," he said. "All those possibilities are on the table."

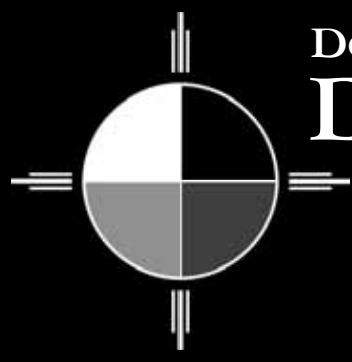
Barnhart said the board should include diverse interests. "Obviously you don't want the faculty running the whole thing, because that's too narrow an interest," he said. "You don't want a board made up entirely of local athletic department boosters."

He said unlike an earlier bill for an independent board the board he's proposing would not self-perpetuate by appointing many of its own members. "I don't think that's acceptable," he said. Barnhart said he also hasn't proposed a seat on the public board for the privately run UO Foundation.

Scandals have plagued independent but clueless and crony boards at Penn State, and corporations such as Enron have not provided much oversight of chief executives. But Barnhart said he wants the UO board to use its power to demand information and accountability from the UO president.

The new UO board could intervene in the president's contract and hiring and firing decisions, Barnhart said. "This board has to take its accountability and transparency responsibilities seriously."

EW



DONALD DEXTER JR DMD LLC
DENTISTRY

"The first wealth is health."
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Invest in your health, the returns are abundant.

2233 WILLAMETTE ST, BLDG B • 541-485-6644
www.drddexter.com



Tasty Thai Kitchen
Authentic Thai Cuisine

SOUTH EUGENE

2010 The Register-Guard Readers' Choice 1st PLACE

BEST THAI FOOD

DAILY DELIVERY 4:30-9:00pm
MON-FRI 11am-9:30pm
SAT & SUN 9:30am-9:30pm
80 E. 29th & Willamette 541-302-6444



Tasty Thai Campus
Authentic Thai Cuisine

BUBBLE TEA

BEST LUNCH BARGAINS

2010 The Register-Guard Readers' Choice WINNER

DELIVERY AVAILABLE 4:30-9:00pm
Open Daily: 11am-9:30pm
1308 Hilyard • 541-343-0165



Life OF THE MIND
INSIGHT SEMINARS
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON LIBRARIES

LISTENING TO BACH
January 7, 14, 21, and 28 (9:30 a.m.-noon)
Collier House Living Room
Learn about Bach's music with the UO's renowned baroque musicologist and cellist, who will explain and demonstrate how to listen to Bach's cantatas, organ pieces, Brandenburg concertos, and cello suites. Professor Marc Vanscheeuwijck (Music) \$90

DANTE'S INFERNO
February 4, 11, 18, 25 (9:30 a.m.-noon)
Knight Library Browsing Room
One of the world's greatest books by one of the world's greatest poets. Essential reading for any educated person. Winter is the perfect season for a breathtaking trip through Hell with Dante and Virgil. Professor Gina Psaki (Italian) \$90

CLOSE READING
March 10 (10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.)
Knight Library Browsing Room
Great literature offers delight and wisdom, but not always, and not to everyone. Noticing the right things and giving them the attention they deserve is called "close reading." Close reading can be learned. Get the most from what you read by giving the best attention to the best things. Professors James Earl and James Crosswhite (English) \$45 (includes book and lunch)

Free Evening Discussions

Bach's Cello Suites in Performance, Tuesday, January 3, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Collier House Living Room. With Marc Vanscheeuwijck.

Reading Dante for Pleasure, Monday, January 30, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Knight Library Browsing Room. With Gina Psaki.

Poems on Rembrandt, Monday, February 13, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Knight Library Browsing Room. With Steve Shankman.

The Situation in Pakistan, Monday, February 27, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Knight Library Browsing Room. With Anita Weiss.

O LIBRARIES
University of Oregon

To register, call 541-346-1889, or online at:
libweb.uoregon.edu/administration/insight.html

EO/AA/ADA institution committed to cultural diversity. © 2011 University of Oregon DES 052z