



November 25, 2011

**STATEMENT FROM THE FACULTY MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

"FOR THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION IN OREGON"

The University of Oregon Senate Executive Committee denounces the State Board of Higher Education's plan to fire President Richard Lariviere. This action will cause grave and long-lasting harm to our state and will severely diminish the quality of higher education for Oregonians.

President Lariviere has vocally and publicly aligned his vision for the UO with Governor Kitzhaber's efforts to develop creative, innovative solutions to the problems besetting our entire education system. Under President Lariviere's bold and dedicated leadership, the UO has begun to close the previously widening gap that separated it from nearly all of its national peers. In student enrollments, faculty research grants, diversity, the quality of the freshman class, and private giving, the UO has improved while many of the country's leading public research universities have suffered setbacks. This is compelling evidence of President Lariviere's tangible record of success during a brief tenure of two and a half years, a remarkable achievement in light of ongoing state disinvestment in higher education.

The spontaneous and widespread outcry of support for President Lariviere—including more than 4,500 signatures on a Senate petition as of today—demonstrates that he inspires deep and passionate commitment among those who carry out and support UO's teaching and research missions. His departure will shatter morale at the UO, cause many of its employees to leave the state for positions elsewhere, and make it difficult to recruit new academic talent. This will compromise the university's ability to serve Oregon's citizens and to stimulate its economy now and in the future. The damage will be both short- and long-term. The deterioration and destabilization of the UO will lead some of Oregon's most promising and deserving high school graduates to seek their education in other states, where the cost of tuition will be much higher. The inability to attract and educate our best and brightest here at home will cause a brain drain with exceptionally negative consequences for Oregon.

The State Board's plan to remove President Lariviere without first consulting the university community demonstrates a profound lack of understanding about UO's educational mission. It reveals an appalling disregard for the intelligence and expertise of our dedicated and hard-working faculty, students, and staff. The process by which it has occurred will harm the recruitment of leaders in all public universities in Oregon, marking the state system as one in which pursuing excellence is a risk to one's career.

Due to the efforts of our current President, the UO has been put on an upward academic and fiscal trajectory. This momentum will be lost and it will be extremely difficult to regain without him.

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In the strongest possible terms, we urge the State Board to halt its efforts to remove Richard Lariviere as the President of the University of Oregon. Furthermore, we implore the Governor and the Legislature to help ensure his retention, not merely for the benefit of the University of Oregon, but for the present and future well-being of all Oregonians.

Faculty members of the University of Oregon Senate Executive Committee.

Robert Kyr, Philip H. Knight Professor, School of Music and University of Oregon Senate President

John E. Bonine, B.B. Kliks Professor, School of Law

William T. Harbaugh, Professor, Department of Economics and Senate Transparency Committee Chair

Ryan Kellems, Research Associate, College of Education

Peter A. Keyes, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture and Former President of the University of Oregon Senate

Harinder Kaur Khalsa, Senior Instructor, Department of Romance Languages

Ian McNeely, Associate Professor, Department of History and Academic Council Chair

John Nicols, Professor, Departments of History and Classics

Kim Sheehan, Professor, School of Journalism and Communication and Faculty Advisory Council Chair

Nathan Tublitz, Professor, Department of Biology and Immediate Past President of the University of Oregon Senate

Glen R. Waddell, Associate Professor, Department of Economics