

Bond Uni sale talks collapse

NEGOTIATIONS for the purchase of Bond University's land and buildings by the University of Queensland have broken down.

University of Queensland Registrar Douglas Porter confirmed that talks between officials of both universities ceased about two weeks ago.

The impasse comes as a court case looms between Bond University and the owners of the land in relation to the university's claims that it has a lease and tenure over the property.

By AMANDA SHEPPEARD

But John Allpass, of KPMG Peat Marwick, the receiver for the land owner, says Bond has never paid rent or maintenance for the campus.

Bond University has been outspoken in its opposition to UQ's purchase of the land, saying it is a threat to Bond's independence.

Mr Porter said UQ was forging ahead with its bid despite the setback.

"We are talking to the receivers," he said. "We still have some time be-

fore the contract needs to be fulfilled."

Mr Porter said negotiations had been continuing with Bond University until about two weeks ago.

He said UQ had made proposals to Bond in relation to a lease, rent and the possible future purchase of the campus.

Until about November last year these discussions had been amicable, but they had since deteriorated.

One of the major problems had been both sides' interpretation of 'independent'.

Mr Porter said UQ was not threatening Bond's independence as a private institution, but had asked to have three representatives on the university's board of 11.

He said this request was prompted by the fact that UQ was making a large investment through its purchase of the university site, buildings and hundreds of hectares of surrounding residential land.

"All we're asking for is an opportunity to work together with a private university," he said.