

March 17, 1976

SENATOR BARNETT: OK, maybe Senator Fowler can. He's got his light on. I hope somebody can.

SENATOR SAVAGE: The next light on is Senator Murphy and then we'll go to Senator Fowler.

SENATOR MURPHY: Senator Barnett, if I may.

SENATOR SAVAGE: Senator Barnett, Senator Murphy has a question for you.

SENATOR MURPHY: I was privileged to visit with the group at the University one evening along with several other Senators that was designated as the Student Services Division. The purpose of the meeting was to explain to us the great lengths they go to in providing services. At that meeting was a young Negro who was handling that Division, Jim, and I can't recall his last name. What was it Senator? Smith. That's a tough name. Anyhow, they went through their various.... They had a native American there who explained some of the problems. Typically one problem he designated was that they had had a couple of native American girls in there who were unable to remain in the room at the dormitory because it was inhabited by evil spirits. So they hired a medicine man to drive them out. This is the sort of thing that you get into with these people. It was my understanding these people were all part of the University Student Services proposition. So I think what you're saying really exists. It would probably be up to the discretion of the University to continue that program.

SENATOR SAVAGE: Chair recognizes Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: If I could maybe shed some light on the questions. I'm fairly familiar with this program. I think it was established it must be six years ago with federal money. It is separate from the regular counseling program in part because it has been federally funded. The federal funds may run out, so they're needing to continue this. I'd also indicate that it is not just racial minority students that are eligible for the services. They have provided counseling services to low income white students. The concept is simply that there are students who come to the University who may need additional assistance in terms of not just academic counseling but social counseling, this would be available through the Special Services. It's tied ... it's not part of the scholarship and financial aids office, but it's tied into the services there. The students that have qualified for low income scholarships are also ... also have these other services available. The problem is that the federal money may be taken out from under it. There needs to be some guarantee that the state funds will continue. From what I can tell from the University administration is that they would appreciate a sign from the Legislature that there is a willingness of state government to support this type of program. I think that's the background on Senator Chambers amendment. I would support it. I think it's been a very worthwhile program at the University and has helped a lot of students with the problems that they've had.