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April 24, 2001 LB 329, 543, 849

from the university just arrived yesterday. And I'd asked them about certain hiring decisions that were made as recently as 1998 and 1999, and their letter back to me said that they had lost the personnel records for that period of time. And I found that rather troubling. So I crafted this language in the hope that we could give the university some encouragement to use a more competitive process when there are vacancies on the faculty. It's not an absolute mandate, it recognizes that there are some instances when they may need to try to attract a certain candidate to fill a certain position. And they might not want to open up to a competitive process. And that's understandable, there are cases when that might occur, and I don't quibble with that. But I think that at a minimum I'd like the university to provide us with some data annually, showing the number of vacancies and the number of times that the vacancies were filled or not filled using a competitive process and perhaps some explanation as to why they might not have used a competitive process in certain instances. That's all the language does, nothing more. It doesn't challenge the existing, what I'll call the Wesley-Chambers language. It does not challenge that language; that language stays in effect, that language has become kind of a staple item in the appropriations bill over the years. I...I'm not going to pretend that I like the language,. I don't. I think that the university has its own personnel programs and policies that are designed to attract a diverse faculty, and I don't think that the Legislature should...should try to set certain mandates or quotas. But be that as it may, we've done that, we've gone down that road. And my amendment does not challenge that language, it lets that alone, lets it stand, but it simply puts a reporting requirement on the university to give us certain data on the number of instances when they use the competitive process to fill a vacancy and the number of instances when they did not. Thank you very much, I'll leave it at that and continue with the debate. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Foley. Items for the record, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Schrock would like to print amendments to LB 329; Senator Connealy to LB 849; and Senators