

to handle it, I just have my doubts about their ability to coordinate and communicate higher education in this state. And the whole series of events in the last week, again, raised that issue about an elected board of regents versus an appointed board of regents, perhaps again another case is made for looking at and moving toward an appointed board of regents, which I think is part of the issue that we need to address and have yet to address with this higher education organization.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Crosby, please.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support Senator Wehrbein's amendment. I really feel strongly that criticizing the board of regents isn't the way to go today. I happen to admire them. Think about their names, they are people that you know. They aren't some little unit out there, they are people, Blank, Payne, Robinson, Allen, Fricke, Hansen, Skrupa and Hoch, it sounds like a law firm. But I'm not sure, after rereading what just a small segment in the Blue Book, what the regents are supposed to do. I'm not sure that they're supposed to unite and come out for or against any kind of legislation. What they're really for is to administrate and set policy at the university. They hire the central administration, they hire professors. Professors have to be affirmed by the board of regents. I happen to like my own regent really well. Don Fricke is an all American academic...academic all American, along with being a member of the football team, graduate of our dental school. He happens to be my dentist. I really do think that he's a good regent and I admire him a lot, he's a very quiet person, but I think he's effective. I agree with the amendment because I do think the study is important, and I like the idea that they will come back to us if some things are found that perhaps we didn't do correctly today, or next week, or whenever this goes to Final Reading. Plus the fact that the study is near and dear to Senator Withem's heart, so I do want it to go through. I do disagree with a few things that were said this morning, that the university hasn't answered and lived up to what they're supposed to do across the state. I think in the agribusiness field the University of Nebraska is fantastic. The food producers and the other things that they do in research in agriculture tells every day what happens here in Nebraska, and we are an agribusiness state, we must remember that. To compare us to Creighton, which is a Jesuit school, was organized under different thought lines and different philosophies and Southern Methodist University, the same thing. Nebraska