

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) Please, let's hold it down so we can hear the speakers, please. Thank you. Thank you, Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President. The issue before us is an amendment that allows for the appropriation to take place. It doesn't take place prior to the completion of a study that determines the extent of the appropriation necessary. Senator Warner, the amendment was drafted by bill drafters. If there is a flaw in it with regard to the process, I will take blame for that. I don't know that there is and I guess I would have to have that proved to me just like I would like to see the repairs necessary at the College of Pharmacy proved to me through this study, because, ladies and gentlemen, we're appropriating the same amount of money that it took to build this building 13 years ago. We are dealing, I think in many cases, with reputable companies and reputable companies just as reputable experts disagree. I think it's important that we, as the, I guess, fiscal oversight body with regard to how we spend things, take a look at how \$2.7 million is going to be spent and know full well that it's going to be done appropriately. Senator Warner alluded to the fact that possibly by doing these tests it may cause more damage. If these tests are going to cause more damage which would then prove that more extensive repair is needed to be made, who can guarantee us that the \$2.7 million that we're spending might not just be flushing more down the toilet? It's very likely that this may not even be enough to repair the building to the extent necessary to continue to use it. We could very well find ourselves back here...no guarantees, remember, that we will have to spend another 2.7 or maybe at that time it will be 5 million, without knowing full well, without providing for the tests necessary to determine what the total extent of the damage is. I think it's only prudent on our part to do this study. Set aside the money, yes. Have it there available, yes. Get it done as quickly as possible, yes. Disrupt the students and the school as little as possible, yes. But still do it because you're going to have to do it if you appropriate the money anyway. You're going to disrupt them. They're going to be out. You're going to make the repairs. But let's make sure we're making the full extent of the repairs necessary or doing enough necessary, maybe we don't have to spend as much. It's only the prudent thing to do. Isn't that long ago and many members can remember when there were reputable firms involved out at Chadron State and there was a Student Union that fell down around our ears not too long ago