

by 12, or 72 square feet. Just seems kind of an anomaly that they have so many students and not very much space. And I think that it would be a mistake to delete this particular amendment or this particular section from the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wehrbein, please, followed by Senator Langford and Senator Scofield.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members. I'm going to go over, not necessarily briefly, but somewhat in detail why we felt, the Appropriations Committee, to include Founders Hall. This is the reasoning behind the addition of Founders Hall. If you can see in your particular book, this is to add a third floor to Founders Hall. When it was originally planned, the project was envisioned to entail a three-story structure. The third floor was subsequently deleted from the project resultant to inflation, budget constraints and delays in planning. The final design, in '75, did, however, include foundation footings, elevator and other considerations that would make possible the addition of a third floor at some future point. This was in 1976. This request now, for the addition of a third floor, includes 28,895 gross square feet of construction, 15,878 assignable square feet for additional classrooms, laboratories and offices. The current facility houses campus administration offices, departmental offices, history, political science, psychology, sociology and social work. This will include 16 classrooms, 10 faculty offices, 4 special use laboratory rooms, 1 room for clerical support staff, and 1 each of male and female restrooms. I also handed out a chart showing the utilization of space, square feet comparison at the various colleges at Chadron, Kearney, Peru and Wayne. If you'll glance at that, you'll notice that Kearney is at much less, 67, I guess that isn't percent but it's head count per...compared to much higher space available at the others. In addition to that, I'd like to call your...that Kearney is now presently at 99 percent of space utilization. The enrollment at Kearney State has increased approximately 75 percent since 1975. And there is a general shortage of classroom, laboratory and faculty office space. So this is our rationale for doing it. It had been on the request list since 1984. It's not something that's come on lately. If you recall some other work that we've seen, that Kearney has been underfunded in many areas and the lack of classroom space is one of their shortages. So this was the rationale for putting Founders Hall in at this time. Kearney State now is nearly 10,000 enrollment, much in need of this classroom space,