

direct appropriations back to each of the institutions, then the function of the Board of Regents is really as an advisory board. They don't have the final authority on how those funds should be distributed and, in effect, the Legislature has the final authority. The theory of LB...or of LR 239CA is to have the Board of Regents be the coordinating body for the seven institutions and then each of the boards of trustees of those institutions be the governance structure, as I understand it. It seems to me that if you really want them to be the coordinating authority, you have got to give the Board of Regents the power and the final discretion on how those funds would be distributed to the various campuses. And that is the basis of this amendment. I think it's a very important amendment. There are...there have been some articles written in the editorials expressing a concern that if you have the Legislature making the final determination as to how the appropriations are distributed, then you increase the possibility for each institution to make the so-called end run around the Board of Regents and go directly to the Legislature for an appropriation. Let me give you an example. Say one of the state colleges, for example, made a specific request to the Board of Regents, the new Board of Regents that would be formed, and asked that the Board of Regents consider this funding request for their specific college. If the Board of Regents denies that request and in its budget request to the Legislature does not include that particular request from that state college, then there...under the present structure, there would be a great deal of...well, a great deal of encouragement or at least a tendency of the state college, if they really wanted this particular budget item, to bypass the Board of Regents and go directly to their senators in the Legislature from their district, or whatever, and request that the Legislature overrule the Board of Regents and make that funding request anyway. And they would have that authority and they would be encouraged to do it because the Legislature would be the final say in who made those budget decisions because the Legislature would appropriate that money directly back to the state college. On the other hand, if this amendment were adopted, you would discourage those so-called end runs on the Board of Regents because any lump sum appropriation that came back to the Board of Regents would then be distributed by the Board of Regents. The Board of Regents would have the final discretion on whether to appropriate a part of that lump sum back to the specific state colleges or state college that we're using in this example. If we're really going to give the Board of Regents some kind of authority to control