

PRESIDENT: Senator McFarland, please.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you very much. This is the other what I think are crucial amendments to this whole process. This is an amendment which would combine the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Nebraska Med Center under one board of trustees. In the present situation, if the bill is enacted in its present form and the constitutional amendment is enacted in its present form, there would be seven boards of trustees for the various educational institutions of higher education in our state, those seven being Chadron State College, Wayne State College, Peru State College, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska Med Center, University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Kearney State College. This amendment, instead of having seven boards of trustees, would restrict it to six boards of trustees and would have those boards of trustees...have one of the boards of trustees designated for UN-L and the University of Nebraska Med Center combined. There is a lot of historical precedent for that type of combination in that there is a consistency of having the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and UN-O, or excuse me, and the University of Nebraska Med Center under one board of trustees. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Nebraska Medical Center were traditionally what was composed of the University of Nebraska or back when I went to school that was what was the University of Nebraska. They are the, traditionally, institutions in our state that were designated originally for granting higher graduate degrees and professional degrees. And, for that reason, it seems to me that their boards of trustees should...that one board of trustees should be designated for both the UN-L and the University of Nebraska Med Center. It's interesting to note, and I think by way of analogy to support my position, if the University of Nebraska Med Center were located in Lincoln, I don't think there would be any question that we would be saying that the University of Nebraska Med Center should be under one board of trustees with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. For example, we have in Lincoln here the University of Nebraska Dental School. We have the University of Nebraska Law School that grants professional degrees, and, of course, they are under the structure proposed going to be under a Board of Regents with UN-L, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. However, the structure, as I now understand it, is to...that is being proposed is to have the University of Nebraska-Lincoln board of trustees be the governing board for UN-L, the dental school, the law school, but