

exercise. This is the frustration that you feel, if you feel frustration, like I do, about our current system, our current system that has three different sectors of higher education that apparently never really speak to each other, unless they want to, and never really decide...coordinate their programs with the other sectors, unless they want to. This is a new body with new powers. The consultants, I believe, looked at this question of how should they be chosen. Maybe Senator McFarland is correct, they did look at it somewhat from a political point of view. They said the people in Nebraska have spoken out numerous times, through public opinion polls, that they want some say in the election of their Board of Regents. They have also spoken out through their adoption of the Constitution. They did create...Currently, what we have are two bodies that provide governance over these institutions. We have a Board of Regents that is elected, eight members that are elected. We have a board of trustees, over the state colleges, that people seem to forget about in this. They're all appointed, every one of them is appointed. What they said is let's abolish both of those boards, let's create this new coordination board and let's blend what has historically been the practice in Nebraska of partially electing those people and partially appointing those people. And that's what you have. Why 11? Nothing magic about the number 11, that is just the number that they came up with. Six of them being elected, as they are now, committee amendments would change that, so rather than running in whole congressional districts they are running within their own smaller district, and five members that will be appointed, as the current board of trustees are now. We've lived with this mix of appointive and elective over as I'm long, I'm sure, as anybody here can remember, I don't know when it was created back in our Constitution of partially elected and partially appointed. I think it's a good system that we have in this amendment. I certainly don't....Even though I philosophically, back when Senator Lee Rupp was here Chairing the Constitutional Revision Committee, did a marvelous job of convincing me, at that time, that we ought to go to all appointed members. Since that time lobbyist, Lee Rupp, has convinced me that probably the other side is as appropriate, that...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: ...that we probably shouldn't be appointing all of these people. I think, I think in one case we do....I'm not one who shies from flying in the face of public opinion and