

Legislature to have the final say on capital expenditures for education, once a total appropriation has been approved by the legislature, the final budgetary decision on the instructional program belongs with the Board of Regents." And he goes on to give reasons. "Decision-making authority for the curriculum allows the regents to operate as educational leaders of the state rather than as political leaders." I'll come back to that word "political" in a minute. "This authority allows the regents to complete the job which they begin each year early in the budget process, and gives them true authority and accountability in the coordination of higher education, aptly defined by Senator Warner as 'the power to, if needed, say no.' A final reason for vesting programmatical and decision-making responsibility is the favorable environment this authority presents in recruiting and attracting a top quality university president, as well as retaining and attracting a high caliber faculty. With such key decision-making and coordinating powers being placed in the political arena, topnotch administrators and faculty may not view our university system as desirable. In summary, our suggestion is that the legislation be modified to place final budgetary approval of all capital projects with the Legislature, but to place the authority for curriculum decisions with the Board of Regents following the Legislature's approval of the total instructional appropriation." My only comment on that is that we are all political, the regents are political, the people who are appointed to any of these boards are political. So the use of the word "political", I understand what they are saying, but I don't think that that is really a good point to make, because when you are talking about tax money of any kind and appropriations of that tax money, and the use for public institutions and so on, the process is political. But I do think that the point he makes about allowing the regents to operate as educational leaders of this state is very important. And so, for that reason, I will again support this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Mr. Clerk. Members of the body, we do have a priority motion on the desk, but I'd exercise the Chair's prerogative and go to another motion which we need to handle, if there is no objection, before we recess for lunch. Senator Baack has a motion to handle. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Baack has a hearing scheduled for I believe Wednesday or Thursday of this week. Pursuant to that, I have a motion to suspend Rule 3, Section 13 to permit