

here. For those of you who were off the floor, just take a look at the two charts that I have proposed, because I...and I've sent around to you, because I think it clearly explains what this amendment will do. Under the one particular chart under the present system, that has just been recently delegated out under...this would be the present budget process under the bill, under this bill. The board of regents would make the budget request, the Legislature would consider it, and appropriations would be directly from the Legislature to the various institutions. What I am proposing to change the bill is the other chart, which is labeled the "McFarland amendment", which would have the various institutions make their requests through the board of regents, board of regents make the budget request to the Legislature, then the Legislature appropriate a composite sum back to the board of regents for distribution by the board of regents. It seems to me that that would be a much more efficient process. I think it would be a much more fair process, and it would give the duty and responsibility to the board of regents for governance of higher education and for coordination of education. Actually, the coordination is what we're emphasizing. And, if they don't have that final discretion on how those funds are appropriated, I think we really undermine their ability to coordinate higher education, because we then make the Legislature the super board of regents. If everyone, each individual institution can continue to come in, bypass the board of regents, go to the Legislature and ask for a direct appropriation back, then, in effect, the power and the authority of the board of regents is undermined, the board becomes really an advisory board. I think this amendment is something that would improve the system, something that would carry out the goals that were established by the commission to allow the board of regents to coordinate higher education in our state, and to improve it. I think the allegation that somehow this is a complete delegation of authority of the Legislature is overstated and, quite frankly, incorrect. The Legislature, of course, would control the amount of funding that they would send back to the board of regents. The Legislature could still send back those appropriations with intent language about how the appropriations should be distributed, how they should be used by the board of regents or the individual institution. The question is, who would have the final discretion? Under this bill, if it's passed in this form, the discretion...the final discretion would be totally the Legislature's. Under the amendment that I propose, the final discretion on...would be the board of regents. And in I think 99 percent of the cases the