

utilization of this particular bill as it has been explained, the original contents are a part of LB 1031 and the bill number was used as the vehicle in order to provide the ability to consider this bill, or this structure by itself. And relative to Kearney Campus, as has been explained last year, there was in the appropriation Founders Hall third floor, which had a, as I...about a \$2.2 million cost for that third floor. Senator Scofield indicated that was 27,000, a little over 27,000 square feet in that addition on the floor. In the case of Kearney, they have the highest utilization of buildings and the lowest assignable square feet per full-time equivalent student of any of our postsecondary institutions of the seven senior institutions. Even with this addition, the number of square feet per full-time equivalent student will be about 90, a little over 90 square feet. This compares with other institutions, and no institution is that low. Other institutions run from anywhere from 160 to 226 square feet. Senator Langford has indicated how they have transferred a variety of space or converted a variety of space into some kind of usable space, even though it was not designed for those purposes because of the necessity. Enrollment has grown and it was recognized that to put on the third floor would not begin to meet or answer the need. Senator Scofield also pointed out of Copeland Hall, which is the next structure that was planned for renovation, but in that renovation it was still going to be short of the necessary square feet for that facility. And so it became apparent that addition of a straight classroom, faculty office structure was far more appropriate way to give more space to students to improve education, to provide the classrooms that's necessary in order for courses to be taught, that this was a much more logical approach, a much more effective way to utilize public funds than some of the other proposals that we had previously looked at. I would urge that the body would adopt the committee amendment. There is no question about the need for the space. There is no question about the issue that is being...the space is being utilized now to the maximum and then some and this is by far more economical way to provide that space than some of the other proposals that originally was looked at, so I urge that the body adopt the amendment and enact the bill.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Lynch, please. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yeah, Mr. President and members, it's appropriate probably the day before officially St. Patrick's Day that...and when I put my button on I assumed we would be talking