

time, I think it overly burdens a constitutional amendment at this particular point and I would hope the body would not agree to the McFarland amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: I could add absolutely nothing to what Senator Bernard-Stevens said. His comments echoed mine very...almost identically and for that reason I'm going to be opposing the McFarland amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator McFarland, please.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Yeah, thank you. I think one of the things that gets lost in the confusion is whether this is going to be an appointment to the Board of Regents and the Board of Trustees and I think this emphasizes or at least illustrates a problem with the bifurcated system that is being proposed in this amendment. When you say you're going to have a Board of Regents of higher education and then below that each of the seven institutions are going to have a separate Board of Trustees concerned with the governance of that institution and on those boards of trustees you're going to have a student member as well, then I think a faculty member is appropriate too. The...with the new system, you're not going to have a Board of Regents governing the three university campuses, you're going to have a Board of Regents that governs higher education in general and you're going to have seven separate Boards of Trustees. Every member is going to be appointed by the Governor except for the student member of the Board of Trustees, and they would not be a student regent. They would be a student member of the Board of Trustees. The idea of a faculty member of the Board of Trustees, I don't think presents a conflict of interest anymore than a student member would because you have student members who would, obviously, have conflicts because they would be voting on what classes or what programs may be offered in their particular area of study, how the student fees are assessed, all kinds of...there would be a natural conflict with any of them. I think the real focus is, and the question I have to ask myself is, why do we need appointed boards of trustees in general, I guess. If you say that the students or the faculty should not be members of the board of trustees for the governance function, why don't we just have one Board of Regents for all of higher education and they be in charge of both administration and coordination and have a president from each of the separate