

members on the oversight commission felt very comfortable with. We brought it forward in LR 239. I think it is a good proposal, one that will place into effect a coordinating body over the seven senior level institutions in our state, and placed the governance, the individual campus governance on a more decentralized basis down on the campus level. For one reason or another, we have not been able to crystallize, as a body, our attention on to LR 239CA. We have gone off on to other tangents. We have tended to forget about the importance of it. We have not really honored the commitment that we made last year as a body to address higher education governance. We have gotten distracted with a number of "what if" scenarios, worst case scenarios, on the specifics of the proposal. We have waded through a number of...waded through a number of specific type of amendments to this. I think one of the most devious things that has happened on this is that our University of Nebraska Board of Regents have very consciously, very conspicuously gone at least two months without doing anything incredibly stupid, and I think that is unfair on their part that they.... It is somewhat out of character and it has really put us off the track here. Seriously, seriously, the support for this proposal really hasn't gelled like I think it should and I think it is important that if we, as a Legislature, are going to address higher education, that we do it with strong conviction, lot of attention by the body, and a lot of public support in our state because I think it is important that we bring this about. We continue to have a higher education system in our state today, yesterday, and probably on into the future if we don't do something, that can't get its act together and cannot speak as a single voice, and cannot provide the type of efficiency in operation that we need, that is worthy of a segment of our state government that takes the significant portion of the budget that it does. We can't speak as a single voice in terms of making higher education work for our economic development of our state. We can't provide the type of coordination we need for our students attending the campuses around the state, when they transfer from one program to another. I think it is more important that we do it right than we do it slipshod. What I am doing is putting this motion before you as a sense of the body motion. I probably will offer the amendment, and I probably won't even vote on it. If you vote in favor of...if you vote in opposition of the bracket motion, I will interpret that as a signal that we, as a body, wish to go ahead and confront the higher education issue this session. If you vote against it, I will take that as a sign that you want more work...if you vote