

March 25, 1991

LB 663

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: All right, thank you. Senator Warner, I see you're in position. It's page 26 for others that might be interested. I just wanted you to review the budget-making process as you would foresee it, perhaps in some detail to the degree of...the potential squabbles between campuses, what would be their recourse between campuses if the coordinating commission didn't see them? Would we then be, wouldn't agree, would some of that issue then come to the Legislature for resolution or is there a recourse in there for them or just the general budget-making procedures you would see under this bill.

SENATOR WARNER: No, the process, it's not all that different than what we know now other than the fact that the coordinating commission will review during this budget cycle that is spelled out, the submission of budgets, will review the budgets of all these...each of the institutions. Their primary responsibility is to be looking for compliance with role and mission, with prevention of unnecessary duplication and to make sure that programs that they have disapproved would not otherwise be funded and it becomes advisory then to the Legislature in that respect with the exceptions I have noted, is that where there is a disapproved program then those would be out. In the case of capital construction, as we indicated earlier, again, the coordinating commission would have the authority to disapprove a capital construction, but as long as the submission is included, a list of whatever the number of priorities that the coordinating commission has approved, the Legislature would be authorized to go ahead and fund even though it might be in a different priority than what was submitted, but could be eligible to fund. The real authority they have with any area of budget is those items that they disapprove. Warrants cannot be drawn for those expenditures even we have approved the funding. That's the real authority. But the normal things that we're used to in operating budgets, including items we had talked earlier, like the tuition levels, they are essentially only make recommendations in those areas because it becomes involved with governance otherwise. The Legislature would still be free to determine the level of funding for the different institutions within their prescribed role and mission level of funding for new programs that were approved...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR WARNER: Not a significant difference from what we have now other than that authority to disapprove an item and then