

professors, both in my district at UNO and those at the Med Center, I think that there is a realization that, obviously, increases in salaries this year are not going to meet certainly the levels that they had met the year before. And I know President Massengale, when he came before our committee, I believe, was asking for a 13 or 14 percent increase in salaries for the university system. The \$3 million does not anywhere come close to that figure but it does, I believe, send a message that we will continue to fund our university system at a reasonable level and we will not make significant cuts at least in line personnel, those people that deliver services to our...to our students and to our young people in the State of Nebraska. We have, in the cigarette tax bill, put some money into capital construction, a needed project. The Beadle Center in Lincoln which was certainly a laudable project especially considering the substantial amount of money that our representatives in Washington have freed up for us here in Nebraska, projects to the extended campus facilities in greater Nebraska, facilities that I believe are needed, that have been on the drawing board for a significant period of time, and some capital construction projects at UNO and some planning money for needed capital construction at the Med Center. These are laudable projects and it's important that we maintain our physical plant and do the kinds of expansion that will...that are necessary. However, at least in my case, my first priority, even above and beyond those capital construction projects, has been and will continue to be funding the delivery of services to the students. And if it will be...and I have a significant problem with decreasing the amount of money for programs and raising tuition and some of those things that may be necessary in order to keep funding of university salaries at a reasonable level. And if we do not...may I have a gavel, Mr. Speaker, please. (Gavel.) It's my...thank you. It's my belief that if we do not increase or add this additional \$3 million into the budget, what we will be seeing in the next several months is a decrease in programs at UNO, potentially a decrease in programs at the University of Nebraska at Kearney and at UNL. We will see tuition increases across the board. There already is a tuition increase at Kearney and I expect that there may very well be tuition increases mandated by the Board of Regents at UNO and at the campus in Lincoln. That is not to say that reasonable tuition increases are not necessary at times to keep up with the costs of delivery of services. However, I think the \$3 million additional appropriation is a modest increase. If we are going to ask the students to pay additional tuition, if we