

SENATOR ROBAK: Call the question.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Okay. I have a motion to call the question. I see sufficient seconds. All those in favor of ceasing debate please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted on the motion to cease debate? Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

PRESIDENT MOUL: We have ceased debate. Senator Ashford, would you please close.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Yes, thank you, Madam President. I have sat in the Appropriations Committee all year and have been very frustrated, as I said before, by the fact that the faculty at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the faculty at the University of Nebraska at Kearney have bargained in good faith collectively for salary increases. Those salary increases ranged, I believe, from about 6.5 percent at UNO to approximately 8 percent or a little over 8 percent at Kearney. In the Appropriations Committee, we put into effect a tuition increase at Kearney to help defer the costs of...or the costs at Kearney. However, it has been very frustrating to me that we cannot, as an institution, cannot properly fund those salary increases and certain...and without effectively cutting drastically into salary increases at Lincoln. And we get thrown up in our face the argument, well, if we fund adequately the UNO and Kearney faculty increases, that will effectively cause unionization on the Lincoln campus. I have heard that this year. I've heard it every year since I've been here and when I used to represent public employees I heard it for about 10 years prior to that, as we want to make sure we keep union...a union off the Lincoln campus. And so that's why we do what we do. And we're going to...so the frustration that I feel because of that is immense. Senator Lynch and I did have a different approach. Senator Lynch's approach, which was also a valid approach, was to mandate that certain salaries be paid to the...per the collective bargaining agreements and that is an approach that can be taken and it is an approach which he tried to take unsuccessfully in the Appropriations Committee. My approach is a little different. My approach is basically to give to the university the money that they need to adequately fund these salary increases, these fairly bargained for salary increases. Remembering also that the B and C line employees