

on for several more minutes about the needs for Kearney. I will pass out the handouts on the funding but when you get this handout, look at the bottom and you'll see UNK, in terms of funding per student being at the very bottom. Know that if they want to get up to the next one, which is Central Community College, just to tie for last place, they need 3 million dollars. We're asking for an additional 250,000 dollars. It isn't going to make a big jump on that graph, but it's going to allow them the necessary additional staff and support to begin to chip away at that deficit, and for the people who were not supportive of the merger into the university system, they might sit back and smile coyly and say, well, that's what they deserve, but that's not the issue because that's not what caused the problem. The problem's been years of underfunding and it's continuing to boil and fester. With that, I thank you for your attention to this. I know that we have several other measures to look at today and I thank you for your attention to that and would ask that you would adopt this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Cudaback. Excuse me, Senator Cudaback. We do have an amendment to the amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Ashford would move to amend Senator Kristensen's...Senators Ashford, Hall, Chizek and Will would move to amend the Kristensen-Cudaback amendment. (See AM2064 as found on pages 2404-05 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. Speaker and members, I rise, first of all, in support of Senator Kristensen's efforts to increase the funding at Kearney by 250,000. My amendment initially was an increase of funding to UNO of 732,000 dollars, and I've decreased that down to 250,000 dollars and that is what I am requesting. Let me, for each year in the biennium, but let me try to explain what we did in the Appropriations Committee vis-a-vis Kearney. Kearney has, as Senator Kristensen rightly says, an increase in its tuition of 5 percent, up to 10 percent, and the amount of money we appropriated in the...we appropriated out of the General Funds an amount equal to that tuition increase. The logic there was, first of all, that Kearney needed the additional General Fund appropriation and Senator Bernard-Stevens was the individual in the committee who made that motion and most of us supported it.