

The logic is, as Senator Kristensen alluded to, is that we try to maintain an internal consistency within the university system. Could I get a gavel, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER BAACK: (Gavel.)

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you. Some internal consistency between the cash or tuition that the university has in its budget and the General Fund dollars. I think it's interesting to look at the numbers for the last couple of years and it shows that University of Nebraska at Kearney and UNO are essentially somewhat the same in the relationship between their General Fund dollars and their Cash Fund dollars. UNL, with its...including the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the percentage of cash to General Funds is substantially less so, for example, in 1990-91, UNO's percentage of General Fund to Cash, General Fund 67.1 percent, Cash Funds 32.9; UNK 66 percent to 34 percent; and UNL 76.7 percent to 23.3 percent. It highlights, I think, the point that Senator Kristensen is making, that both UNL...or UNK and UNO are, in a sense, General Fund poor in about the same proportions. We...I initially draft...if, for...going back to UNO for a moment, if UNO is funded at 90 percent of its salaries, if it receives funding at 90 percent, it will have a shortfall of 1,453,223 dollars off of its originally budgeted amount. If...that's assuming a 2 percent and a 3 percent cut. If, however, the Board of Regents decides to fund all of the University salaries at 4 percent across the board, or something similar to that, the total shortfall at UNO is 2,096,189 dollars. The difference between the 90 percent funding and the 4 percent funding is approximately 642,000 dollars additional shortfall. These numbers I think indicate, and I think Senator Kristensen's absolutely correct, that the spotlight is now on President Massengale. I know I've met with him a couple of times and he assured me that, as did the lobbyist for the university, that all the campuses would be taken into consideration fairly and that there had not been a decision made to adjust salaries uniformly or allocate salaries uniformly across the board, and that consideration would certainly be given to the collectively bargained for salaries at Kearney and at UNO, and I trust that President Massengale will, in fact, do that. But even if, even if UNO and certainly UNK are funded at 90 percent, and this is the key, if they're funded at 90 percent they still are...will have a significant shortfall. In summary, my amendment, as I said, is an increase in General Fund appropriations of 250,000