

worked. It has avoided strikes, it has avoided disruption of services, and it's worked. It's a good system. It's a good system. It is incumbent upon the university system and its President to give...send a clear message, send a clear message to this body of what it intends to recommend concerning those salaries, and we have yet to get that message from anybody connected with the university system and that's where I have a problem. I don't have a problem necessarily with Scott saying they ought to negotiate smaller raises. That is an option. As the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, with limited funds, I suppose I'd say the same thing too, possibly--look, you're going to have to renegotiate because there's not enough money--and that is a logical, a logical argument. But I just disagree with it because it belays the system under which we work. So, Senator Bernard-Stevens, my response to you of what would the 250,000 dollars do in each year of the biennium, I suspect, take your pick, it would add three or four professors that are needed at UNO; at Kearney it could add three or four professors that are needed at Kearney. But what it really does, what it really does is it sends a message, I hope, to the university that says, unless you give us clear messages, we don't have any choice but to try to increase the appropriations because we don't know what you're going to do. And it's one thing to say...it's one thing for the Board of Regents to say, well, we haven't met yet, we're going to wait...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ..till the Legislature makes its decision, but it's another thing for the President of the University to be silent on this issue, to not give us any direction on where we're going. It leaves the campuses totally in the dark, totally in the dark, and that's why we put the 250,000 dollars in for UNO and the money in for Kearney, because we are in the dark and it is unfair to this body not to get that clear message. So that's why I'm bringing this amendment and I urge that it be advanced or added on. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Ashford. I would remind the senators that the house is under call. Senator Ashford, would you please check in. We are still looking for Senator Labedz, Senator Rod Johnson and Senator Horgan. Senator Ashford, the other two senators are on their way. Do you wish to proceed?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Yes, I'd like a roll call vote in regular