

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: No, that's the total amount of the university budget is 19 percent. That's not the increase.

SENATOR AVERY: Okay, my mistake. I did misspeak.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Let's...let's go back. Well, let's find...where is the increase for the university budget? Let's go back and find that.

SENATOR AVERY: Their increase...that's right, I was looking at the...their increase is approximately, I believe, about 5, 5.6 percent.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Okay, so...all right, and you're talking on your...as you explained your amendment, you were going to have them have a 6 percent increase. Actually, they don't even have that much over the...over the biennium, do they?

SENATOR AVERY: They...over the biennium, yeah, they would. You have...in looking at the two-year totals, I think it's set up, one is 5...in terms of 5.5 and the total...and 5.6.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Okay, well I just wanted to make sure we get it straight for the record what we're talking about though that that 19 percent increase isn't true, that's their relative size. And I guess I was curious, if we're going to start to do those sorts of cuts, why don't we start with areas that the State of Nebraska doesn't have necessarily an obligation to fund first and which are larger, and if you use that pie chart, why don't we start with the larger fee user, which is aid to local government, which is almost 36 percent? If you're going to make cuts to balance the state budget, why don't we start with the larger fee user first, or the larger Cash Fund user, or the larger General Fund user first?

SENATOR AVERY: That's a question?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes, I guess that's a (inaudible) question.

SENATOR AVERY: I would be...I would be willing, and this is just the first amendments that I had proposed, as far as a start in the process of trying to be fiscally responsible to the citizens, to those other governmental entities that have told me, be a leader and...so we can follow, show us the right direction.