

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hall.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I'd like to know if this was to pass with the dean of the...have a dean in the college in Omaha, what would this imply? Was that implying a full-blown college sooner or later or is this simply at this point...? I see you take it away from a faculty member and make it a dean, so what's the implication there?

SENATOR HALL: Well, Senator Wicker...or excuse me, Wehrbein, the amendment would do this. It would take...it takes the monies, and the way it was drafted by Fiscal staff was to take the monies out of the unobligated or the, I guess, designated funds from those faculty members, the additional faculty member money that was given to the university system, so this is the money that would have been available at the discretion of the Board of Regents to allocate for faculty members across the system. That's how I understand it. It was drafted and I trust the folks in Fiscal who did that.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay.

SENATOR HALL: The intent would be, to answer your question, the crux of your question, the intent would be to have this individual, as we're appropriating for six new positions, to begin the process of examining and laying the ground work, yes, for a college, a full-blown College of Engineering at the Omaha campus, but I believe you have to have the administration on-site. They have to be there and have the ability to begin that process, otherwise it will never happen. I think this is a first step toward that end.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay. Would that maintain...would that be proposed to remain under the University of Nebraska system as a whole?

SENATOR HALL: In terms of...I would not separate UNO back out from the system but I...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: N: Is that implied in this or could it be?

SENATOR HALL: Well, no, I would not imply that somehow the system would be separate and distinct. The college would clearly be, yes.