

with a process where the Legislature would appropriate funds that were not for expansion of a program that was required to be approved by the Coordinating Commission under the Constitution. I do not want to get the practice started that the Legislature would beat the Coordinating Commission over the head on the basis that we've appropriated the money and I appreciate the disclaimer being added to the amendment that that is not intended to happen. I'm sure others will speak to the fact that moving the money from the area in the appropriation bill that there is now, in fact, takes faculty away, I think primarily from UNK and UNO, which certainly the level of additional funding that was approved by the Appropriations Committee to be recommended by them to us is significantly less than what was requested for those locations, but I would be exceedingly hesitant to further reduce those appropriations but I'm sure others will speak to that...to that issue. But I would hope that as this issue and others on the expansion of higher educational opportunities across the state will be viewed as a process that ought to be followed what is put into place with a constitutional amendment. Senator Withem, and I, and I guess I participated in the introduction, I forget, but I did certainly participate in...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WARNER: ..the discussion of it's so important if you really want to talk about economic development and that's part of the talk here, but it's got to be done in an orderly way and I would hope the...we don't get involved in a discussion of the reference to the letter. I haven't been asked what I thought about it. If I was, the only responsible reply from my viewpoint is none. The responsible act is to go ahead and proceed with an orderly expansion of higher ed opportunities and not either react negative or positive or any other way to the letter that was written and it's immaterial to me. What is material is that we have a process that will expand these opportunities. I think that's in place. I think Appropriations...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR WARNER: ..Committee is moving in that direction and the Legislature should follow in a similar fashion.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely.