

SENATOR BROMM: To...to put this as simply as I can, if I budget for 3 employees at \$12,000 a year and on January 1 I only have 2 employees, and I don't fill that position, I would save that \$12,000 then for that year, starting January 1. If I hired somebody on say June 1st then I will spend 7,000 of that 12, saving me 5. If I have hired a temporary person for \$500 a month for 5 months, up until June 1 I will have used up \$2,500 of my vacancy savings, leaving me \$2,500. Now that's...that's the way I understand vacancy savings. Now, I think the key question here is, the key question here is, can we justify leaving \$2.8 million in the budget for this purpose? And as I understand it when there is a vacancy, depending upon the college that it is, that money goes to a vice chancellor, or it goes to a dean, and they make a decision on how to use that money. And I will grant you that it provides them some flexibility. I will grant you that it provides them some money for future planning and flexibility in many areas, and that's not a bad thing. But I'd suggest that we need to get leaner with our budgets. And I think in the university setting, and in most academic settings the minds are there for planning, the talent is there for planning, the innovation and creativity is there for planning, there are people who will contribute money for worthy projects for planning, there are sources of money that can be found if the project is extremely worthy, and I suggest to you that I think there are many who would agree that we can lean the budget by this modest amount, this modest amount. Bear in mind that our recommendation for the university budget is \$20 million more than the Governor's recommendation, and I've tried to understand that difference, and I think a lot of that difference is very explainable. But this is one difference that I think we can make. I think this was out of the budget at one time in the Appropriations Committee. And I will give Senator Wehrbein a chance to correct me on that, but I think there was some indecision on what to do with it, and it wound up being put back in. Senator Wehrbein, I asked you a question earlier, if you would want to answer that.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes. First of all, there's a percent and a half, one and a half percent built in for vacancy savings, and this is beyond that.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: And then the other answer, yes it was, we had