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discretion to do and not add to the cuts in addition to what we have already done.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would agree with Senator Warner in his assessment, essentially the point being that if there is a problem with the items that Senator Haberman has raised, the University has taken a substantial cut through the proposal that we just adopted this morning, that adjustments can be made in these areas. I, personally, have had experience with all but the Afghan studies elements and I have found them all to be very valuable parts of the University. I used to work as a graduate assistant and my office was down from the Ombudsman's office and I know how many people they helped, how important he is to the University of Nebraska Lincoln and the fact that he is there to assist students and faculty and individuals who have problems with the University. I think it is a very valuable function. So I don't see...and I haven't heard from Senator Haberman where there is a problem and why there should be a change. In my experience it has been a valuable asset to the University. The Alumni Association, again I have worked with them and have found that they have been very valuable. We have had a tremendous fund raising effort through the Foundation, the University Foundation has raised millions of dollars for the University of Nebraska. They use the Alumni Association and the spirit that is built up by the Alumni Association and the lists that are compiled by the Alumni Association to contact these individuals and raise money for the University and to cut the Alumni Association and hurt the efforts that they have undertaken in this area in cooperation with the foundation will only mean trouble in the long run for the University. So I would think that it is money in our pocket to have an Alumni Association that builds support among the alumni for our University and then helps to provide additional funding for the University through private donations. As far as the Afghan studies, although I have not worked with that operation, I can assure you that the question of why Afghanistan, it can easily be answered. If anybody is aware of world affairs, you know that there is a situation at Afghanistan that is one of the hottest in the world, and in my estimation to cut one of the real resources this whole nation relies on for information about that country would be detrimental to our national security. I don't think you are seeing the Kremlin cut the budget for Afghanistan studies and I don't think you ought to see the same sort of thing done in Nebraska which is now a resource for the nation on our side of the fence, so I think that supporting the Afghan studies at this point is absolutely needed and it is ridiculous to even suggest at this point that such a valuable asset to our national security would be considered for a cutting at this point.

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