

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, there is a number of ways to arrive at a budget and escape any total...one of which, and the most attractive, when you are cutting and arrive at a dollar amount that you can assume no responsibility for the consequences, the accumulative consequences of that reduction. Now I can't speak for other members of the Appropriations Committee but I can speak for myself. And if there is one of you in this room who thinks I sat with pleasure doing what we volunteered to do, if there is one of you that think there is one ounce of joy, if you think it was done to revenge, to get somebody, if that is what you believe, I suggest you vote to drop the whole thing. We made a very deliberate effort. There is no way to do it perfect. I normally explain the budget process or being chairman to people that it is not so bad once you understand there is no right way to do it. You make judgments. They are subjective. You try to avoid personal feelings and you can't always do it. On this particular area, speaking only for myself, if I have to make a choice, if I am going to be responsible for a decision to reduce the ability of higher education to be funded, then I am not afraid to make that choice intercollegiate athletics. I will stand by that. There are a whole host of other programs with a 2 percent cut, a \$3.2 million that are academic that will go but you won't know it, and whatever the Regents or the administration does ...oh, I didn't mean that to happen. I am willing to stand up, say this is one program, it is not unimportant, there is not a dollar spent in taxes that are not unimportant. I am willing to stand here and say that program I, personally, can sacrifice if that is necessary but, and it is not as an out, it is the discretion any administrator has, but if in the responsibilities of the Board of Regents or the Board of Trustees they choose to believe that some other program is of lesser significance that we did not identify, could not identify for whatever reason, then we are not critical of that either. Now as everybody says, everyone is for cutting the budget but it is hard to get 25 votes to do anything specific. I am not uncomfortable with this specifics. If you choose to cut something else, in the case of UN-O, you