

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp, please.

SENATOR DECAMP: I apologize for asking a question. I, Senator Vickers knows, have been concerned about the whole tenure issue for years. I'm one of those that thinks, quite to the consternation of some, that tenure is not something that we should use, we should use a strict merit system. My question is, since I didn't hear the explanation or I guess I didn't understand it that well, do ESU people have tenure now or any form of tenure, number one, or what is the system, or, number two, is this going to make them have basically the same tenure system as teachers, if they do not have tenure?

SENATOR VICKERS: The answer to your question, Senator DeCamp, is that ESU employees have instant tenure right now. So the answer to your second question...

SENATOR DECAMP: I support the amendment then.

SENATOR VICKERS: Okay. This gives them a probationary period which they don't have now.

SENATOR DECAMP: Yes. It's a weird situation I'm put in because it helps getting rid of a piece of it, but it's weird. I'll support the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers, would you like to close on your amendment?

SENATOR VICKERS: (Response inaudible.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is the adoption of the second Vickers amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Vickers' amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The amendment has been adopted. Anything further on it, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill at this time, Mr. President.