

proposed individual cuts campus by campus at differing levels of general cuts across the board. Now if you remember, they were talking about a 1.5 percent cut originally, a voluntary cut that the Governor had asked for, and we had a list, I believe, submitted to us as to what would happen per campus and what individual programs would be affected under that list. They then were asked, during the special session call, to come in with a list that would total a 3 percent cut across the board and they submitted that list to us as well as to what would take place campus by campus, program by program as they envisioned it. They are also asked by the Appropriations Committee to come in with a list of a 5.65 percent across-the-board cut and submit that list and they did campus by campus, program by program of what they envisioned. I'm talking about the President and the Chancellors of the individual campuses. I must point out to you that I believe at that time that that was not taken to the Board of Regents. It was not approved by the Board of Regents and was not submitted by the Board of Regents, but it was left to us as a possible scenario of what would happen with these given level of cuts. We, as a committee, when we decided the 3 percent level was the initial level that we were going to ask the University and the state colleges to restrict their budget, we said at that time that we do not accept the individual campus lists and we do not accept the program by program lists that were submitted to us. As a matter of fact, some of us on the committee outright rejected them as being the wrong areas of cuts. Now my purpose for standing here today is to tell you that I believe I speak for the committee, and I certainly believe...I certainly speak for myself, that whether that cut end up at 3 or 2 percent or something else, that that statement still stands. We, as a Legislature, have been told by the Supreme Court that we cannot, in fact, tell them exactly where they are going to spend their money and where they are not. That decision, verified by the Supreme Court, was left solely in the hands of the Board of Regents. The Board of Regents, to my knowledge, had not seen that list before we received it. This decision as to what programs, regardless of the level of cut, 2 percent which I do support at this point, this decision will be made by the Board of Regents in connection, in conjunction with their chancellors, with their staff and with the President and with the faculty and the students, I would hope.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.