

SPEAKER NICHOL: Excuse me, Senator Pirsch. (Gavel.) Ladies and gentlemen, let's hold it down. We can't hear the speaker. Okay, thank you. Thank you, Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...with the proceeds going to the Central Administration. Now I have heard frustration expressed by many of you on this floor these past few days and indeed in the seven years that I have been down here of senators...the Legislature not being able to tell the Regents where they will put their money and how they will spend their money. And I recall many times where we have specifically said, thou shalt not spend for a chiller, and that was ignored. There have been other different areas where our frustration has been expressed many times on this floor. Are we not then, by allowing another 1 percent cut on each campus going to the Central Administration, creating more opportunity for the Regents to decide to benefit one campus more than another. Now some have said, well, you don't have to worry, that money will go back to the campuses, that 1 percent will probably almost all go back to the different campuses in almost the same amounts taken. But no one can guarantee that and no one can say what the Regents will decide. And many of us have not been happy with their priorities in the past. So I am asking you to please leave the flexibility to the chancellors of the universities and don't strip their campus budgets of another 1 percent cut, resulting in perhaps more inequities than before. And I also urge to tell you that there is not...this is not a reduction in the cuts. This will not affect the total of the cuts. This only will put back to the individual campuses the 1 percent additionally to the 2 percent that they have been denied. With that, I urge your support for this amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the discretionary fund that was provided to both the Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents was not at the request of either of the two bodies. It was a suggestion made by a member of the committee at the public hearings as to whether or not such a fund might assist them in making reallocations. And in both cases the indication...one, the case of the Board of Trustees, the member who acknowledged that...or who answered, indicated that he thought it could be helpful but, obviously, was not prepared to speak for the entire board. In the case of the