

Nelson and I have worked on this amendment that calls for discussions among the affected parties and a report back to the Postsecondary Coordinating Commission, only powers the coordinating commission has are to comment on it, report back to the Appropriations Committee and the Education Committee of the Legislature to assure that we are having some meaningful planning and discussions as these programs go forward. Some individuals seem to think that the Education Committee had a problem with nursing and we are picking on the nursing program. I guess had it been, had it been any other program, Computer Science at UN-O, Masters of Business Administration at Wayne State or Kearney, Academic Transfer in Metro-Tech, all issues that either may be in front of us in the future or have been in front of us in the past, I believe we would have made the same statement. The same statement is we have no problem adding programs where they are needed. We have no problem adjusting programs that need to be adjusted. We just want to be assured that there is some meaningful coordination and discussion taking place. I think that the amendment that, basically, Senator Nelson has worked on and I am co-sponsoring will do that and I urge you to adopt the Nelson amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Rogers, please.

SENATOR ROGERS: Mr. Speaker and members, I guess I would like to ask Senator Nelson or Senator Withem one question.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nelson, please.

SENATOR ROGERS: Why is this amendment being offered for coordination of programs for the tech colleges not extended to all postsecondary education institutions?

SENATOR NELSON: I believe that the question was...you are probably referring to the private colleges, right? The private colleges have this same privilege and they were asked, it was in the original amendment, if they wanted to be included or they did not want to be included, and they had that privilege, and the amendment that was drawn up before this one reads, independent colleges and universities and Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Secondary Education, State Department of Health, would have had that oversight. Is that what you are referring to Senator Rogers?

SENATOR ROGERS: You are saying they did not want to be