

different than the state colleges, Kearney is a university, well if all those things are true which the proponents of Kearney have said time and time again this year, if all things are true, I think the same true should hold for tuition rates and I look forward to the discussion on this and look forward to the defense that people in Kearney have against doing this because they are going to say, we don't want to do this. We want to be a university but we don't want to pay university tuition. I simply think that is asking a little too much of the taxpayers of the state. So with that, I ask for the adoption of this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion, Senator Scofield, followed by Senators Langford, Warner, Kristensen and Wehrbein. Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. President and members, I would guess it's probably obvious to you that I would rise to oppose this little proposal right now. To quote one of my colleagues from Kearney, if you don't have the name, you don't have to play the game yet. And I guess that is the only fair thing to do at this point. Senator Scott raises, Senator Moore raises some questions that obviously will have to be dealt with, should, I think, should Kearney State eventually be moved into the university system. And I think the main kinds of issues we want to concern ourselves with here are access at a reasonable cost to students in Nebraska. If you look at some of the studies now that are coming out of...well, one, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. It talks about the desirability of an educated populace and I believe they throw out numbers of like, we need something like 30 percent of the population in the next few years carrying college degrees. I think when we start raising tuition at any institution you start limiting that access and limiting the opportunities for students to go to school. Now I don't know how the incomes of Kearney state students compare with, say the incomes at Chadron, but I know that about 80 percent of the kids at Chadron get some kind of financial aid and I would assume that probably you have something akin to that at Kearney. And so I think these are important issues that Senator Moore is raising that I think are very relevant. I wouldn't advocate doing it right now, but I think as we make all these decisions about where we're going to go with higher education, we should always put the interests of those students first and by doing that we will put the interests of the State of Nebraska first simply by giving access to as