

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is not an easy subject for me to discuss because I think I could make arguments on either side of the issue and would have to come down obviously on one or the other. A couple things for background, I suspect the primary reason that there are five areas do have, one campus with academic training was the simple fact that they did exist at the time role and mission started including the junior colleges. It went back a great many years and role and mission did limit those areas to one campus which was then in existence. Also I recognize that all education is good. I would never stand on the floor and suggest it is not but I do know there are limits to what can be paid for and still maintain quality. The important thing that I hear of many people discussing here today though is that apparently there is some misunderstanding that courses and programs are two different things. There is absolutely nothing, absolutely not a thing in the role and mission that prohibits the community colleges on those campuses where they do not have academic degree granting from having transfer courses for credit and whether or not the course is accepted for credit of course is dependent upon the accepting institution and the faculty of that institution to accept it. The prohibition that exists in role and mission was not on courses, but on who granted a degree for an entire program and the concept that was envisioned at the time that was put together was at the way you could logically limit duplication and still provide maximum flexibility for courses unless you put restrictions on the type of institution that granted the degree. The student could take the courses at a variety of places perhaps but that the competition in the same area and particularly among tax supported institutions that the competition would not be for who was going to grant the degree but rather a force or attempting to force full cooperation between these various systems. I gather from the lobbying, the comments I have had, and it has been stated on the floor that there are those who oppose it because they are competing systems. I guess I am going to come down on the side of supporting Senator Dworak's amendment, however, to try a little longer to force these various institutions to cooperate and work together in the granting of degrees which they can now do. There is full authority to give the credit transfer courses as I have stated and my concern I guess lies now in whether this is a foot in the door that will continue to be expanded and I think the cooperative effort can be done. There has been great progress made in a couple of areas, well more than that, several areas and I think there is no reason why we could not expect once it is understood that the Legislature expects that kind of cooperative effort between institutions, I see little reason to believe that that cannot be successful