

system at all. They're paying somewhere I think in the neighborhood of \$150,000 to look at one campus to do a strategic plan. So I would first question whether, in fact, 250,000 will even begin to get us the kind of work product that we want and I think also by doing the phase one and phase two in here, I think phase one heads us off in a direction where we, to use the old cliché, we put the cart before the horse. We're trying to decide whether to transfer Kearney before we really know what we want to accomplish by transferring Kearney. And I haven't taken a position on Kearney. I don't know whether it's a good thing to do or a bad thing to do because I think we just...we have to have a dialogue about what are we going to do with higher education in Nebraska? I don't think we have talked enough about how does it fit into the future of this state. It's very timely that this comes on the heels of our New Horizons discussion the other day. I think those are the kinds of things we have to talk about and I think by accepting this amendment to the amendment it at least moves us in the direction of then starting at a point where we should start. I would suggest then that this wouldn't be the final product of this bill. I would work diligently with Senator Withem and the rest of you that are interested in this then to further narrow this. But my problem right now would be if I were the consultant taking the current amendment in its current form, one, I suspect a lot of the questions we're raising on the Kearney State issue are legal questions, they can be resolved elsewhere as the mechanism has already been started and I don't know where you're going to find somebody that's qualified to do the kind of legal analysis that we need to do here and still get any kind of decent strategic planning process in place. Now, again, this would take some more refinement on Select File to make the strategic planning process move in such a way that it still isn't attacking the universe of higher education. But I really think it makes a lot more sense to start at a point of saying, let's try to figure out what it is about higher education that seems to be causing us all so much concern, what do we think we can do better. And I think there are some other things that, frankly, will not get addressed if we go off on this...on this particular direction. One of them is what are we going to do with the technical college system? They are all...they play an important role in our state and yet they have financial problems, some more than others. Western, at the moment, is the most critical but Southeast isn't that far behind. I think they have a place in the continuum of higher education that we ought to rethink and relook at. And I would refer you back to the legislation, I