

the original bill required the Board of Regents to come back with recommendations, by the 1990 session, in order to implement any role and mission changes that might be considered by the Legislature. The amendment delegates that responsibility to the consultant and the commission as provided for in Senator Withem's bill. Then, third, there is a minor technical correction of a date that dealt with bargaining units that was not exact, and that correction is made. As I indicated earlier, if you are opposed to the Kearney State becoming a part of the University of Nebraska system then, obviously, you should vote no. But I am offering it because I believe it is right, first, but, secondly, I also believe that, in view of the opinion from the Attorney General and in other conflicting opinions that have been provided to you, that in order to really get a better and a clearer idea of what alternatives can be considered by the Legislature in the future, this needs to be a test case to determine that. Certainly the limitations upon what a study can do by a statute change, or constitutional change, can be significant and most significant is the time frame in which any change could be addressed. So I believe it would be wise to do that. But the real issue I want to talk about is why should Kearney State become a part of the system. There are several reasons that have been talked by many people over some period of time. The Coordinating Commission, a few months ago, in December of 1987, developed some criteria that they thought ought to be considered by...as a guideline as to what constitutes a university status. There was essentially five or six items that the Coordinating Commission established. There are no, to my knowledge at least, no general guidelines that one could address. But all of those guidelines, as to size, the complexity of their...diversity of their programs, the type of faculty that they have, the professional and academic credentials of faculty, some criteria for research, all of those were met, with one exception, and the one exception was the diversity of their masters degrees or graduate programs. That far exceeded the number as far as the number of masters available, but did not exceed the number of programs that over...in the broad subject definition that ought to exist. It's my position that Kearney is not to be denied an expanded role and mission, whether we change its place in the system of higher education or not. I have reached the conclusion my own self, and I think others, that that kind of expansion is going to occur. If that turns out to be true, then the real issue is whether or not there should be an expansion of those graduate programs which I believe is inevitable at Kearney, and whether