

SENATOR SMITH: Do you perceive an additional cost if this, as a result of them becoming a part of the system?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I think if you would look at the fiscal note of 160, you'll see those cost of transfers and that would be the cost that would be incurred.

SENATOR SMITH: I'm talking, not today, not with this amendment, but over time.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time has expired. Senator Smith, your light is the next light on. Would you like to continue this dialogue?

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to give part of my time to Senator Dierks and part of it to Senator Schimek but I have to have the answer to this question before I give up my time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I think the best person to ask that question to would be Senator Warner, who has (interruption)

SENATOR SMITH: All right, Senator Warner.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS:patiently.

SENATOR SMITH: Do you perceive an increase in the cost as a result of adding Kearney to the university system?

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Smith, what I have and, obviously, it's a personal opinion, but when that question has been asked, it is my opinion, and, in fact, the reason I even became involved in this issue in the first place was because I perceive that there will be an expansion in Kearney no matter what because of all the factors that have been discussed. And, yes, there will be an increase in funding if it becomes a university and, yes, there will be an increase in the funding if it does not. I do not think that it is a funding issue. There is no doubt in my mind but there will be some graduate program expansion which will increase cost which I believe will occur in any event. The question to me is, do you have a single system providing in the graduate area or do you have competing and dual systems?

SENATOR SMITH: When you have that single system then, Senator Warner, I know that...I think...I remember that Senator Langford talked about it earlier today, the next step in this study and