

Kearney State has been underfunded, that they need to have additional funds to help support their programs and their faculty and their administration and their whole operation, but it seems to me that is the Legislature's fault that it has been underfunded. It's not a structural change that is needed, it's just a change where the Legislature needs to appropriate more funds to Kearney. Also, it seems to me that Kearney State, in fact, may bear some of the responsibility in that they have expanded so greatly to where they are up to 9,500 students although there have been pressures, as I understand it, that they should more limit their students, focus their programs a little more. The real question is, how will bringing Kearney State into the university system solve the underfunding problem? And I don't see that it will. The only result, as I see it, unless the Legislature is interested in bringing a mass of funds together and appropriating it to the university system as a whole, is that what will happen is one of two things. If we continue to underfund the university program and Kearney State as well, if we put funds into the university system and Kearney State is within that university system, then it will either...either one of two things will happen. First, the Board of Regents will have to put the clamps on Kearney State, limit their programs, limit the number of students perhaps and make them come within certain restrictive guidelines in order to limit the funding that would have to be directed to that campus. Or the other alternative would be that the Board of Regents would be able to appropriate funds to Kearney State and dilute the amount of funds that go to the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, that go to the University of Nebraska at Omaha campus and that go to the University of Nebraska at Lincoln campus. I don't see the structural change solving the underfunding problem. It is always going to be there and it seems to me no change was necessary because the underfunding problem is not going to go away. Some people have thought of this as, I guess it's kind of a panacea for Kearney that once Kearney State is under the university system that suddenly that system is going to grow and the town of Kearney is going to flourish. I'm not so sure that is going to happen. As a matter of fact, I think there are going to be some other...some negative things that will happen adversely to Kearney State as well. One of the things, it will isolate I think Wayne State and Peru State and Chadron State as teacher colleges within the state system. I think that would be of significant concern to the senators that represent districts in the Peru State and Wayne State and Chadron State areas. I think it will have a