

institute has classified Kearney State College as comprehensive university, one. The other two institutions in the State of Nebraska that are classified with Kearney State are Creighton and UN-O. And about the masters degrees, whether Kearney State College is a college or goes into the university system. They have been trying to get masters of art, master of science, and master of fine arts for about 15 years. So, whether they are a college or in the university system, they desperately need these new masters programs. Kearney State College does not wish to go into the university system to be a research institute. They are already doing some applied research. But as far as wanting a law school, medical college, any engineering, they do not ask for these things. But in truth, yes, they are a university. And I hope that everyone will vote against Senator Wesely's bill (sic). Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator McFarland, please, followed by Senator Nelson.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. President. I commend Senator Wesely for taking a strong stand on this issue, a consistent stand and a very wise stand in my view. It seems to me the primary problem with respect to Kearney State and the university system is not necessarily a problem of governance or whether Kearney should be in the university system. The primary problem over the years, for both the university system and Kearney State, has been one of funding. We, as a legislative body, have not provided sufficient funds to pay faculty salaries and to pay for programs and for construction costs and for administration costs and all the necessary funding items to make all of these institutions have the resources available for them to function at peak efficiency. As a result of that, these past two years we've had to try to compensate for all of the lack of funding that we have given them in the past several years. Now the question then becomes, how will bringing Kearney State into the university system solve the funding problem? The answer is that it will not. You are going to have a funding problem regardless of whether Kearney State is in or is outside of the university system. As a matter of fact, bringing Kearney State into the university system may even exacerbate their problems, because if adequate funding is not provided then there are two alternatives that seem to suggest themselves. One alternative, if we continue to underfund these institutions, would be to dilute funds from all three campuses in order to help increase funds to Kearney State. And you would be taking away funds from the