

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Do you mean they're going to become state employees and be on the same salary schedules as an individual? That's still going to be made at the campus level. We're not making one big university. What we're making is a campus, another campus to the Central Administration of the University of Nebraska, just as the salaries aren't exactly equal from UN-O to UN-L. We aren't creating a huge university here. What we're doing is adding a campus to an existing structure. And so, no, there...that's the reason this bill doesn't deal with, you know, shall tuition exactly be the same, shall salaries be exactly the same? Those are the sorts of things that you have Central Administration for.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: All right, thank you. I still support Senator Wesely's amendment for the reasons I had stated earlier. I just can't overemphasize the importance of all the state colleges to their particular region. And I still can't believe that we're moving ahead on this issue in this way, that we're going to go ahead and do it and hope it was a good idea, and as to what will happen to the remaining state colleges in their funding levels, we're going to go on the opinion that...Senator Kristensen has one opinion that it will be good for the state colleges. I hope he is right. I am of the opinion that it can and very possibly will hurt the state colleges. And these state colleges serve a large percentage of different type of students, the students that are low-income students, the nontraditional students, the students that are a first college graduate, first person to attend a college in their family and it's very much tied into their region. Peru State, for an example, serves a large percentage of students from Richardson, Nemaha, Johnson County, Pawnee County, Otoe County, Gage County and other counties in that area and they are very much tied to the region. These type of students are simply not suited for the university experience, experience that the University of Nebraska would provide. Students who would be buried at the University of Nebraska are allowed the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential at the state college level. These type of students also deserve the best education they can get and for us to move on this issue without having any idea how it will affect these state colleges, these students, these low-income students, these first-time students, for us to move ahead on this issue as we are, I think is simply bad business and that is why I am supporting Senator Wesely's amendment and I hope you will all consider it, consider these points and take another look at this issue. Thank you.