

But it seems to me one of the things that if you're going to bring Kearney into this issue and not look at the issue of the regents and how they're appointed or elected, you really miss the boat on the whole issue. You've got to recognize that Kearney coming in changes the whole regional balance in terms of the university system and the allegiances involved there. And if you have regents elected again by district, you change the whole equation by having Kearney come into this situation. That's really a concern for me, that you will have a bigger split in the state than you've seen before, and that split could end up being very divisive and harmful to all the campuses and maybe not all of them, but some of them and we have to see how that plays out. And so in my estimation, the better course of action is to study the issue in total and then come back with perhaps a package of changes and one that is clearly thought out and comprehensive in nature. We have had some answers to some of my questions that I raised when I first opened, but I still am uncertain about where we're going. But it seems to me that by sitting down and looking at how the governance and structure fits together and having a more comprehensive approach to this, you won't end up having the sort of divisiveness I foresee because I see us not particularly being clear about what Kearney will do or what their role and mission will be. It was said by Senator Warner there is no real role and mission for undergraduate education in our state colleges, so we come into this fresh and a blank slate. And with that, the regents will be the ones to determine role and mission and direction and because of that, again, on the regional basis question we could have quite a fight, one that would not be healthy or good for the state. And so I think the way we're proceeding concerns me greatly.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: I know that there is much more to be discussed and a great many concerns there, but I'd also once again remind the body that the Attorney General has ruled this bill is unconstitutional. If we proceed and don't adopt this amendment, there will be a court test and there will be action taken, I believe, by the Attorney General, not allowing this bill to go forward. Obviously it has been delayed in its implementation date, but it does raise the whole issue about how we involve the people with this issue and one of the things I suggested is talking about the regents and their election process and maybe merging all of the state colleges under the university. Except