

indicated that the committee could...the word specifically was "may" create an advisory body. This amendment says they "shall" create such an advisory body, and that advisory body shall include, but not be limited to, one member of the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, one member of the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges, and one member representing the six Technical Community College Boards of Governors. Let me clarify that this is, in fact, the advisory body and not the actual committee that will be driving the study itself. And I believe that is consistent with the wishes of this body that this study not be institutionally driven, and yet I think it's appropriate to give the institutions a representation within this process and assure them that they will be a part of it, because I think they have a concern that we will, in fact, go off in a room somewhere and not solicit their opinions. I don't think that's the intent, however, I think it makes them more comfortable to have this language added as an amendment. I believe that Senator Withem is agreeable to this addition to his bill. I had pondered earlier about the possibility of even expanding this advisory committee and making it clear that we would also be required to solicit the opinions of business and industry, agriculture and science and technology in the state, because I think it's extremely important if you do a significant study of higher education and the future of this state that it be in sync with the direction the State of Nebraska is going. And I do not want this study to be institutionally driven. But I don't, given the effect that the language in there says "shall not be limited to" I think it leaves free reign to this committee to go ahead and solicit the opinions of groups other than just the institutions themselves. And I will certainly be encouraging that that happen as we structure this study. But I think this takes care of, for right now at least, the concerns of the institutions that they might be totally excluded from the deliberations. So, with that explanation, I would ask that you accept the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President and members. Just briefly, I, too, support the amendment and would urge also that in the process that it would be considered to have a representative from business or agriculture or other areas appropriate on this committee. And I think it might be proper to say that at this time. I think, also, this assures that each