

for this kind of a system, if you have governance at the campus level, then those latest groups could pay a lot more attention to those internal operations than is probably feasible trying to do that with seven institutions.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Senator Warner. I really have a problem with changing just for change, but I am concerned about the coordination and the fact that UNO credits don't transfer to UNL and UNL credits don't transfer to UNO, and how do the state college credits fit in and what is their role, and I guess I am not convinced yet that this would eliminate or coordinate that, and so I guess I will continue to listen. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Scofield, please, followed by Senator Wehrbein and Senator Weihing.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. President, and members, I, too, have not spoken on this bill before because I stood back for some time and looked at this whole process with skepticism wondering how this affects not only the university, of which I am an alum, but the smaller institutions which are regional institutions that I have always tried to come in here and defend. And the early indications, when we embarked upon this study, in my mind weren't particular encouraging. I saw that I might stand in rural Nebraska to lose more than I might gain, but I have, as I've watched this process and participated in it, decided that I think this gives us an opportunity to address some of the things that have irritated me the most about the system over the years, even prior to coming into the Legislature. Over the years, I have had some frustrations, first as one who worked on one of the campuses trying to get services to students, trying to address some of the issues Senator Pirsch just mentioned in terms of getting credit hour transfers, trying to get programs out to institutions, trying to get positions funded in here that seemed to serve the rest of the state, and had a sense that the system right now just isn't responsive enough, that there is too much competitiveness among campuses, that if you look at it in terms of budgetary concerns, that if we just keep going in the direction we are going, we are just going to build this even more massive bureaucracy that simply we can't afford and, frankly, I don't think the public is willing to support. And so I think that the key to this is, will the public support this? Does this address the public's concerns? We will only know that when we put that on the ballot and when the public discusses it, and without that public support, frankly, higher education in