

glad that they weren't adopted but the process of the Legislature picking this bill apart, grabbing ahold of what may be the stickler points as far as significant numbers of the body are concerned, and bringing those to the full membership for deliberation really hasn't happened on this bill. I hope it will on Select File. Senator Schimek I know has offered an opinion that she will be bringing some amendments to the bill, or an amendment, I guess, more accurately, that probably ought to be given full consideration by the body when it comes up. At this point, I am not supportive of her proposal but I think full members of the...all members of the Legislature should have an opportunity to deal with it. I bring that point up because this is a bill, a constitutional amendment, that has many, many features to it. This is General File of this bill. I would urge you if there is one point there that is a real sticking point for you that you can't go with, but the rest of the proposal causes you very few problems, that you give a vote to advance it today and you address via the amendment process on Select File. Don't let a bill like this that has had as much citizen involvement in it, legislative involvement in it, go by the wayside today simply because of one particular point. Give us a vote on General File to advance it. If your point doesn't get addressed to your satisfaction on Select File, then there is, in fact, the possibility at that point of voting to not advance it any further. The second point I would like to address is the one that I think Senator Landis brought up, other people have, and that deals with...it has been addressed by very many other points throughout this whole debate, but I think he referred to it as the diminishment of particular programs that we all know where they are located, and they are located primarily here at the Lincoln campus, the research facility, the primary granting of doctoral programs, all of those kind of things. The current system has us in the Legislature in that gatekeeping responsibility. Since I have been here, we have not done anything as a Legislature to enhance our abilities to be the gatekeepers, to keep the proliferation of programs around the state, to come through to make those programs pass really strict muster. As a matter of fact, since I have been here, if anything has happened, the role and mission statute that is listed in the book has been diminished and I probably supported all of that, because as individual legislators, what tends to happen is we vote based on not the big picture but on what a specific bill says, and when the lobbyist for the community college system comes to me and says, hey, we just want this little bitty academic transfer program at the North Omaha, Fort