

the question that Senator Chizek wants addressed of whether or not there should be an entity...an educational institution there in total is not necessarily what will be addressed by this language.

SENATOR WITHEM: If they were to vote to eliminate all of the programs then there would not be...and there may be an institution listed in the paper that would not be an institution there.

SENATOR WESELY: Could...could not the commission be requested to review the very basic question of whether or not there should be an institution at Curtis?

SENATOR WITHEM: I'm sure they would make some recommendations. As you know the...and I think Senator Chizek may have made reference to this in some of his material, the LB 247 study, they indicated that it ought...they didn't indicate whether it ought to be there or not, but they indicated if we're going to have a two-year school of agriculture, it's more appropriate with community colleges than it is with the university system.

SENATOR WESELY: Right now, the administrative structure of Curtis is under the university system in a quasi independent fashion? Is that...

SENATOR WITHEM: It used to be part of the Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources, part of their program. The university, with some budget cuts a few years ago, made a determination to not fund that program. It was then in the process of being phased out. The Legislature passed a bill and because of that rather negative experience that Curtis didn't like, it was set up as a separate line-item. So it is really a separate program, receives management types of services from the institute but it's not a program underneath the institute, it's my understanding.

SENATOR WESELY: So under the budget cuts that we're considering now for the university and if the cuts go through, and I think they're in the range of \$4 million, the university goes through a review process and decides, as they did some years ago, that the lowest priority was continuing the programs on the Curtis campus and decide to close the Curtis campus, can the Board of Regents have the authority, have they the ability, and is the funding under them to take that step if that's what they