

September 30, 1992 LB 1

seems unable to be addressed to any degree and so, as with Senator Chizek and others, I'm merely raising the point of how is that fair and how can we best deal with it? And if I'm wrong about the fact that Curtis is possible to be considered with everybody else, then I'll back off; but if not, I think it's appropriate to raise this issue.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. Speaker and members, I would like...Senator Wesely, when is this effective in your amendment? Is it this year? What...I don't know exactly what your amendment reads or how your amendment reads.

SENATOR WESELY: I think it's effective starting the next fiscal year.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, I oppose your amendment. I think what we did last night was a satisfactory way of arriving at a reasonable approach to this and that is to have the Coordinating Commission look at this. What bothers me probably the most of all is the fact that we're creating a lot of uncertainty for students at this point. Simply discussing this in the last two weeks has probably lost some students for Curtis. So if it would have been even to be successful, reached the 300 level, for example, which tended to be the goal in the original legislation, is going to already have probably turned some students away. Why would they go to a school that future...whose future is in jeopardy? And so I would urge opposition to this amendment at this time. Let's let the Coordinating Commission come forward with this study. I think that was a realistic solution last night in that it moved forward the decision process on that school and let it operate with some certainty until that time, and it lets it operate or funding will be cut off in the future at a certain point, but we're actually playing with kids' emotions, pupils' emotions at this time, not knowing whether they're going to have a school which they can complete their class or their courses, whether they should take up these particular majors or where they should go. And so I think the uncertainty we are creating is rather unfair as we work with this. And I realize we're probably doing that across the board in many other colleges but we're picking up this one in particular and making a decision here which normally we don't do. We haven't really tried to phase out some college within a university at this point. And so I would like