

engineering it is...it is not the type of education where you finish and you're done. It is a continuing, ever-evolving type of profession that requires those updates, those refreshers, it requires additional education almost yearly. This is a very...is very much a need. It is the type of issue that I think we can send a message to the administration at the university that we would like to see a move toward establishing this college. I would hope that the members would...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR HALL: ..debate the issue and, with that, Mr. President, I'd respond to any questions. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Abboud, followed by Senators Wehrbein, Warner, Wesely, Hall, Crosby, Vrtiska, Jensen, Chambers and Bromm.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. Speaker, members, everyone has issues in the Legislature serving here that are important in their district. Some issues are controversial. Some issues are difficult to enact. I guess I've been fortunate through the years not to have a lot of crucial issues that affect my district. The College of Engineering and the engineering program in general have been issues that have been bantered around since I've been in the body, in my district. This particular approach is much, much, much scaled back to what a number of people would like to see or what they envision happening with the educational programs on the campus in Omaha. Some would like to see a large engineering program there. Maybe the reality is that this will never take place and through this discussion maybe the programs that will be offered in the future have been scaled back to a point where they will significantly benefit the state through what they're going to be offering. The problems have been that there may have been faculty members on the Omaha campus but the leadership that has...that they have been under have not shown a desire to deal with the needs of the community that the university was serving and the needs that the community has requested have not been met by the university and this has been an issue that has been ongoing from economic development perspective, from firms involving construction, in engineering, in manufacturing. It's amazing to me the...every month or so I meet with my local Ralston area Chamber of Commerce and they talk to me about the important issues like tort reform and I...we usually get into good discussions about