

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Actually that is 1975. What do you... You know something about the role and mission. What do you perceive as the appropriate role and mission for a state college?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I think the appropriate role and mission for a state college is essentially to offer a four year baccalaureate program, education, liberal arts, business, and that is it.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you. Senator Johnson is correct. It is more precisely stated than that in the role and mission. The function of a state college is first instruction. The offerings at Scottsbluff have been there since 1975, and in fact are opportunities for people in Scottsbluff to finish a four year program. Those of you who are not familiar completely with mileage out there, it is 100 miles from Chadron to Scottsbluff. We have somewhere between 300 and 400 students who are completing programs at Scottsbluff. The program has been run, I think, very efficiently on a shoestring, and in fact there is only one individual down there doing all of the administrative work, and in addition carries a teaching load. The program has simply grown to the point to where it is justifiable and in fact absolutely necessary, if the people of Scottsbluff valley area are to continue to have access to these kinds of four year programs, to have some additional help down there. So, in fact, it does not erode the role and mission. In fact it is completely in line with what the role and mission says, and simply is offering access to folks who otherwise do not have access to a four year program. I might add that faculty at Chadron, if you calculated out what they are actually being paid per hour by the time they drive, and we do have people driving down, I believe now five nights a week to offer courses at Scottsbluff, if we paid those folks by the hour I suspect that it would calculate out at something significantly less than minimum wage. So I would urge you to reject Senator Johnson's amendment and not to deny the folks in Scottsbluff opportunities to have this kind of four year instructional program. The options there are, I suppose, to let the community college offer those, which I believe is exactly what Senator Johnson is objecting to, and it would, in that respect, actually break the role and mission. So I urge you to reject the amendment. Thank you.