

2005-2006 SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE ROSTER

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Senator Tim Golden  
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Valdosta, GA 31602

Senator Kasim Reed  
1755 Loch Lomond Trail  
Atlanta, GA 30331

Senator Curt Thompson  
6563 Devonshire Court  
Norcross, GA 30093

Senator John Wiles  
800 Kennesaw, Suite 400  
Marietta, GA 30060-7946

## **HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE RULES**

1. These Committee Rules of Operation shall be consistent with Senate Rule 2-1.5 (d) regarding the establishment of Rules of Operation.
2. Quorum of the Committee shall be Five (5) members.
3. The Chairman shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered; the Chairman shall have the authority to call a bill, resolution, substitute or amendment for debate and explanation only.
4. The Chairman shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to subcommittees for study. Such subcommittees in turn shall have the authority to make recommendations on such measures to the full Committee at such time as shall be designated by the Chairman.
5. The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman.
6. A bill or resolution will be considered only after presentation by its principal author or other legislator whom he/she may designate. The principal author shall be the legislator whose name first appears on the list of authors.
7. The Chairman reserves the right to delay action on substitutes and amendments not provided to the Chairman at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.
8. Any Member or members of the Committee who disagree(s) with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report if they so desire.
9. These rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by two-thirds of the members of the Committee.
10. Where these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate as adopted shall govern. (Senate Rule 2)

## SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Senate Higher Education Committee met in the Senate Salon, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Student Center at Georgia State University on Wednesday, January 25, 2006 at 1:00 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Harp of the 29<sup>th</sup>  
Kemp of the 46<sup>th</sup>  
Staton of the 18<sup>th</sup>  
Chance of the 16<sup>th</sup>  
Wiles of the 37<sup>th</sup>

Note: Senator Golden, Senator C. Thompson and Senator Reed were absent.

Chairman Harp called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

Carl Patton, President of Georgia State University, welcomed the committee to the Campus and commended the Senate Higher Education committee for their dedication to education.

**SR 655 (Carter, 13<sup>th</sup>) HOPE CHEST – Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Georgia so as to reserve lottery funds for certain Educational purposes.**

Senator Carter spoke to the resolution commending the Governor on this initiative, which is meant to ensure that the youth of this State are educated for generations to come. Senator Carter explained that this is a constitutional amendment, and if it passes, the language at the end of the bill will go on the ballot in November. He further stated that this would insure that proceeds from the Georgia Lottery would go only to HOPE scholarships and pre-K programs.

Senator Harp asked why this amendment was needed and Senator Carter explained that \$1.8 billion of the lottery money has been spent on programs other than the HOPE scholarship and pre-K programs and it was his belief that the money was meant to only go for those programs.

Senator Staton asked Senator Carter to explain what projects the money had been spent on and Senator Carter stated that buildings, education centers, had been funded. He stated that it was his belief that this was a stretch as to their relationship to education.

Senator Chance moved that **SR 655, DO PASS**. Senator Kemp seconded the motion. **SR 655 passed 5-0.**

**SB 440 (Hamrick, 30<sup>th</sup>) HOPE CHEST – Repeals and Eliminates projects and programs associated with Lottery Funds.**

Senator Hamrick spoke to SB 440 stating that this bill would preserve funds from the lottery for education. He stated that the main purpose of SB 440 was to protect the scholarship program and to encourage students to go to college. He said that if the constitutional amendment, SR 655, passed in the election that this bill cleans up the language of the associated statutes.

Senator Kemp moved that SB 440, **DO PASS**. Senator Staton seconded the motion. SB 440 **passed 5-0**.

Note: Senator Curt Thompson came into the meeting after the vote.

Chairman Harp then addressed the audience which was made up of mostly Georgia State students and explained that this meeting was an official meeting of a standing committee. He gave an overview of how bills become law. Chairman Harp also explained to the students that this was Governor Perdue's legislation, that the Governor had seen something that he felt needed to be corrected and had asked Senator Hamrick and Senator Carter to solve the problems with good, productive legislation.

There being no further business, Chairman Harp adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Staton of the 18<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Vicki Gibbs, Recording Secretary

## SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Senate Higher Education Committee met in the Mezzanine of the State Capitol on February 13, 2006 at 4:30 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Harp of the 29<sup>th</sup>  
Kemp of the 46<sup>th</sup>  
Chance of the 16<sup>th</sup>  
Reed of the 35<sup>th</sup>  
Golden of the 8<sup>th</sup>

Note: Senator Staton, Senator C. Thompson and Senator Wiles were absent.

Chairman Harp called the meeting to order at 4:54 p.m.

Chairman Harp recognized a new member to the Regents, Felton Jenkins of Madison and welcomed him to the meeting.

### **SB 436 (Grant, 25<sup>th</sup>) Technical/Adult Education; State Board; meetings; change provisions**

Senator Grant spoke to **SB 436** stating that this is a simple bill that will allow the board to suspend up to 2 meetings a year. He stated that it costs \$3,000 for every meeting and that many times there is no business to warrant the meeting or the expense.

Chairman Harp asked if there were any question from the Committee or the public. Hearing none, he called for a vote.

Senator Kemp made the motion that **SB 436, DO PASS**. Senator Chance seconded the motion. **SB 436 passed 5-0**.

There being no further business, Chairman Harp adjourned the meeting at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Harp of the 29<sup>th</sup>, Chairman

/s/ Vicki Gibbs, Recording Secretary

## SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Senate Higher Education Committee met in the Mezzanine of the State Capitol on February 16, 2006 at 1:30 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Harp of the 29<sup>th</sup>  
Kemp of the 46<sup>th</sup>  
Staton of the 18<sup>th</sup>  
C. Thompson of the 5<sup>th</sup>  
Wiles of the 37<sup>th</sup>

Note: Senator Chance, Senator Golden and Senator Reed were absent.

Chairman Harp called the meeting to order at 1:42 p.m.

### **SB 415 (Douglas, 17<sup>th</sup>) Georgia HERO Scholarship Surviving Spouses Eligible**

Senator Douglas explained that a child or spouse of a wounded soldier are eligible for the HERO scholarship. This bill would amend the HERO scholarship that was passed by the legislature the previous year.

Senator Wiles offered a substitute (LC21 8782S) to the bill that would shorten the amount of time that a soldier must serve. He stated that it was unfair that wounded soldier be denied because he was evacuated instead of treated in the field.

Senator Douglas gave examples of the many soldiers that were wounded in the past year.

Senator Kemp made the motion that **SB 415, DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Senator Wiles seconded the motion. **SB 415 passed 5-0.**

There being no further business, Chairman Harp adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Staton of the 18<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Vicki Gibbs, Recording Secretary

## SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Senate Higher Education Committee met in the Mezzanine of the State Capitol on February 22, 2006 at 3:30 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Harp of the 29<sup>th</sup>  
Kemp of the 46<sup>th</sup>  
Chance of the 16<sup>th</sup>  
Staton of the 18<sup>th</sup>  
Wiles of the 37<sup>th</sup>

Note: Senator Golden, Senator C. Thompson and Senator Reed were late and did not vote on legislation.

Chairman Harp called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

### **[SB 561](#) (Harp, 29<sup>th</sup>) HOPE scholarships/Grants; definitions; correct scrivener's error; provide for students in professional level programs**

Chairman Harp spoke to [SB 561](#), stating it was like [HB 299](#) from the previous session minus the caps. He introduced Flynn Warren from the University of Georgia School of Pharmacy who spoke on behalf of [SB 561](#). Mr. Warren stated that the UGA pharmacy school has about 350 students and about 30% of them are not eligible for HOPE due to the caps. He pointed out to the committee that many of these students do not earn a degree until their Ph.D. in pharmacy.

Senator Kemp asked about the current cap on hours and Mr. Warren stated that it is always 150 hours. Senator Kemp then asked if this bill was directed specifically at pharmacy programs. Mr. Warren stated that this was not necessarily so since other programs needed the hour adjustment also.

Senator Staton made the motion that [SB 561](#), **DO PASS**. Senator Chance seconded the motion. [SB 561](#) passed 5-0.

Chairman Harp then explained that the committee would be hearing from Senator Reed concerning [SB 473](#), titled Georgia's Promise but this would be a hearing only and there would be no vote concerning this legislation. Senator Reed spoke to the bill and a great deal of time was spent with questions and answers from both the Committee and others in the audience.

Chairman Harp thanked Senator Reed for the presentation to the Committee and requested that he and others research the questions that had arisen and report to the Committee further at the next meeting.

There being no further business, Chairman Harp adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Staton of the 18<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Vicki Gibbs, Recording Secretary

## SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Senate Higher Education Committee met in the Mezzanine of the State Capitol on March 1, 2006 at 4:30 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Harp of the 29<sup>th</sup>  
Kemp of the 46<sup>th</sup>  
Chance of the 16<sup>th</sup>  
Reed of the 35<sup>th</sup>  
Wiles of the 37<sup>th</sup>

Note: Senator Golden, Senator Staton, and Senator C. Thompson were absent.

Note: Senator Don Balfour of the 9<sup>th</sup> was appointed as an ex-officio member of the committee by the Senate Committee on Assignments to make a quorum. Senator Balfour did not vote on any legislation because Senator Wiles came in a little after the meeting was called to order.

Chairman Harp called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.

### **SB 506 (Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>) HOPE scholarships; Amount for Mandatory Fees; Eligible Postsecondary Institutions**

Senator Balfour spoke to the bill stating its purpose. There is a new university in Gwinnett County and because of the law pertaining to the limiting of HOPE funds to the amount of fees in 2004, HOPE is about to pay \$0.00 in fees to students at this new school. There were no fees to attend Georgia Gwinnett College in 2004. This bill sets a fee for Georgia Gwinnett College to that of a similar college in the area. The language is broad enough to apply to any new school that may be founded in the future.

Senator Kemp moved that **SB 506, DO PASS**. Senator Chance seconded the motion. **SB 506 passed 5-0.**

### **SR 769 (Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>) International Baccalaureate Diploma; urge Board of Regents to Create Program**

Senator Johnson spoke to the resolution which urges the Board of Regents to consider granting undergraduate course credit for work done in the International Baccalaureate Program. A bill on this issue was drafted but deemed unconstitutional because the Board of

Regents derives their control over curriculum and budget from the Constitution. International Baccalaureate is nationally recognized.

Five of the top seven high schools in the United States have International Baccalaureate programs. The Board currently recognizes AP work for credit. Senator Johnson stated that this action would be a good investment in student participation of International Baccalaureate.

Tom Daniel, Senior Vice Chancellor, Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, addressed the Committee concerning [SR 769](#). He stated that the University System will give this idea a great deal of interest.

Chairman Harp stated that Hardaway High School in his district is developing an IB program, and from their efforts, he knew how high the standards for this certificate are. He said he would commend to the Regents to consider this change. He stated that students who finish this program certainly deserve credit for the program.

Senator Johnson said that he had charts that indicated that Georgia School of Technology accepts 85% of all applicants who have an International Baccalaureate certificate. He said that due to constitutional stipulations, we cannot do a full bill on this matter, but would urge the Committee to pass the resolution.

Senator Reed made the motion that [SR 769](#), **DO PASS**. Senator Kemp seconded the motion. [SR 769](#) passed 5-0.

### **[SB 549](#) (Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>) State Medical Education Board Loan Repayment/Scholarship Trust Fund; establish; Provide Receipts/Expenditures**

Chairman Harp spoke to the bill on behalf of Senator Thomas who could not attend the meeting. After much discussion, the Committee had questions as to this bill's legal ramifications and whether it was actually unconstitutional. It was decided to have Legislative Counsel look into the constitutionality of this bill.

Chairman Harp **TABLED** [SB 549](#).

### **[SB 473](#) (Reed, 35<sup>th</sup>) Georgia's Promise**

Tom Daniel from the Board of Regents provided statistics and information to the Committee in regards to questions that had been asked in a previous meeting concerning this legislation.

NOTE: Senator Golden arrived in the meeting.

Senator Reed and Mr. Daniel, along with members of the Committee, held a question and answer program with much discussion about numbers of students the University Program can handle and what impact this legislation would have on the infrastructure of the physical facilities available.

Chairman Harp suggested that this bill needed to be placed in a study committee with members of that committee visiting both Texas and Florida where these programs are being implemented.

Time being of the essence, Chairman Harp adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Harp of the 29<sup>th</sup>, Chairman

/s/ Vicki Gibbs, Recording Secretary

## SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Senate Higher Education Committee met in Room 125 of the State Capitol on March 7, 2006 at 3:30 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Harp of the 29<sup>th</sup>  
Kemp of the 46<sup>th</sup>  
Chance of the 16<sup>th</sup>  
Golden of the 8<sup>th</sup>  
Wiles of the 37<sup>th</sup>

Note: Senator Reed, Senator Staton, and Senator C. Thompson were absent.

Chairman Harp called the meeting to order at 4:24 p.m.

### **SB 582 (Pearson, 51<sup>st</sup>) University System, Georgia; students; home study program; admissions; authorize Board of Regents to Promulgate Rules/Regulations**

Senator Pearson spoke to the bill which takes the language from the freshman requirements in the University System's policy. It codified what already is there. Senator Pearson stated that he wanted this to specifically define the rules so there can be no question about a home schooled student's admissions requirements.

Tom Daniel, Senior Vice Chancellor, Board of Regents, stated that the University System is not against bill. This is already the policy and since being implemented the complaints have been cut to very few.

Senator Harp asked Chancellor Daniel if the Regents would prefer the Committee to leave this issue as a matter of policy. Chancellor Daniel stated that they would.

Senator Wiles made the motion that **SB 582, DO PASS**. Senator Kemp seconded the motion. **SB 582 passed 4-1**. Senator Golden cast the descending vote.

### **SB 594 (Meyer von Bremen, 12<sup>th</sup>) Scholarships; Grants; Loans; Determine Eligibility; Provide for Weighing of Grades for Honors, Advanced Placement Courses**

Senator Meyer von Bremen spoke to **SB 594** stating that this has to do with the weighting of GPA for certain classes. He said that two years ago this legislation tightened HOPE to keep the weighting for AP and IB classes, but took the weighting from the honors courses. Many

parents were unaware of the change and students who have been challenging themselves with honors classes will have the weighting stripped from them. This will affect HOPE eligibility. He said, for example, a 3.1 GPA with weight could be a 2.9 GPA without the weight. Senator Meyer von Bremen said that this bill is also in the House. It returns the weight to honors courses, and since there is no consistent standard for honors courses, it also requires the Department of Education to have standardized them by January, 2008. Weighting honors classes awards motivated students, and we need to do all we can to encourage that, he further stated. Students focus on the short-term – their GPA – instead of the long-term; preparation for college, if the system is not changed.

Mary Alexander, Georgia Student Finance Commission, stated this legislation would be preliminary. She said the Commission has been working with the Department of Education on the previously legislated changes since 2004.

Senator Harp asked if the Board of Regents had considered that the Class of 2007 was operating under the old law for their freshman year.

Mary Alexander responded that these changes only affect HOPE eligibility and that they do not count for admission into colleges. Individual colleges still have their own criteria.

Senator Harp asked how the Commission corrects for students with honors courses and Ms. Alexander stated that they deal with every school individually on transcript exchange.

Senator Wiles questioned whether 9<sup>th</sup> grade students take honors courses and Ms. Alexander stated it was rare for them to do so.

Senator Chance made the motion that [SB 594](#), **DO PASS**. Senator Kemp seconded the motion. **[SB 594](#) passed 3-2** with Senators Harp and Wiles casting the descending votes.

The meeting having become very lengthy, Chairman Harp adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Harp of the 29<sup>th</sup>, Chairman

/s/ Vicki Gibbs, Recording Secretary

## SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Senate Higher Education Committee met in Room 450 of the State Capitol on March 21, 2006 at 2:30 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Harp of the 29<sup>th</sup>  
Kemp of the 46<sup>th</sup>  
Chance of the 16<sup>th</sup>  
Golden of the 8<sup>th</sup>  
Staton of the 18<sup>th</sup>

Note: Senator Reed, Senator Wiles, and Senator C. Thompson were absent.

Chairman Harp called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m. and stated if there were no objections by the Committee, all bills on today's calendar, with the exception of HB 1228 which has an amendment, would be taken up as a consent calendar. No objections were heard.

The consent calendar consisted of the following:

**HB 1083** (Harbin, 118<sup>th</sup>) **Georgia Medical Center Authority**

**HB 1252** (Rice, 51<sup>st</sup>) **Driver Training Schools**

**HB 1294** (Smith, 113<sup>th</sup>) **Education; Nonlapsing revenue of Institutions**

**HR 1258** (Amerson, 9<sup>th</sup>) **Appalachian Studies Center**

Senator Chance made the motion that the **Consent Calendar, DO PASS**. Senator Staton seconded the motion. **This legislation passed 5-0.**

**HB 1228** (England, 108<sup>th</sup>) **Career and Technical Education Oversight Commission; Create**

Representative England stated that the amendment to this legislation sunsets the proposed commission after a 5 year period.

Senator Chance made the motion that **HB 1228, DO PASS AS AMENDED**. Senator Golden seconded the motion. **HB 1228 passed 5-0.**

There being no further business, Chairman Harp adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Staton of the 18<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Vicki Gibbs, Recording Secretary