

**SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE ROSTER**

**2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**Senator Buddy Carter, *Chairman***

District 1  
406 Purple Finch Drive  
Pooler, GA 31322  
404.656.5109

**Senator Johnny Grant,  
*Vice-Chairman***

District 25  
P.O. Box 1458  
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404.656.0082

**Senator Josh McKoon, *Secretary***

District 29  
P.O. Box 2565  
Columbus, GA 31902  
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**Senator Ronnie Chance**

District 16  
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Tyrone, GA 30290  
404.651.7738

**Senator Bill Cowsert**

District 46  
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Athens, GA 30603  
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**Senator Lester Jackson**

District 2  
1501 Abercorn Street  
Savannah, GA 31401  
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**Senator Nan Orrock**

District 36  
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404.463.8054

**Senator Jesse Stone**

District 23  
642 Liberty Street  
Waynesboro, GA 30830  
404.463.1314

**Senator Curt Thompson**

District 5  
6320 Glenbrook Drive  
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## **RULES**

### **SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE 2012**

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)

**Minutes**  
**Senate Higher Education Committee**  
**Tuesday, January 10, 2012**  
**Room 307, CLOB**

Chairman Carter called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m., announcing that a quorum was present. The following members were in attendance:

Senator Buddy Carter, 1<sup>st</sup>, Chairman  
Senator Johnny Grant, 25<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman  
Senator Josh McKoon, 29<sup>th</sup>, Secretary (arrived at 3:15 p.m.)  
Senator Lester Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> (arrived at 3:13 p.m.)  
Senator Nan Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Jesse Stone, 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Senator Curt Thompson, 5<sup>th</sup>

This was the first meeting of the Senate Higher Education Committee of the 2012 Legislative Session. Chairman Carter introduced himself and welcomed committee members, staff, and guests and noted that no action would be taken on any bills today. Chairman Carter explained his goals for the meeting - introduce himself as the new Committee Chairman and review bills from the 2011 Legislative Session that are back in the committee. Chairman Carter asked Stone of the 23<sup>rd</sup> to open the meeting with prayer. The following legislation was discussed:

**HB 52 (Bearden, 68<sup>th</sup>) Disabled persons with service dog; schools, colleges, and universities; add provisions** - Chairman Carter explained that although Representative Bearden is no longer in the Legislature, this bill remains active. Chairman Carter noted that the bill passed the Senate Higher Education Committee last year but did not get placed on the calendar, so it is back in the committee.

**SB 131 (Thompson, 5<sup>th</sup>) HOPE Scholarships; provide students receiving scholarships who require remedial classes shall not be enrolled in research universities; Georgia Lottery Corporation Legislative Oversight Committee** - Chairman Carter explained that this bill, relating to the HOPE Scholarship, was introduced last year but was never discussed in committee. Chairman Carter clarified that this issue was taken care of in the HOPE bill from last year. Thompson of the 5<sup>th</sup> noted that the bill was still alive but would change the law as it was passed last year.

**SB 194 (Grant, 25<sup>th</sup>) Education; provide students at Georgia Military College; eligible for HOPE grants** - Chairman Carter explained that this bill was introduced but was not heard in committee last year.

**SB 235 (Thompson, 5<sup>th</sup>) HOPE; provide that the Georgia Student Finance Commission shall establish amount awarded each year** - Chairman Carter explained that this bill was introduced but was not heard in committee last year.

**SR 345** (Thompson, 5<sup>th</sup>) General Assembly; authorize to provide limitations by general law; amount of tuition; lottery funded scholarships; Technical College System of Georgia CA - Chairman Carter explained that this bill was introduced but was not heard in committee last year.

**SR 353** (Hill, 32<sup>nd</sup>) General Assembly; authorize to impose limits on the amount of tuition; University of System of Georgia; may increase on an annual basis CA - Chairman Carter explained that this bill was introduced but was not heard in committee last year.

Chairman Carter asked if there was any other business to be brought before the committee. There being no further business or comment, Chairman Carter adjourned the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Josh McKoon, 29<sup>th</sup>  
Secretary  
Senate Higher Education Committee

/s/ Allison Beasley  
Recording Secretary

**Minutes**  
**Senate Higher Education Committee**  
**Tuesday, January 24, 2012**  
**Room 310, CLOB**

Chairman Carter called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m., announcing that a quorum was present. The following members were in attendance:

Senator Buddy Carter, 1<sup>st</sup>, Chairman  
Senator Josh McKoon, 29<sup>th</sup>, Secretary  
Senator Ronnie Chance, 16<sup>th</sup> (arrived at 3:21, left at 3:23 p.m.)  
Senator Lester Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> (arrived at 3:13, left at 3:52 p.m.)  
Senator Nan Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Jesse Stone, 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Senator Curt Thompson, 5<sup>th</sup> (arrived at 3:24 p.m.)

Chairman Carter explained that the purpose of this meeting was to listen to two presentations. The first was a presentation on Georgia's public libraries by Dr. Lamar Veatch of the Georgia Public Library Service. The second was delivered by Chancellor Hank Huckaby (University System of Georgia) and Commissioner Ronald Jackson (Technical College System of Georgia) who discussed the Complete College Georgia Initiative.

At the conclusion of the presentations, Chairman Carter asked if there was any other business to be brought before the committee. There being no further business or comment, Chairman Carter adjourned the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Josh McKoon, 29<sup>th</sup>  
Secretary  
Senate Higher Education Committee

/s/ Allison Beasley  
Recording Secretary

**Minutes**  
**Senate Higher Education Committee**  
**Wednesday, January 25, 2012**  
**Room 341, Capitol**

Chairman Carter called the Joint House and Senate Higher Education Committee meeting to order at 3:09 p.m. He introduced House Higher Education Chairman Carl Rogers and welcomed both House and Senate committee members. The following Senate Higher Education Committee members were present:

Senator Buddy Carter, 1<sup>st</sup>, Chairman  
Senator Johnny Grant, 25<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman (arrived at 3:19 p.m.)  
Senator Josh McKoon, 29<sup>th</sup>, Secretary  
Senator Bill Cowsert, 46<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Lester Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> (arrived at 3:25 p.m.)  
Senator Curt Thompson, 5<sup>th</sup>

Chairman Carter explained that the purpose of the meeting was to hear a presentation from Tim Connell, President of the Georgia Student Finance Commission, entitled *Projected Lottery Revenues and Expenditures through FY 2016 and Effects on HOPE Scholarship Award Levels*.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Chairman Carter asked if there was any other business to be brought before the committee. There being no further business or comment, Chairman Carter adjourned the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Josh McKoon, 29<sup>th</sup>  
Secretary  
Senate Higher Education Committee

/s/ Allison Beasley  
Recording Secretary

**Minutes**  
**Senate Higher Education Committee**  
**Tuesday, February 21, 2012**  
**Room 310, CLOB**

Chairman Carter called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. The following members were in attendance:

Senator Buddy Carter, 1<sup>st</sup>, Chairman  
Senator Johnny Grant, 25<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman (arrived at 3:06 p.m.)  
Senator Nan Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Lester Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> (arrived at 3:22 p.m.)  
Senator Jesse Stone, 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Senator Curt Thompson, 5<sup>th</sup> (arrived at 3:23 p.m.)

Chairman Carter explained that the purpose of the meeting was to hear a presentation from Stephen Flatt and Bryan Baldwin, representatives from the University of Phoenix, on state/community partnerships and workforce solutions that have been developed by the university.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Chairman Carter asked if there was any other business to be brought before the committee. There being no further business or comment, Chairman Carter adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Buddy Carter, 1<sup>st</sup>  
Chairman  
Senate Higher Education Committee

/s/ Allison Beasley  
Recording Secretary

**Minutes**  
**Senate Higher Education Committee**  
**Tuesday, February 28, 2012**  
**Room 307, CLOB**

Chairman Carter called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. The following members were in attendance:

Senator Buddy Carter, 1<sup>st</sup>, Chairman  
Senator Johnny Grant, 25<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman  
Senator Ronnie Chance, 16<sup>th</sup> (arrived at 3:20 p.m.)  
Senator Lester Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Senator Jesse Stone, 23<sup>rd</sup>

Chairman Carter welcomed guests and invited audience members to sign up to speak on agenda items. Chairman Carter asked Stone of the 23<sup>rd</sup> to open the meeting with prayer. The following legislation was discussed:

**SB 478 (Loudermilk, 52<sup>nd</sup>) Education; provide authorization to operate by means of accreditation for nonpublic postsecondary institutions; certain requirements** - presented by Senator Loudermilk of the 52<sup>nd</sup> and Representative Casas of the 103<sup>rd</sup>. Loudermilk of the 52<sup>nd</sup> and Casas of the 103<sup>rd</sup> explained that this bill allows nonpublic postsecondary institutions to apply for an authorization to operate by means of accreditation if the institution meets one of the following criteria: operated in Georgia for 5 consecutive years; holds accreditation by an accreditation agency that is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or the U.S. Department of Education; and have no unresolved complaints or actions against it in the past 12 months. Casas of the 103<sup>rd</sup> highlighted that SB 478 is a paperwork reduction act and clarified that the institution must be accredited for 10 consecutive years.

Loudermilk of the 52<sup>nd</sup> offered a substitute to the committee to amend Line 29 so that the institution must operate legally in Georgia for at least “10” consecutive years and amend Line 32 so that the institution must hold institutional accreditation by an accrediting agency that is recognized by either the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or the U.S. Department of Education “for at least 10 consecutive years.” Loudermilk of the 52<sup>nd</sup> explained that the amendment was made as an agreement with the accrediting agencies. Loudermilk of the 52<sup>nd</sup> noted that this has been done in Florida and would allow for a little more time to look at it. Loudermilk of the 52<sup>nd</sup> explained that if a school has been around for 10 years, they’re stable; this establishes the school’s viability.

At the end of the discussion, Chairman Carter gave members of the audience an opportunity to speak before entertaining motions on the piece of legislation.

Stone of the 23<sup>rd</sup> motioned “do pass by substitute”, seconded by Grant of the 25<sup>th</sup>. **Motion passed unanimously (LC 28 6209S).**

There being no further business, Chairman Carter adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s /Senator Buddy Carter, 1<sup>st</sup>  
Chairman  
Senate Higher Education Committee

/s /Allison Beasley  
Recording Secretary

**Minutes**  
**Senate Higher Education Committee**  
**Monday, March 12, 2012**  
**Room 310, CLOB**

Chairman Carter called the meeting to order at 3:17 p.m., announcing that a quorum was present. The following members were in attendance:

Senator Buddy Carter, 1<sup>st</sup>, Chairman  
Senator Johnny Grant, 25<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman  
Senator Bill Cowsert, 46<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Lester Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> (arrived at 3:24 p.m.)  
Senator Nan Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Jesse Stone, 23<sup>rd</sup>

Chairman Carter welcomed members and guests and invited guests to sign up if they would like to speak on agenda items. The following legislation was discussed:

**HB 792 (Casas, 103<sup>rd</sup>) Nonpublic Postsecondary Educational Institutions Act of 1990; operate by means of accreditation; provide authorization** - presented by Representative Casas of the 103<sup>rd</sup>. Casas of the 103<sup>rd</sup> explained that HB 792 is a companion bill to SB 478 (Loudermilk, 52<sup>nd</sup>) which passed out of the Senate Higher Education Committee on February 28, 2012.

Stone of the 23<sup>rd</sup> asked for clarification regarding the terms “complaints or action” on Line 33. Casas of the 103<sup>rd</sup> explained that the Commission exists to protect the students and it is the only thing that authorizes their opposition in the state. Casas of the 103<sup>rd</sup> further explained that the student can lodge a complaint against the school through the Commission. Stone of the 23<sup>rd</sup> recommended that the bill be amended on Line 33 by inserting “to” after “complaints” and adding “by the commission” after “actions.”

In order to mirror SB 478 (Loudermilk, 52<sup>nd</sup>), Grant of the 25<sup>th</sup> stated he would like to amend Line 29 by striking “5” and make it “10” and insert “for at least 10 consecutive years” in Line 33 after “education.”

Cowsert of the 46<sup>th</sup> questioned why this bill was drafted. Casas of the 103<sup>rd</sup> explained that most private colleges, seminaries, and universities, try to comply with the Commission; what the bill does is give them less paperwork to complete. Casas of the 103<sup>rd</sup> noted that the amendments from Grant of the 25<sup>th</sup> allowed the Commission to be in agreement.

Stone of the 23<sup>rd</sup> motioned to pass the proposed amendments offered by Stone of the 23<sup>rd</sup> and Grant of the 25<sup>th</sup>. Grant of the 25<sup>th</sup> seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Grant of the 25<sup>th</sup> motioned “do pass by substitute,” seconded by Stone of the 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
**Motion passed unanimously (LC 28 6243).**

There being no further business, Chairman Carter adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Buddy Carter, 1<sup>st</sup>  
Chairman  
Senate Higher Education Committee

/s/ Allison Beasley  
Recording Secretary

**EARL L. (BUDDY) CARTER**

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**The State Senate**  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

**COMMITTEES:**

CHAIRMAN, HIGHER EDUCATION

Health and Human Services, Vice Chairman

Appropriations

Ethics

Regulated Industries and Utilities

State Institutions and Property

June 1, 2012

Office of the Secretary of the Senate  
353 State Capitol  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

I am returning the following bills assigned to the Senate Higher Education Committee for the 2012 Legislative Session of the Georgia General Assembly.

No action was taken on the following legislation:

[SB 131](#)

[SB 194](#)

[SB 235](#)

[SB 308](#)

[SB 334](#)

[SB 335](#)

[SB 336](#)

[SB 409](#)

[SB 419](#)

[SB 420](#)

[SB 422](#)

[SB 423](#)

[SB 451](#)

[SR 345](#)

[SR 353](#)

[SR 722](#)

[SR 842](#)

[HB 52](#)

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Allison Beasley

Recording Secretary

Senate Higher Education Committee