

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
2017 MEMBERS**

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**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER
EDUCATION
January 30, 2017**

The joint Senate Committee on Higher Education and the House Committee on Higher Education met on Monday, January 30, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. in Room 506 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Chairman
Sen. P. K. Martin, IV (9th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st) (*arrived late*)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)
Sen. Burt Jones (25th)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th)

Chairman Millar (40th) called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Chairman Millar (40th) presented the 2017-2018 Committee Rules.

Sen. Jackson (2nd) made the motion to adopt the 2017-2018 Senate Higher Education Committee Rules. Sen. Martin (9th) seconded the motion. The adoption of the Rules passed unanimously (7-0). A copy of the Rules is attached.

Several presenters appeared before the Committee to present developments that pertain to higher education. They are listed as follows:

Tricia Chastain, Executive Vice Chancellor of Administration, University System of Georgia

The University System of Georgia (USG) has 28 institutions across the state enrolling over 320,000 students and having an economic impact of \$15.5 billion. USG generates 150,000 jobs statewide and \$2 billion in research and other sponsored funds. In 2016, the number of degrees produced in Georgia was 62,545. To support students in their graduation efforts USG has created several initiatives, such as Degree Roadmaps, 15 to Finish, an early-alert system, retention grants and scholarships, and free textbooks. USG's tuition and fees average 25% less than what institutions in peer states charge. Tuition has increased over the past 10 years, but it has not fully offset the loss in state appropriations over the same time period. Adjusted for inflation, USG institutions increased annual spending per full-time student just over half a percent (0.6%) between 2006 and 2015. USG priorities for 2017 include ensuring more Georgians enter the workforce with a college credential, making colleges more affordable and accessible for Georgians, and finding opportunities to be more efficient and control costs.

Gretchen Corbin, Commissioner, Technical College System of Georgia

The Technical College System of Georgia has 22 colleges and 85 campuses around the state. Operational updates include Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) accreditation expanded to all 22 colleges, funding for 3 new College & Career Academies, including Chattahoochee, Tift, and Worth, co-requisite remediation implementation, and expanded Strategic Industries Workforce Development Grant program. In 2016, TCSG had 133,455 students enrolled in Technical Education, 187,674 trainees in Economic Development, and 44,940 students enrolled in Adult Education.

Shawn Ryan, President, Georgia Student Finance Commission

The Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) offers financial aid and educational services including Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Completion, Financial Literacy, GAfutures.org, K-12 and Postsecondary Outreach, Loan Servicing, Path2College 529 Plan, and State Financial Aid Information Services. In FY 2016, GSFC provided \$713 million in scholarships, grants, and loans to more than 260,000 Georgians, conducted almost 4,000 visits and events across the state, hosted 65 FAFSA completion events, opened 13,500 new Path2College 529 Plan accounts, and had 28 new Reaching Educational Achievement Can Happen (REACH) school districts and 350 new REACH Scholars. REACH is a Public-Private partnership that leverages local support with state and private funds. \$1,947,234 has been raised in private funds and \$819,311 by local school systems. The current growth plan targets 2,800 students and all counties participating by 2020. Move On When Ready (MOWR) has grown by 20% from Fall, FY 2016 to Fall, FY 2017. Fifty percent of MOWR students are participating at the TCSG. Eighty-five percent of MOWR students attend a public high school. Seventy-six percent of courses taken through MOWR are core classes. It is the Governor's recommendation to provide \$430,000 to develop and maintain a centralized postsecondary grade point average calculation system for Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally (HOPE) programs that will potentially launch at the end of the Fall 2018 academic term.

NOTE: Sen. Beach (21st) arrived at 4:14 pm.

Corinna Robinson, Executive Director, Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission

The main goal of Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission (NPEC) is to assure prospective and enrolled students, prospective employers, the general public, federal agencies, and other state agencies that the institutions meet the Minimum Standards. Authorized institutions for 2016 include 152 Degree Institutions, 139 Non-Degree Institutions for a total of 291 Institutions. NPEC also provides a safety-net for students, created in 1992, in case of closures. Goals for this year include assuring consumer protection, increasing public awareness of NPEC's role, conducting financial viability assessments, and promoting innovative technology initiatives.

Jet Toney, Public Policy Consultant, Georgia Independent College Association

Georgia Independent College Association (GICA) enrollment for Fall 2015 included 41,839 undergraduate students and 17,099 graduate students. Female students made up 60% of undergraduate enrollment for 2015-2016. The number of high school students who took Move on When Ready courses at independent colleges and universities in 2015-2016 was 2,491. In 2012, an articulation agreement with TCSG created 50+ courses to be accepted by GICA member institutions.

Chairman Millar (40th) adjourned the Senate Higher Education meeting at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary

/s/ Donna Nealey, Recording Secretary

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
RULES 2017 & 2018**

1. These Committee Rules of Operations 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 OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
February 16, 2017

The Senate Committee on Higher Education met on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 1:00 pm in Room 450 of the State Capitol.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Chairman
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)
Sen. Burt Jones (25th)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)

NOTE: Sen. P. K. Martin, IV (9th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd), and Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th) were absent.

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. by Chairman Millar (40th).

SB 5 (Sen. Bill Cowsert, 46th, LC 36 3172) Lottery for Education; net proceeds transferred to the state treasury for credit to the Lottery for Education Account; establish the percentage

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) presented the bill. The bill would establish the percentage of the lottery proceeds for each fiscal year to be transferred to the state treasury for credit to the Lottery for Education Account. The bill would require the lottery to increase payout to the state treasury by 1% for the next fiscal year. If sale losses are 5% or more, the payout increases would stop. If it does not affect sales negatively by 5% or more, then an additional increase would happen the following year.

Guest speaker spoke on the bill:

Debbie Alford, Director of the Georgia Lottery Corporation, said that the Lottery is afraid that to increase the payout to the treasury would require reducing the payout to players. Their concern is this would reduce the number of players and subsequently hurt the Lottery for Education Account. Only 4% of their budget is devoted to operational expenses.

SB 5 HEARING ONLY

Chairman Millar (40th) adjourned the meeting at 2:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary

/s/ Donna Nealey, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
February 22, 2017

The Senate Committee on Higher Education met on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdale Legislative Office Building.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Chairman
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Burt Jones (25th)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)

NOTE: Sen. P. K. Martin, IV (9th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd), and Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th) were absent.

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chairman Millar (40th).

SB 5 (Sen. Bill Cowsert, 46th, LC 36 3172) Lottery for Education; net proceeds transferred to the state treasury for credit to the Lottery for Education Account; establish the percentage

A guest speaker spoke against the bill:

Jim Kennedy, Group Chief Executive of Scientific Games Corporation, said that three other states that implemented this policy--Louisiana, New Mexico, and Oklahoma--had decreased ticket sales. The company believes this bill will reduce the quality of the games and subsequently decrease funds. The organization is in opposition to the bill.

Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) made a motion that SB 5 **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous (4-0).

SB 5 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 36 3311S

Chairman Millar (40th) adjourned the meeting at 4:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary

/s/ Donna Nealey, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
February 27, 2017

The Senate Committee on Higher Education met on Monday, February 27, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdale Legislative Office Building.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Chairman
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)

NOTE: Sen. P. K. Martin, IV (9th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Burt Jones (25th), and Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th) were absent.

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Chairman Millar (40th).

SB 144 (Sen. Ed Harbison, 15th, LC 44 0261) 'Georgia Lottery for Veterans Act'

Sen. Harbison (15th) presented the bill, which would provide that the Georgia Lottery Corporation offer one or more games to benefit veterans in relation to post-traumatic stress disorder, veterans' homelessness, veterans' health insurance costs, veterans' disability benefits, and more.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:

Ira Meyers, private citizen, spoke as a veteran in support of SB 144.
Ed Richards, retired Army veteran, spoke in support of SB 144.

SB 144 HEARING ONLY

SR 191 (Sen. Ed Harbison, 15th, LC 44 0248) General Assembly; proceeds of one or more lottery games to benefit military veterans; authorize to provide –CA

Sen. Harbison (15th) presented the resolution, which proposes a constitutional amendment to provide that the Georgia Lottery Corporation will have one or more lottery games that will benefit veterans.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the resolution:

Ira Meyers, private citizen, spoke as a veteran in support of SR 191.
Ed Richards, retired Army veteran, spoke in support of SR 191.
John Lutenberg, dog trainer and retired military, spoke in support of SR191.

SR 191 HEARING ONLY

SB 82 (Sen. Lester Jackson, 2nd, LC41 0884) HOPE; need-based HOPE scholarship and grant; create

Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) presented the bill. The bill would create a needs-based HOPE scholarship and grant. To qualify, there would be academic criteria of a 2.0 GPA and household income of less than \$75,000 over the past two tax years.

SB 82 HEARING ONLY

Chairman Millar (40th) adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary

/s/ Donna Nealey, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
March 6, 2017

The Senate Committee on Higher Education met on Monday, March 6, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdale Legislative Office Building.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Chairman
Sen. P. K. Martin, IV (9th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)

NOTE: Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd), Sen. Burt Jones (25th), and Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th) were absent.

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Chairman Millar (40th).

SB 113 (Sen. Josh McKoon, 29th, LC 40 1293) HOPE Scholarship; children of certain public officials who have been killed or permanently disabled in line of duty; provide automatic eligibility

Sen. McKoon (29th) presented the bill. The bill would open the HOPE scholarship and grant to children of certain public officials who have been killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty.

SB 113 HEARING ONLY

SB 208 (Sen. Josh McKoon, 29th, LC 40 1283ER) - Education; award amount for HOPE scholarships based on previous year's average cost of tuition; provide . . .

Sen. McKoon (29th) presented the bill. It would provide that the award amount for HOPE be based on the previous year's average cost of tuition for institutions within the university system.

SB 208 HEARING ONLY

SB 209 (Sen. Josh McKoon, 29th, LC 40 1348ER) University System of GA; Student Advisory Council and the Faculty Advisory Council; create; powers, duties, authorities and functions; provide

Sen. McKoon (29th) presented the bill. It would create the Student Advisory Council and the Faculty Advisory Council relating to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. While these councils already exist, this bill would put them into Georgia Code so they could not be abolished by the Board of Regents.

SB 209 HEARING ONLY

SR 252 (Sen. Josh McKoon, 29th, LC 40 1322) Board of Regents of the University System of GA; election of members and reduction in total membership; provide – CA

Sen. McKoon (29th) presented the bill. It would create an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide for the election of members and reduction in the total membership of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. Members would be elected to the Board of Regents by district and two members would be elected statewide.

SR 252 HEARING ONLY

SR 253 (Sen. Josh McKoon, 29th, LC 40 1323) Board of Regents of the University System of GA; student member; add –CA

Sen. McKoon (29th) presented the bill. It would establish a student member in the Board of Regents. The student would be elected by the student government association presidents of the member institutions of the University System of Georgia and then appointed by the Governor.

SR 253 HEARING ONLY

SB 215 (Sen. Michael Williams, 27th, LC 40 1414 ER) Education; amount established for freshman year; freeze tuition for particular students

Sen. Williams (27th) presented the bill. It would establish a tuition freeze for freshmen students. The same tuition cost would follow a student for the next four years.

A guest speaker spoke against the bill:

Shelley Nickel, Fiscal Affairs for the University System of Georgia and the Board of Regents. She argued that tuition freeze was a policy implemented in the past and did not work for the University System of Georgia, as it requires that state funds are predictable. The University System is working on, and has implemented, programs to reduce tuition cost and other costs. Some programs include 15 to Finish and free or reduced cost textbooks for online classes.

SB 215 HEARING ONLY

SR 255 (Sen. Michael Williams, 27th, LC 40 1413) General Assembly; regulate the amount of tuition and fees for institutions of the University System of Georgia; authorize

Sen. Williams (27th) presented the bill. It would authorize the General Assembly to regulate the amount of tuition and fees for institutions of the University System of Georgia.

A guest speaker spoke against the bill:

Shelley Nickel, Fiscal Affairs for the University System of Georgia and the Board of Regents. She argued that tuition freeze was a policy implemented in the past and did not work for the University System of Georgia, as it requires that state funds are predictable.

The University System is working on and has implemented programs to reduce tuition cost and other costs. Some programs include 15 to Finish and free or reduced cost textbooks for online classes.

SR 255 HEARING ONLY

Chairman Millar (40th) adjourned the meeting at 1:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary

/s/ Donna Nealey, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
March 13, 2017

The Senate Committee on Higher Education met on Monday, March 13, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdale Legislative Office Building.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Chairman
Sen. P. K. Martin, IV (9th), Vice-Chairman (*arrived late*)
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) (*arrived late*)
Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th)

NOTE: Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) and Sen. Burt Jones (25th) were absent.

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Chairman Millar (40th).

HB 222 (Rep. Shaw Blackmon, 146th, LC 33 6803) HOPE; members of Georgia National Guard and reservists meet residency requirement; provide

Rep. Blackmon (146th) presented the bill. The bill would allow Georgia National Guard and reservists to meet the residency requirement for the HOPE scholarship and grant.

Sen. Beach (21st) made a motion HB 222 **Do Pass**. Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (4-0). Sen. Walker (20th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 222 DO PASS

NOTE: Sen. Orrock (36th) arrived at 1:12 p.m. She did not vote on HB 222.

HB 37 (Rep. Earl Ehrhart, 36th, LC 28 8184) Education; private postsecondary institutions in Georgia shall not adopt sanctuary policies; provide

Rep. Ehrhart (36th) presented the bill. It would provide that private postsecondary institutions in this state shall not adopt sanctuary policies and would provide penalties for violations.

A guest speaker spoke about the bill:

Susanna Baxter, Georgia Independent College Association, said that currently none of the independent colleges she represents are breaking the law and that they plan to continue to follow federal law. She was neutral on the bill.

Guest speakers spoke against the bill:

Aisha Yaquob, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, said that she is concerned that the bill will place colleges in a position where they may have to violate Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or state law. She argued that documentation status is in a grey area of protected rights under this act. She was against the bill.

David Schaefer, Latin American Association, said that he echoed the concerns of Ms. Yaquob. He was against the bill.

Sen. Thompson (14th) made a motion HB 37 **Do Pass**. Sen. Beach (21st) seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1. The yea votes were Sen. Tillery (19th), Sen. Beach (21st), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), and Sen. Thompson (14th). The nay vote was Sen. Orrock (36th). Sen. Mullis (53rd) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 37 DO PASS

NOTE: Sen. Martin (9th) arrived at 1:19 p.m. He did not vote on HB 37 or HB 222.

Chairman Millar (40th) adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary

/s/ Donna Nealey, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
March 20, 2017

The Senate Committee on Higher Education met on Monday, March 20, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdale Legislative Office Building.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Chairman
Sen. P. K. Martin, IV (9th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th)

NOTE: Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) and Sen. Burt Jones (25th) were absent.

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Chairman Millar (40th).

HB 448 (Rep. Chuck Williams, 119th, LC 41 1043) Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission; require certain postsecondary institutions to qualify for exemptions; provisions

Rep. Williams (119th) presented the bill. It would require certain education and postsecondary educational institutions to qualify for exemptions with the Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission and the maintenance of exemptions provided for under such part.

Sen. Tillery (19th) made a motion HB 448 **Do Pass**. Sen. Thompson (14th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). Sen. P. K. Martin (9th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 448 DO PASS

HB 432 (Rep. Matt Dubnik, 29th, LC 40 1446) Tuition grants; certain institutions that lack accreditation be approved for tuition equalization purposes; provide

Rep. Dubnik (29th) presented the bill. It would provide that certain institutions that lack accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools shall be deemed to be an approved school for tuition equalization purposes if previously deemed an approved school under certain alternative provisions.

Sen. Orrock (36th) made a motion HB 432 **Do Pass**. Sen. Thompson (14th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). Sen. Hunter Hill (6th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 432 DO PASS

NOTE: HB 222 was recommitted to the Senate Committee on Higher Education.
HB 222 (Rep. Shaw Blackmon, 146th, LC 33 6803) HOPE; members of Georgia National Guard and reservists meet residency requirement; provide

Sen. Millar (40th) presented the bill, since it was recommitted to the Committee.

Sen. Thompson (14th) made a motion **HB 222 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Martin (9th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 222 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 36 3400S

Chairman Millar (40th) adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary

/s/ Donna Nealey, Recording Secretary

March 30, 2017

Mr. David Cook
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

RE: Senate Higher Education Committee – 2017 General Assembly Legislative Session

Dear Secretary Cook:

The Senate Higher Education Committee respectfully submits the following 13 bills left in the committee after the 2017 General Assembly Legislative Session. They include the following:

SB82 SB113 SB144 SB208 SB209 SB215 SB268 SB287 SR191 SR252 SR253 SR255

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Senator Fran Millar
Chairman Senate Higher Education

Donna Nealey
Legislative Assistant
Senate Higher Education Committee