

# STATE-BY-STATE ANALYSIS OF POLICIES REGARDING STUDENT REGENTS

TO SAC REPRESENTATIVES

ANALYSIS BY: TRAVIS R. HORSLEY, MGC

- I. Alabama
  - a. The Alabama Commission on Higher Education currently does not have a student member on its board.
- II. Alaska
  - a. The University of Alaska Board of Regents, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, states the following: "Alaska law stipulates that each campus will select two nominees for student regent and student commissioner through an election held under rules established by the Governor. The following are the requirements for the positions and rules to carry out the election of nominees." The student member must maintain a 2.5 GPA and be a full time student, among other stipulations.
  - b. More information may be found at <http://www.alaska.edu/bor/>
- III. Arizona
  - a. The Arizona Board of Regents has one voting and one none-voting member on their board. The Student Regent is chosen through a rigorous process that begins with candidates applying to the Board of Associated Students of Arizona. The Governor conducts interviews and nominates one student for the position. The Arizona Senate must confirm the Governor's nominee.
  - b. More information may be found at [http://www.abor.asu.edu/1\\_the\\_regents/student\\_regent/sturegent\\_index.html](http://www.abor.asu.edu/1_the_regents/student_regent/sturegent_index.html)
- IV. Arkansas
  - a. The Arkansas Department of Higher Education currently does not have a student member on its coordinating board.
- V. California
  - a. The student Regent is a voting member of The Regents of the University of California, attending all meetings of the Board and its Committees and serving a one-year term commencing July 1. The Board of Regents meets six times a year, every other month, in two-day meetings. The powers and authorities of The Regents are broadly established in the Constitution of the State of California and are reflected in Bylaw 5 of The Regents of the University of California. The student Regent is reimbursed for expenses incurred for attendance at meetings of the Board and its Committees. All mandatory University fees and tuition are waived for the student Regent during the academic years in which he or she serves as a Regent-designate and as a member of the Board.
  - b. More information may be found at <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/regents/studentreg.html>
- VI. Colorado
  - a. The University of Colorado Board of Regents currently does not have a voting student member on its coordinating board.
- VII. Connecticut
  - a. The Board of Governors, the Governing body of the Department of Higher Education for the State of Connecticut, currently does not have a student member on its board.
- VIII. Delaware
  - a. The Delaware Higher Education Commission currently does not have a student commissioner.
- IX. Florida
  - a. The Board of Governors for the State University System of Florida appoints one voting student member to their board. He or she is the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Florida Student Association, which makes this individual the only student representative on the Board of Governors for the State University System.
  - b. More information may be found at <http://www.flbog.org/bog/>
- X. Georgia
  - a. The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia current does not have a student member on its board.
- XI. Hawaii
  - a. The University of Hawaii System currently does not have a student member on its board.

- XII. Idaho
  - a. The Idaho State Board of Education, which governs all public institutions of learning within the state of Idaho, does not have a student member on its board.
- XIII. Illinois
  - a. The Illinois Board of Higher Education appoints one student member to its governing board. Instead of being appointed by a higher authority (i.e., Governor, President of the State Senate), like most other states with student members on their board, the member is elected from within Illinois' Student Advisory Council. The respective student serves a one-year term.
  - b. More information may be found at <http://www.ibhe.org/default.htm>
- XIV. Indiana
  - a. The Indiana Commission for Higher Education, in accordance with a mandate passed by the Indiana state legislature of 1990, currently has a both a voting student member and faculty member present on their commission. The Commission is not a governing board, but a coordinating agency that works closely with Indiana's public and independent colleges.
  - b. More information may be found at <http://www.che.state.in.us/about/>
- XV. Iowa
  - a. According to Iowa Code Chapter 262, one member of the Iowa Board of Regents must be a full-time graduate or undergraduate student at one of the universities at the time of his or her appointment.
  - b. More information may be found at <http://www2.state.ia.us/regents/>
- XVI. Kansas
  - a. The Kansas Board of Regents currently does not have a student member on its board.
- XVII. Kentucky
  - a. The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education has a voting student and faculty member on its council. The Governor appoints all members, including the student member. Citizen Council members are selected from a list provided to the Governor under the nominating process set forth in the Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997.
  - b. More Information may be found at <http://cpe.ky.gov/about/cpe/>
- XVIII. Louisiana
  - a. The Louisiana Board of Regents has one student member that is in attendance on their board. Although it could not be determined if this student was a voting member or not, he was elected from Louisiana's Council of Student Body Presidents.
  - b. More information may be found at <http://www.regents.state.la.us/>
- XIX. Maine
  - a. The Board of Trustees of the University System of Maine has a student member of the board. The Governor appoints the student member for a single two-year term.
  - b. More information may be found at <http://www.maine.edu/board/index.php?section=3>
- XX. Maryland
  - a. The Maryland Higher Education Commission has a student commissioner appointed to a term of one year. The student has the opportunity to serve on any of the boards within the commission, and assists in the coordination of establishing statewide policies for Maryland public and private colleges and universities.
  - b. More information may be found at <http://www.mhec.state.md.us/index.asp>
- XXI. Massachusetts
  - a. The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education has a student member on its board. Although it was ascertained that this student was a voting member, online documentation did not state the term of this member.
  - b. More information may be found at <http://www.mass.edu/about/home.asp>
- XXII. Michigan
  - a. The Michigan Department of Education, which governs public institutions for primary, secondary, and postsecondary education, currently does not have a student member on its board.
- XXIII. Minnesota
  - a. The Minnesota Office of Higher Education is a cabinet-level state agency. The structure of this agency does not provide any individual governing board (i.e., Regents, Commissioners, Trustees, Governors, etc.), and is set up in more of a hierarchical fashion. Therefore, there is no student member because a governing board does not exist.
- XXIV. Mississippi

- b. The Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning currently does not have a student member on its board.
- XXV. Missouri
  - a. The Coordinating Board for Higher Education for the State of Missouri currently does not have a student member on its board.
- XXVI. Montana
  - a. The Montana Board of Regents has one student member who is appointed by the governor for a term of 18 months.
  - b. More information may be found at <http://www.bor.montana.edu/>
- XXVII. Nebraska
  - a. Nebraska’s Coordinating commission for Postsecondary Education currently does not have a student commissioner on its board.
- XXVIII. Nevada
  - a. The Nevada System of Higher Education currently does not have a student member on its board.
- XXIX. New Hampshire
  - a. The New Hampshire Postsecondary Education Commission provides space for three voting student members within its board. No other information could be attained on the length of terms, or means of appointment of these individuals.
  - b. More information may be found at <http://www.nh.gov/postsecondary/>
  - c. The University System of New Hampshire, a separate branch of the New Hampshire government than that of the NHPEC, has two student trustees on its Board of Trustees.
  - d. More information may be found at <http://www.usnh.unh.edu/>
- XXX. New Jersey
  - a. The New Jersey Commission on Higher Education has two voting student members on its Board of Commissioners. The Governor appoints two students in attendance at public or independent institutions of higher education in the State from recommendations submitted by student government associations of New Jersey colleges and universities, who shall serve for a one-year term on the commission as voting members.
  - b. More information may be found at <http://www.nj.gov/highereducation/actsum.htm>
- XXXI. New Mexico
  - a. The New Mexico Commission on Higher Education, now formally known as the New Mexico Higher Education Department, was elevated by the New Mexico state legislature to a Cabinet-level department in April 2005. Although it was somewhat vague to understand the hierarchical structure of this new department, it appears that all forms of governance (i.e., Regents, Commissioners, Trustees, Governors, etc.) has been removed, and therefore there are no student members serving on a board, since one does not exist.
- XXXII. New York
  - a. No information could be found as to if the New York State Education Department has a governing body over its institutions of higher learning.
- XXXIII. North Carolina
  - a. The North Carolina, University of North Carolina General Administration has 32 voting-members on its Board of Governors. In addition to the voting members of the Board, there are also special member, including past members, students, among others.
  - b. More information may be found at <http://www.northcarolina.edu/content.php/bog/index.htm>
- XXXIV. North Dakota
  - a. The eight-member State Board of Higher Education is the policy-setting body for the North Dakota University System. The board includes seven citizen members appointed by the governor who serve four-year terms and one student appointed by the governor for a one-year term. A non-voting faculty advisor is selected by the Council of College Faculties.
  - b. More information may be found at <http://www.ndus.nodak.edu/sbhe/>
- XXXV. Ohio
  - a. The Ohio Board of Regents currently does not have a student member on its board.
- XXXVI. Oklahoma
  - a. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education currently does not have a student member on its board.
- XXXVII. Oregon

- b. The Board of Regents for the Oregon University System currently has two student members on their board. These two students are part of a group of eight lay members that sit in a non-voting status. The two students are appointed for two-year terms.
  - c. More information may be found at [http://www.ous.edu/state\\_board/](http://www.ous.edu/state_board/)
- XXXVIII. Pennsylvania
  - a. The Council of Higher Education, a committee of the Pennsylvania Board of Education, currently does not have a student member on its board.
- XXXIX. Rhode Island
  - a. The Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education has one voting student member who is appointed for a two-year term. He or she is appointed by the Governor and is subject to Senate confirmation.
  - b. More information may be found at <http://www.ribghe.org/board.htm>
- XL. South Carolina
  - a. The South Carolina commission on Higher Education currently does not have a student member on its board.
- XLI. South Dakota
  - a. The South Dakota Board of Regents has one student member on its board. No further information was found stating the term of this student member, and his or her voting status.
  - b. More information may be found at <http://www.sdbor.edu/board/>
- XLII. Tennessee
  - a. The Tennessee Higher Education Commission has two ex-officio student members, with one voting each year. One student member is from the University of Tennessee System with a two-year term and one student member is from the Tennessee Board of Regents System with a two-year term.
  - b. More information may be found at [http://www.state.tn.us/thec/2004web/division\\_pages/commission\\_pages/members.html](http://www.state.tn.us/thec/2004web/division_pages/commission_pages/members.html)
- XLIII. Texas
  - a. The University of Texas System Board of Regents inducted its first student regent in February 2006. The student must be enrolled as a student in a general academic institution within the state. The student regent has the same powers and duties as the members of the board of regents of the system, including the right to attend and participate in meetings of the board of regents, except the right to vote, second a motion, is not counted in determining a quorum.
  - b. More information may be found at <http://www.utsystem.edu/BOR/>
- XLIV. Utah
  - a. The Board of Regents of the Utah System of Higher Education has one voting student member within its board. Appointed by the governor, the student regent serves a one-year term.
  - b. More information may be found at <http://www.utahsbr.edu/bor01b.html>
- XLV. Vermont
  - a. No information could be found regarding a formal governing body of Vermont State Colleges.
- XLVI. Virginia
  - a. The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia currently does not have a student member on its board.
- XLVII. Washington
  - a. The Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board currently has one student serving on its board. He or she serves a one-year term and is appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate.
  - b. More Information may be found at <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/about/index.asp>
- XLVIII. West Virginia
  - a. The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission currently does not have a student member on its board.
- XLIX. Wisconsin
  - a. The University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents has two student regents who are appointed to two-year terms. All appointees serve at the pleasure of the board. These two student regents are voting members of the board.
  - b. More information may be found at <http://www.uwsa.edu/bor/>
- L. Wyoming
  - a. The Wyoming Community College Commission currently does not have a student member on its board.

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

**Jim Bishop**

The Bishop Law Firm  
777 Gloucester St., Ste. 401  
Brunswick, GA 31520  
ph: (912) 264-2390  
fx: (912) 264-5859

**Hugh A. Carter, Jr.**

Darby Printing  
6215 Purdue Dr.  
Atlanta, GA 30336  
ph: (404) 344-2665  
fx: (404) 346-3332

**William H. Cleveland, VICE CHAIR**

3620 Martin Luther King Dr.  
Atlanta, GA 30331  
ph: (404) 696-7300  
fx: (404) 696-0509

**Robert F. Hatcher**

MidCountry Financial Corp.  
201 Second St., Ste. 950  
Macon, GA 31201  
ph: (478) 746-8222  
fx: (478) 746-8005

**Felton Jenkins**

800 Crawford St.  
Madison, GA 30650  
ph: (706) 342-3564  
fx: (706) 342-3564

**W. Mansfield Jennings, Jr.**

ComSouth Corporation  
250 Broad St.  
Hawkinsville, GA 31036  
ph: (478) 783-4001  
fx: (478) 783-4620

**James R. Jolly**

J & J Industries, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1287  
Dalton, GA 30722-1287  
ph: (706) 278-4454 x261  
fx: (706) 275-4433

**Donald M. Leebern, Jr.**

Georgia Crown Distributing Co.  
P.O. Box 308  
McDonough, GA 30253-0308  
ph: (770) 302-3000  
fx: (770) 302-3109

**Elridge McMillan**

Centennial Park West  
250 Park West, NW, #205  
Atlanta, GA 30313  
ph: (404) 756-4404  
fx: (404) 756-4922

**Patrick S. Pittard**

20 Cates Ridge  
Atlanta, GA 30327  
ph: (404) 303-9383  
fx: (404) 303-0373

**Doreen Stiles Poitevint**

2001 Twin Lakes Dr.  
Bainbridge, GA 39819  
ph: (229) 246-8577  
fx: (229) 248-1922

**Willis J. Potts**

2614 Horseleg Creek Rd., SW  
Rome, GA 30165  
ph: (706) 802-1313  
fx: (706) 802-1313 (call first)

**Wanda Yancey Rodwell**

5628 Silver Ridge Dr.  
Stone Mountain, GA 30087  
ph: (770) 879-5700  
fx: (404) 598-1068

**Benjamin J. Tarbutton**

Sandersville Railroad  
206 North Smith St.  
Sandersville, GA 31082  
ph: (478) 552-5151 x208  
fx: (478) 552-1118

**Richard L. Tucker**

Arlington Capital, LLC  
1505 Lakes Pkwy., #150  
Lawrenceville, GA 30043  
ph: (770) 232-8800  
fx: (678) 990-8988

**Allan Vigil, CHAIR**

Allan Vigil Ford  
P.O. Box 100.001  
Morrow, GA 30260  
ph: (678) 364-3673  
fx: (678) 364-3947

## DRAFT OF LETTER TO REGENTS

Travis Horsley

1100 Second Street SE  
Cochran, GA 31014

T 404.797.6858

F 678.545.0279

[trhorsley@gmail.com](mailto:trhorsley@gmail.com)

January 16, 2007

Members of the Board  
Board of Regents  
University System of Georgia  
270 Washington Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Regents,

The Mission Statement for the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia defines the ethos of the entire institution as a whole: "The mission of the University System of Georgia is to contribute to the educational, cultural, economic, and social advancement of Georgia...". As Members of the Board it is clear that you are some of the most knowledgeable individuals within the state of Georgia - the style of education that pupils receive within this great state rests in your hands. As men and women of business, past educators, locally elected politicians, among other notable positions, the makeup of this Board is distinctly diverse. Yet, as you read this document, there is one element that lacks from this Board - a student regent. The Student Advisory Council (SAC), of which I am a member, formally created a committee for the 2006-2007 academic year that desires to increase the Board of Regents connectivity with its respective constituency. Ultimately, this committee distinguished the need to have a student as a formal voice and vote on the Board of Regents.

As the attached analysis shows, twenty-five states currently have one or more students on their respective board of higher education (Regents, Trustees, Governors, etc.). These states recognize the true need to have a student perspective added to the leadership of their educational system. Incorporating the opinions of the student body of the University System of Georgia just makes sense; a concrete system of representation and accountability would materialize. In the past, the SAC suggestions have been held in high regard by the Board. Speaking as a member of SAC and as Chair of the Student Body of Middle Georgia College, I believe that you all have the power in your hands to further formalize the bond with the students of the University System of Georgia. By informing Governor Sonny Perdue and the proper legislative bodies of this dire need, the student leaders of our state will be well pleased. The introduction of a student voice and vote to this body is a conscientious decision that will not be forgotten by the student leadership of this state.

Cordially,

Travis Horsley

