

Senate Resolution 33

By: Senators Balfour of the 9th, Unterman of the 45th, Shafer of the 48th, Harp of the 29th, Thompson of the 5th and others

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Approving the creation of a new four-year college in Gwinnett County by the Board of
2 Regents of the University System of Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section IV, Paragraph I(b) of the Constitution of the State of
4 Georgia grants to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia the exclusive
5 authority to create new public colleges, junior colleges, and universities in the State of
6 Georgia, subject to approval by majority vote in the House of Representatives and the
7 Senate; and

8 WHEREAS, the University System of Georgia has established an entity known as the
9 Gwinnett University Center, located in Lawrenceville, Georgia, as a consortium of the
10 University of Georgia, Georgia Perimeter College, Southern Polytechnic State University,
11 and the Medical College of Georgia; and

12 WHEREAS, the Gwinnett University Center offers both graduate and undergraduate courses,
13 and with its aggressive growth has enrolled approximately 8,000 students in Fall 2004, an
14 increase of 124 percent over the past five years; and

15 WHEREAS, Gwinnett County's burgeoning population creates a demand for access, which
16 the University System of Georgia wishes to provide, in that Gwinnett County has 676,000
17 residents and its population is expected to reach 1 million by 2020; and

18 WHEREAS, Gwinnett County has the largest school system in the state and already accounts
19 for 10 percent of Georgia's economy; and

20 WHEREAS, the board of regents has determined that a four-year state college with its own
21 leadership will better meet the higher education needs of the citizens of Gwinnett County and
22 the surrounding area; and

1 WHEREAS, it has been deemed by the board of regents to be in the best interest of the state
2 to create a free-standing four-year college in Gwinnett County as the 35th unit of the
3 University System of Georgia near the location of the Gwinnett University Center; and

4 WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section IV, Paragraph I(b) of the Constitution provides that
5 approval of both houses of the General Assembly is required for the creation of a new public
6 college.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
8 GEORGIA that, pursuant to Article VIII, Section IV, Paragraph I(b) of the Constitution of
9 the State of Georgia, this body approves the creation of a new four-year college in Gwinnett
10 County by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
12 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Board of Regents of the University
13 System of Georgia.