



**STATE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION
OF FLORIDA**

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**CHARTER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE
OF THE
STATE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION OF FLORIDA**

A. PURPOSE:

Acting pursuant to Section 215.44(2)(c), Florida Statutes, the Board of Trustees (“Board”) of the State Board of Administration (SBA) has established an Audit Committee (the “Committee”) whose purpose is to assist the board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities. The Committee shall serve as an independent and objective party to monitor processes for financial reporting, internal controls and risk assessment, audit processes, and compliance with laws, rules, and regulations.

B. AUTHORITY:

The Committee’s authority comes from Section 215.44(2)(c), Florida Statutes and from the Board. The Committee has the authority to direct the Board’s independent external auditors, the SBA’s Chief Audit Executive (“CAE”) or the SBA’s Office of Internal Audit (“OIA”) staff to conduct an audit, review, and/or a special investigation into any matters within the scope of the Committee’s responsibility.

C. MEMBERSHIP:

The Committee shall consist of three (3) members appointed by the Board. Members shall be appointed for four (4) year terms. After the expiration of their four year term, the member must request a reappointment letter from the Board. Members will be permitted to serve while the Board considers the reappointment request, and the term of any affirmative reappointment will be deemed to have commenced upon the expiration of the term of a previous appointment. As Board members change, they will be given the opportunity to reappoint the current member or appoint another member.

Approved by the Audit Committee on August 6, 2018
Approved by the Trustees on December 4, 2018

Any vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term. Per statute, the persons appointed must have relevant knowledge and expertise as determined by the Board.

The Committee will annually elect its chair and vice chair from its membership by majority vote of the members. A member may not be elected to consecutive terms as chair or vice chair.

Each Committee member will be independent and free from any relationship that, in the opinion of the Board, would interfere with the exercise of his or her independent judgment as a member of the Committee and will be required to complete an annual independence statement.

D. MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS:

The Committee members are appointed by the Board pursuant to Section 215.44(2)(c), Florida Statutes. At the time of his or her appointment, each member shall be independent and financially literate according to the following standards:

1. Each member must meet the independence requirements of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) with respect to the activities and funds of the State Board of Administration.
2. Each member must be able to read and understand fundamental financial statements, including balance sheet, income statement and statement of cash flows and have working familiarity with financial practices applicable to fiduciary trust, banking, brokerage, asset management or other similar financial services operations.

The Board shall consider the following guidelines when appointing members to ensure the Committee, as an entity, has the collective knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to accomplish its statutory mission. Members must possess one or more of the following attributes:

1. Financial expertise as defined in the “audit committee financial expert” corporate governance rules and regulations of the SEC.
2. Investment literacy consistent with a current working knowledge of investment products commonly used by institutional investors.
3. Knowledge and experience in the practice of internal and/or external auditing, including familiarity with current auditing standards.
4. Knowledge and experience in the practice of risk management, including the performance of periodic risk assessments.

The Board shall endeavor to ensure at least one member is deemed to meet the requirements of an “audit committee financial expert” as defined by the corporate governance rules and regulations of the SEC, to the extent practical. The Board shall also endeavor to ensure at least one member is deemed to have investment literacy consistent with a current working knowledge of investment products commonly used by institutional investors.

New members will receive formal orientation training on the purpose and mandate of the Committee and on the SBA's objectives.

Members will conduct themselves in accordance with the SBA Code of Ethics as is required of all SBA management and staff.

E. MEETINGS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

The Committee shall meet four (4) times annually, or more frequently as deemed necessary by the Committee. All Committee members are expected to attend each meeting in person or via teleconference or video conference. The Committee may not conduct any meeting with fewer than two (2) members present, and approval and/or action on any item by two (2) or more members of the Committee shall constitute approval and/or action on any item by the Committee. The Committee may ask members of the SBA management or others to attend meetings and provide pertinent information as necessary. The CAE, in conjunction with the Committee chair and the Executive Director & CIO, will ensure that meeting agendas and appropriate briefing materials are prepared and provided in advance to the Committee and SBA management. Minutes of all Committee meetings will be prepared and approved.

The Committee is subject to Florida's Government in the Sunshine Law (Sunshine Law) as set forth in Chapter 286, Florida Statutes. The Sunshine Law extends to all discussions and deliberations as well as any formal action taken by the Committee. The law is applicable to any gathering, whether formal or casual, of two or more members of the Committee to discuss some matter on which foreseeable action will be taken. Reasonable public notice must be given for all such gatherings. In the event any meeting or portion thereof would reveal information that specifically is made exempt under the Sunshine Law, the Committee either may hold a separate closed meeting to discuss the exempted information or the Committee can close the portion of the publicly noticed meeting in which the exempted information is discussed but will notify the public of such closed meeting in a manner advised by the SBA's General Counsel (or his or her designee). The Committee will make an audio or other recording in the manner advised by the SBA's General Counsel (or his or her designee) of all or any portion of a meeting that is closed because of such exemption.

F. REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Committee shall report periodically, but no less than quarterly, to the Board and the Executive Director & CIO of the SBA regarding the Committee activities, issues, and recommendations.

G. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The primary duties and responsibilities of the Committee are to:

1. Financial Reporting

- Review the annual financial statements of all Trust Funds required to be audited and any certification, report, opinion, or review rendered by internal or external auditors.
- Inquire as to the external auditors' independent qualitative judgments about the appropriateness, not just the acceptability, of the accounting principles and clarity of financial disclosures practices used or proposed to be adopted by SBA.
- Inquire as to the external auditors' views about whether management's choices of accounting principles are conservative, moderate or aggressive from the perspective of income, asset and liability recognition, and whether those principles are common practices or a minority practice.
- Review, in consultation with the external auditors and the CAE, the integrity of SBA's financial reporting processes.

2. Internal Controls and Risk Assessment

- Review OIA, Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) or external evaluation of the effectiveness of the SBA's process for assessing significant risks or exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such risks, including internal controls.
- Review significant findings and recommendations of the auditors (internal and external) with management's responses, including the timetable for implementation of recommendations to correct weaknesses in the internal controls.
- Review with the independent auditors, CAE and financial and accounting personnel, the adequacy and effectiveness of the accounting and financial controls of the SBA and review any significant recommendations for the improvement of such internal control procedures or particular areas where more effective controls or procedures are desirable.

3. Compliance

- Review OIA or external provider's evaluation of the effectiveness of the system for ensuring compliance with laws, rules, regulations, policies, and procedures and the results of management's investigation and follow-up of any instances of noncompliance.

- Review the findings of any examinations by regulatory agencies.
- Review information from management, legal counsel, and the Chief Risk & Compliance Officer (CRCO) regarding compliance matters.
- Review reports on compliance activities from the CRCO.
- Review the results of the externally commissioned governance, risk and compliance review as it pertains to compliance activities.

4. Enterprise Risk Management

- Review the SBA's risk profile.
- Review quarterly reports on enterprise risk management activities from the CRCO.
- Review significant risk exposures and control issues, including fraud risks, governance issues, and other matters as needed.
- Review and provide advice on the risk management processes established and maintained by management and the procedures in place to ensure that they are operating as intended.
- Review the results of the externally commissioned governance, risk and compliance review as it pertains to enterprise risk management activities,.

5. Internal Audit

- Review and approve annually, in consultation with the Executive Director & CIO and the CAE, the OIA Charter, annual audit plan, budget, staffing, and organizational structure of the internal audit department. Confirm and assure the independence and objectivity of the OIA.
- Receive internal audit reports and a progress report on the approved annual audit plan on a periodic basis.
- Assist the Board in decisions regarding the appointment and removal of the CAE.
- Review periodic internal and no less frequently than every five years self-assessment with independent external validation of quality assurance reviews required by the Standards.

- Inquire of the CAE whether any internal audit engagements or non-audit engagements have been completed but not reported to the Committee; if so, inquire whether any matters of significance arose from such work.
- Obtain reasonable assurance that management has acted on the results and recommendations of internal and external audit engagements, the Committee will regularly review reports on the progress of implementing approved management action plans and audit recommendations resulting from completed audit engagements.

6. External Audit

- Search, select, and engage external audit firms by approving:
 - Scope of work for competitive solicitations
 - Selection process
 - External audit firms selected by the evaluation team chaired by the CAE or the CAE's designee)
- Meet, as needed, with the representatives of the Auditor General and other external auditors regarding the proposed scope and approach of their external auditing functions and subsequently the results of their audit of the SBA.
- Meet, as needed, with representatives of Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) regarding its review of the performance of the SBA.
- Review with management the results of all audits, including any difficulties encountered by the auditors or disputes with management during the course of their audit. External auditors will be consulted, as needed.

7. Other Responsibilities

- Review and assess the adequacy of the Committee Charter no less than annually, and request Board approval for the proposed changes.
- Challenge internal and external auditors to ensure that the SBA has appropriate antifraud programs and controls in place to identify potential fraud and ensure that investigations are undertaken if fraud is detected.
- Commission an SBA governance, risk management and compliance (GRC) program evaluation and performance improvement analysis (including the adequacy of the combined assurance being provided and assessment of the internal audit function and their utilization of external auditors/consultants as needed) to be performed by an external provider no less frequently than every five years and incorporating input from SBA management.

- The independent assessor should interview at least one Committee member.

- Directing the CAE to conduct investigations into any matters within its scope of responsibility and obtaining advice and assistance from outside legal, accounting, or other advisers, as necessary, to perform its duties and responsibilities.

While the Committee has the responsibilities and the authority as set forth in Section 215.44(2)(c), Florida Statutes, and this Charter, it is not the responsibility of the Committee to plan or conduct individual audits, reviews and/or investigations, to attest to the SBA's financial information or condition, to resolve disagreements, or to assume responsibility for compliance with laws, rules, regulations, policies, procedures, the Employee Handbook, or the Code of Ethics.