One of the most enjoyable events this past quarter for the Office of Inspector General and Director of Compliance has been to have the opportunity to meet with and welcome two new Chief Audit Executives to the State University System of Florida. As a key position within their universities, I am confident both will be a great addition to their campuses.

In the coming months, I am looking forward to a close of Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and the promise of a new year with a return to some semblance of normalcy.

This newsletter highlights our major activities over the past quarter. Topics in this edition of OIGC News include:

- Audit Activities – Board Office Payables Processing Operational Audit;
- Investigative Activities – ICMS Development;
- OIGC Liaison Activities – Welcome New Chief Audit Executives, State University Audit Council, State University System Compliance & Ethics Consortium, the SUS Compliance and Ethics Annual Summary, and the Fraud Regulation;
- Staff Updates; and
- OIGC Annual Work Plan Status.

Julie M. Leftheris, CPA, CIG, CIA, CFE, CISA
Inspector General and Director of Compliance

AUDIT ACTIVITIES

Board Office Payable Processing, Operational Audit, #21-003
During the last quarter, OIGC staff began an operational audit of the Board Office’s Accounts Payable Process. It is expected to be completed by the end of this fiscal year, and the audit results will be summarized in the next edition of the OIGC News.

INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITIES

OIGC Investigations Case Management System (ICMS) Development
Investigations Section staff began collaborating with the Board Office Applications Development Team to create a new, internal application to enhance the office’s ability to document and track complaint and investigation-related cases.
OIGC LIAISON ACTIVITIES

One of the inspector general’s duties and responsibilities is to serve as the Board Office representative for the State University Audit Council (SUAC) and the State University System of Florida Compliance and Ethics Consortium (Consortium). Both groups hold routine conference calls and in-person meetings to discuss common issues, best practices, and trends.

Welcome New Chief Audit Executives

We are delighted to welcome two new chief audit executives (one of whom also serves as the university’s chief compliance officer) to the System. We have provided each of them with a brief orientation to the System and know they will each be an asset to their respective universities.

Alexander G. Tzoumas, CIA, CISA, CFE, CRMA, CDPSE

In January 2021, Alex Tzoumas was selected as the New College of Florida’s Chief Audit Executive (CAE) and Chief Compliance Officer (CCO). Prior to Mr. Tzoumas’s employment with New College, he was the Vice President of Internal Audit, Risk Management & Compliance for Inogen Inc., a public medical device corporation in Santa Barbara California. Prior to joining Inogen Inc., he was the Chief Audit Executive for Deckers Outdoor, a public footwear and fashion corporation in Santa Barbara California. Mr. Tzoumas has also served as the Director of Internal Audit for California State University in Fullerton, California and as the Senior Audit Manager for the University of Colorado System in Boulder, Colorado. During the course of his career, Mr. Tzoumas has served as a Compliance Officer and Data Protection Officer.

Mr. Tzoumas is a Certified Internal Auditor, Certified Information Systems Auditor, Certified Fraud Examiner, Certified Data Protection Solutions Engineer and has a Certification in Risk Management Assessment from the Institute of Internal Auditors. He brings over 25 years of compliance, internal audit and risk management experience with over ten years of higher education experience.
Reuben C. Iyamu, MBA, CIA, CFE, CIGA

In March 2021, Reuben C. Iyamu was appointed as the Inspector General for Florida Atlantic University (FAU)’s Office of Inspector General. In that role, he serves as the Chief Audit Executive responsible for directing and coordinating auditing, investigation, and consulting projects.

Mr. Iyamu has almost 20 years of experience conducting and/or leading the conduct of audits, investigations, and consulting projects. Before joining FAU, he served as the Deputy Inspector General for Polk County Clerk Office of Inspector General. He also served as the Director of Internal Audit for Monroe County Clerk and Comptroller.

Mr. Iyamu earned his bachelor’s in information technology science from Florida State University and a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Maryland Global Campus. He is a Certified Internal Auditor, Certified Fraud Examiner, and a Certified Inspector General Auditor.

**State University Audit Council (SUAC)**

SUAC “Brown Bag Lunch Series” meetings are continuing to take place monthly through a virtual platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Meeting topics since January have included:

- The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF);
- Planning and processes for internal audit’s quality assessment review;
- Internal audit resources and staffing;
- Annual risk assessments and work plan development;
- Implementation of Board of Governors Regulation 3.003 Fraud Prevention and Detection;
- Audit coverage of direct support organizations (DSOs);
- Auditing construction projects; and
- Public disclosure exemption statuses.

**State University System Compliance and Ethics Consortium**

During the Consortium’s frequent conference calls, members discuss issues of system and national concern and share ideas. For this quarter, meeting topics included:
• Implementation of section 1012.977, Florida Statutes, regarding the disclosure of contracts affecting the integrity of state universities or entities and any penalties;
• Implementation of House Bill 7017 regarding foreign influence on university campuses;
• Universities’ progress on the five-year compliance programs design and effectiveness reviews and the development of peer reviews; and
• Implementation of Board of Governors Regulation 3.003, Fraud Prevention and Detection.

SUS Compliance and Ethics Annual Summary

For the January 27, 2021, Board of Governors Audit and Compliance Committee meeting presentation regarding the annual SUS Compliance and Ethics Summary, we focused on the System universities’ use of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds.

Board of Governors Regulation 3.003 Fraud Prevention and Detection

Our office developed a regulation to strengthen the State University System’s stance on and fight against fraud. The regulation requires each university board of trustees to adopt a regulation outlining the criteria by which management would establish institutional controls and a risk management framework to provide reasonable assurance that fraudulent activities will be prevented, detected, reported, and investigated. The regulation also requires that senior management periodically evaluate and report to its board of trustees, at least annually, the status of the framework being implemented and any revisions for improvement. This regulation was presented to the Audit and Compliance Committee for approval consideration in January 2021 and was subsequently adopted by the full Board of Governors in March 2021.

STAFF UPDATES

Student Intern

Katherine Juul joined the OIGC in February 2021 as a student assistant. She is currently a student at Florida State University pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. Katherine plans to complete her Master’s in Accounting at Florida State University and later attend law school to pursue a career in white-collar crime.

OIGC ANNUAL WORKPLAN UPDATE

The following table provides the project status of the OIGC’s Annual Work Plan – FY 2020-2021, approved by the Board of Governors on July 21, 2020. The Plan includes projects that fulfill our duties and responsibilities in the areas of audit, investigations, or compliance. Additional duties include oversight or support for the State University
System of Florida; OIGC internal activities, such as the annual risk assessment; and any other activities that might arise, such as special projects.

The table below reflects the following completed projects: Ethics Compliance Audit; System Audit-Related Summary Report to the Audit and Compliance Committee in September 2020; CARES Act SUS Compliance Actions Report presented in January 2021; University Data Integrity Audit Reporting in March 2021; Board Office SUS Audit and Compliance Report Systems Coordination; and Regulation Updates, Development, or Review. Four projects are in progress: Board Office Payables Processing Operational Audit; Development of Investigation Management System; Board Office Compliance Training; and Risk Assessment and Audit Plan for FY 2021-2022. The Compliance Review of Institutes and Centers is not yet begun. There are no special projects, and the other items are ongoing, such as audits follow-up; complaint intake, triage, and monitoring; Audit and Compliance Committee meetings preparations; etc.

Access current newsletters at: https://www.flbog.edu/about-us/inspector-general/