

**MINUTES
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
March 23, 2021**

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and its Committees are accessible at <http://www.flbog.edu/>.*

Chair Charles Lydecker convened the meeting of the Audit and Compliance Committee on March 23, 2021, at 2:16 p.m. The following Audit and Compliance Committee members were present: Charles H. Lydecker, Kent Stermon, Aubrey Edge, Patricia Frost, H. Wayne Huzienga Jr., and Ken Jones. The following members of the Board of Governors were also present: Tim Cerio, Richard Corcoran, Edward Haddock, Darlene Jordan, Sydney Kitson, Brian Lamb, Ally Schneider, William Self, and Eric Silagy.

1. Call to Order

Mr. Lydecker called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Frost motioned that the Committee approve the minutes of the Audit and Compliance Committee meeting held on January 27, 2021, as presented. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

3. SUS Data Integrity Audits and Certifications Summary

Inspector General and Director of Compliance, Julie Leftheris, presented the committee with information regarding the data collected from each university's chief audit executive for the required Data Integrity Audits and Certifications. Florida Statutes requires all universities to audit the data used to support performance-based funding decisions as well as the data used to evaluate preeminence metrics for those so designated.

Ms. Leftheris noted all 12 universities concluded that University controls and processes which ensure the completeness, accuracy, and timeliness of data submissions to the Board of Governors, were adequate; and the audits provided a reasonable basis of support for the president and board chairs' Data Integrity Certification. Some of the remaining universities' audit reports did note other minor issues that were communicated to management; however, those issues did not rise to the level of an adverse finding or observation but were rather minor calculation or reporting errors and the general maintenance of data.

Florida Polytechnic University's audit report included three observations. Ms. Leftheris noted that this is the University's first year participating in the Data Integrity audit and certification process and that the observations were similar to those of other universities' findings and observations in their first and second years of the data integrity audit

process. Florida Polytechnic's observations related to improvements for strengthening the formal assignment and documentation of the Data Administrator's responsibilities as they relate to the certification and management of PBF data; enhancement of data files submissions to the Board of Governors in accordance with the specified schedule and that resubmissions, if applicable, are made timely; and enhancement of controls for data integrity checks and verifications prior to the submission of data to reduce reporting errors. The University has corrective actions in place for each.

The University of South Florida's preeminence data integrity audit included one finding related to the Higher Education Research & Development (HERD) Survey. The audit noted that additional improvements to the data governance structure over the survey were needed to ensure accurate and consistent reporting of research and development expenditures. A similar issue was noted in last year's preeminence data integrity audit. The university has been working toward implementing corrective actions to resolve the risks associated with the HERD survey. The audit noted there was no impact to the overall status of the metrics that rely on the HERD survey.

Ms. Leftheris explained that as part of each university's audit process, auditors evaluated the status and progress of corrective actions from the prior year's audits. Additionally, she said that all 12 university presidents, board of trustees' chairs, and chief audit executives concluded and represented to this Board that their data submissions were sufficiently complete, accurate, and timely to serve as a sound basis for Board of Governors Performance-based Funding decision-making and/or preeminence designation consideration.

4. OIGC Updates

Ms. Leftheris said her office has completed an ethics audit of the Board Office and is now working on an accounts payable audit. Her office will soon begin the annual risk assessment process, which will be used to develop the next fiscal year work plan.

5. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Mr. Lydecker emphasized the importance of the data integrity audits for the State University System and thanked Ms. Leftheris and her system counterparts for the work they all do in this area.

There were no other comments by committee members. The Audit and Compliance Committee was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Charles Lydecker, Chair

Rebekah Weeks, Investigations and Audit Specialist