

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Audit and Compliance Committee
September 13, 2022**

SUBJECT: University Chief Audit Executives Panel Discussion: *University Internal Audit's Value as Trusted Advisors*

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Information

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The State University System of Florida is successful due to the coordination between the Board of Governors, university boards of trustees, and the Florida Legislature.

University trustees are responsible for overseeing all university operations, implementing and maintaining high-quality education programs, and approving the university's strategic plan and budget. Trustees must be able to rely upon university leadership to provide the information necessary for good decision-making.

University chief audit executives (CAEs) play an important leadership role in providing the necessary information for trustees' to fulfill their duties and responsibilities. Having the right CAE in place is essential for effective internal audit functions. Among other duties, CAEs oversee the planning and execution of a risk-based audit plan. Internal audit must keep abreast of the university's operations and risk appetite; and CAEs must be trusted advisors to leadership and the board of trustees. The CAE must foster credibility and respect as well as have the courage to address difficult or delicate issues as needed.

As required by Board of Governors Regulation 4.002, CAEs must report administratively to the university president and functionally to the university's board of trustees. Audit committees and boards of trustees' members must remain engaged and attuned to all functions and interactions between leadership and the CAE.

For the panel discussion, three university chief audit executives will discuss their roles, responsibilities, and experiences in establishing themselves as trusted advisors for their respective university leadership and boards of trustees.

The panelists are:

David A. Blanton, CPA, CCEP

Chief Compliance Officer and Chief Audit Executive
Florida Polytechnic University

Mr. Blanton currently serves the Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) and Chief Audit Executive (CAE) at Florida Polytechnic University. He was hired at the University in 2017 as the University's first CCO/CAE and has been tasked with establishing both the audit and compliance functions at the University.

Prior to his employment with Florida Poly, Mr. Blanton was employed by the Florida Auditor General (AG) for 26 years, of which 11 of those years he served as the Audit Supervisor of the Lakeland section, responsible for planning, coordinating, managing and reviewing the work of eight professional staff members.

During his tenure with the AG, Mr. Blanton's responsibilities included complex financial audits, operational audits, information technology audits, quality assurance reviews, and various other engagements. Audit responsibilities with the AG included colleges, State agencies, district school boards, municipalities, and universities.

Mr. Blanton is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and a Certified Compliance and Ethics Professional (CCEP).

Virginia L. Kalil, CIA, CISA, CFE, CRISC

Executive Director/Chief Internal Auditor
University of South Florida

Virginia Kalil is a certified audit professional with 29 years of accounting, financial, auditing, and IT experience. Currently, Ms. Kalil is the Executive Director/Chief Internal Auditor for the University of South Florida (USF) where she leads the Office of Internal Audit in their audit and investigative activities to add value and promote university leadership's stewardship, accountability, integrity, compliance, and efficiency in the operations of the university.

Prior to joining USF in early 2017, Ms. Kalil was responsible for leading risk assessment, control evaluation, corporate governance, and regulatory compliance efforts in the transportation industry through managing segments of the FedEx Internal Audit Department and serving as Director of Internal Audit for Watkins Motor Lines. Earlier in her career, Ms. Kalil also held various leadership and individual contributor roles in the accounting, finance, audit, and system migration departments while working for Lockheed Martin.

Ms. Kalil graduated with honors with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from USF and is a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) and Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), as well as Certified in Risk and Information Systems Control (CRISC). She is active in her profession as a current member of the Institute of Internal Auditors (the

IIA), ISACA, the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, and the Association of College and University Auditors; former President, Vice President of Programs, and Board of Governors Member for the IIA's Central Florida chapter; former Treasurer/Secretary of the National Association of Motor Carrier Auditors; and former Board member for the Accounting and Finance Women's Alliance of Greater Tampa Bay. Additionally, Ms. Kalil is a qualified faculty member of the IIA and facilitates various courses nationally for the internal audit profession. She also serves as an external peer reviewer in quality assurance assessments of internal audit functions at other organizations.

Lastly, Ms. Kalil volunteers in a variety of other organizations including the USF Women in Leadership and Philanthropy and serves as a member of the student mentoring committee. She is also very proud to be a member of the United Way of Central Florida's Community Investment Team with a focus on education, especially in the areas of school readiness and academic achievement.

Trevor L. Williams, CPA

Chief Audit Executive

Florida International University

Since July 2018, Mr. Trevor L. Williams has served as the chief audit executive of Florida International University's Office of Internal Audit. Mr. Williams has a long and distinguished career spanning over 36 years in accounting and auditing, inclusive of both internal and external auditing. During his 34 years of auditing, he has been involved in performing, coordinating, and directing financial, compliance, and performance audits in a wide variety of areas including construction, transportation, education, direct support organizations, financial services, risk management, pension and health benefit plans, maintenance operations, contracts, and grants.

Before joining the University, he served in various audit capacities:

- Assistant Chief Auditor, Miami Dade County Public Schools
- District Audit Director, Miami Dade County Public Schools
- Executive Director and Director of Construction Audit, Miami Dade County Public Schools
- Auditor, LaPadula & Company, Certified Public Accountants
- Accountant, McGladrey & Pullen, Certified Public Accountants

Mr. Williams graduated with honors from Virginia State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and a minor in Accounting. He also earned a Master of Accounting Degree from Florida International University and is a Certified Public Accountant in Florida and Virginia. He is a member of the following professional associations:

- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
- Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA)

- Association of College and University Auditors (ACUA)
- Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA)
- Association of Inspectors General (AIG)

In addition, he currently serves on the ALGA's Peer Review Committee and the ACUA's Investment and Finance Committee and chairs that association's Audit Committee. He was a mentor in the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project and Big Brothers/Big Sisters programs, where he mentored young men in the community. He has also coordinated, led, and participated on numerous external peer reviews of other entities' internal audit function.

Supporting Documentation Included:

PowerPoint Presentation

Facilitators/Presenters:

Governor Stermon