

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA**  
**AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA**  
**June 22, 2023**

*Video or audio archives of the meetings of the Board of Governors and its Committees are accessible at <http://www.flbog.edu/>.*

Vice Chair Craig Mateer convened the meeting of the Audit and Compliance Committee on June 22, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. The following Audit and Compliance Committee members were present: Patricia Frost, Edward Haddock, Ken Jones, Alan Levine, and Jose Oliva.

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Mateer called the meeting to order.

Ms. Frost motioned that the Committee approve the minutes of the Audit and Compliance Committee meeting held on March 28, 2023, as presented. Mr. Oliva seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**2. OIGC Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024**

Ms. Leftheris presented the proposed work plan for the upcoming fiscal year that contains projects based on risk. She briefly listed and described the audits and compliance reviews planned for the next year along with other duties such as providing support for the State University System of Florida. Mr. Jones motioned the work plan be approved. Ms. Frost seconded the motion. The work plan was approved.

**3. SUS External Review of Financial Internal Controls for University DSOs, Corrective Actions Update**

Ms. Leftheris explained that this topic has been a recurring one over the past several meetings. At the September 2022 Committee meeting, the Crowe, LLP accounting firm presented the results of their review into the financial internal controls for university Direct Support Organizations (DSOs). Ms. Leftheris summarized the initial findings and then provided the most recent status of the corrective actions. For her last report at the March 2023 meeting, there were eight observations whose corrective actions were in progress. For her report at this meeting, there is only one observation that remains open, and the corrective actions are expected to be completed by mid-August.

The Board of Governors Chair, Brian Lamb, asked university presidents to focus on the various entities or DSOs and their associated funds. He encouraged university presidents to stay focused on these entities and areas. Trustee members should receive

frequent updates to maintain the quality achieved as a result of this internal controls review.

#### **4. Foreign Influence Prevention in the State University System**

Ms. Leftheris explained that at the March 2023 Audit and Compliance Committee meeting, the Committee chair Aubrey Edge had asked her to prepare a presentation for the next Committee meeting that is responsive to members' questions regarding foreign influence related activities on our System campuses. She provided a high-level overview of the foreign influence laws for Florida and then presented key information from System institutions in reporting on the foreign gifts and travel during the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Ms. Leftheris introduced Rhonda Bishop, the vice president for university compliance, ethics, and risk at the University of Central Florida, as the next presenter. Ms. Bishop presented details regarding her university's Foreign Influence Program and described how the university monitors for inappropriate foreign influence on the UCF campus. She said the program was established many years ago and has continued to grow and expand. It is now centralized and overseen by the university's compliance office. In response to Committee member questions, Ms. Bishop confirmed they do collaborate with other universities to make them aware of potential threats and to share tips from federal partners. She said the State University System Compliance and Ethics Consortium, which includes all institutions' compliance and ethics teams, regularly discusses all areas related to foreign influence.

President Sass from the University of Florida offered to coordinate a briefing with the Board of Governors and FBI members regarding counterintelligence relative to the state of Florida. Chair Lamb agreed this was a good idea.

For the Foreign Influence Prevention Panel Discussion, Governor Mateer asked panelists to introduce themselves and share additional strategies to identify and mitigate undue foreign influence. The panelists were Rhonda Bishop, UCF's vice president for university compliance, ethics, and risk; Caroline Fultz-Carver, the chief compliance officer at the University of South Florida; David Norton, the vice president for research at the University of Florida; and Andres Gil, the vice president for research at Florida International University.

Panelists described how their universities identify potentially adverse influence or actors. Protective measures include having trained, dedicated, and sufficient staff to look for possible threats and to handle them should they arise; having strong partnerships within university offices and programs as well as with other universities and various federal agencies to share information, alerts, and support; and keeping themselves and faculty members informed about the latest state and federal legislation for monitoring and reporting on adversaries, as well as performing thorough pre-employment screening on potential new hires, researchers, or visiting scholars.

## 5. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

In adjourning the meeting, Mr. Mateer recognized several individuals for their support of the Board of Governors' inspector general and director of compliance and the work her office does to promote integrity and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse. He thanked Chancellor Rodrigues, Senator Jonathan Martin, and Representative David Silvers for their support and success in the inspector general's subpoena power bill being passed during the 2023 legislative session and being signed into law by the Governor. Governor Mateer also thanked fellow Board member, Tim Cerio, for being an advocate to the inspector general and the Committee and keeping the subpoena power bill in the forefront of our minds until it could be achieved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

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Craig Mateer, Vice-Chair

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Lori Clark, Compliance and Audit Specialist