

INVESTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHARTER

I. Purpose

The General Assembly has established the Investment Advisory Committee ("IAC") to advise the State Treasurer with respect to investments of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System, the Local Government Employees' Retirement System, the Legislative Retirement System, the Firemen's and Rescue Workers' Pension Fund, the Consolidated Judicial Retirement System, and the North Carolina National Guard Pension Fund (hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Retirement Systems")¹.

The statute states, "The committee shall have advisory powers only and membership shall not be deemed a public office within the meaning of Article VI, Section 9 of the Constitution of the North Carolina or G.S. 128-1.1." In order to help the IAC fulfill its advisory duties, the State Treasurer has adopted this Investment Advisory Committee Charter ("Charter"). The IAC shall periodically review and evaluate this Charter and make recommendations to the State Treasurer for changes it deems are appropriate.

II. Composition

The Treasurer's Governance and Transparency Act of 2009 amended N.C.G.S. section 147-69.2(b1) to authorize the State Treasurer to serve as chairman ex officio and to appoint six IAC members. Two members shall be selected among the members of the board of trustees of the Retirement Systems. Four public members must have experience in areas relevant to the administration of a large, diversified investment program, including but not limited to, investment management, securities law, real estate development, or absolute return strategies.

- A. **Terms.** IAC members serve at will and their membership can end at any time upon written notice of removal with or without cause as determined by the State Treasurer. Each IAC member shall serve as long as the State Treasurer who appointed them remains in office, unless such member is removed earlier or resigns.
- B. **Standard of Care.** No IAC member shall owe any fiduciary, trust, or similar obligations in connection with his or her membership on the IAC other than the duty to act in good faith and as expressly set forth in this Charter and applicable law and policies.
- C. **Orientation.** All IAC members must complete an orientation program within sixty days of the date of their appointment. The Investment Management

¹ N.C.G.S. § 147-69.2(b1).

Division shall be responsible for conducting the orientation program.

- D. Ethics.** Upon accepting his or her appointment and annually thereafter, each IAC member shall be required to sign and submit to Compliance Counsel an affirmation pledging to uphold both the letter and the spirit of the Code of Ethics.
- E. Chair.** Pursuant to the statute, the State Treasurer shall be the chairman ex officio. These duties include but are not limited to: (1) calling special or emergency meetings, when necessary; (2) enforcing the governing charter and policies of the IAC; (3) appointing or removing IAC members, the IAC Vice-Chair and staff to serve the IAC; (4) appointing a designee to assume the Chair's responsibilities for the IAC, when necessary and (5) conducting the IAC meetings in an efficient and effective manner.
- F. Vice-Chair.** The Vice-Chair's duties include but are not limited to: (1) working constructively with all IAC members and staff; and (2) assuming the Chair's responsibilities for the IAC if specifically requested to do so by the Chair.
- G. Secretary.** The Secretary shall be the Chief Operating Officer of the Investment Management Division unless otherwise appointed by the State Treasurer. The Secretary's duties include but are not limited to: (1) maintaining a current list of IAC members; (2) notifying the IAC and the public of meetings; (3) coordinating and disseminating information to the IAC; (4) maintaining official minutes and records of all proceedings from IAC meetings; (5) preparing as directed by the State Treasurer prior to each meeting an agenda for the meeting,; and (6) facilitating the scheduling of each meeting and notifying the IAC members thereof.
- H. Legal Counsel.** The General Counsel to the State Treasurer shall serve as Legal Counsel to the IAC. Legal Counsel's duties include but are not limited to: (1) responding to requests under North Carolina public records laws; (2) ensuring compliance with open meetings laws; (3) facilitating the IAC's access to Compliance Counsel; and (4) monitoring IAC members' compliance with the Code of Ethics.

III. Meetings

- A. Open Meeting Laws.** All meetings will be held in compliance with North Carolina open meetings law, where applicable.
- B. Schedule of Meetings.** Each year, the IAC will set, publish, and post on the State Treasurer's website an annual schedule showing the time and location of regular meetings. The IAC will meet at least quarterly and may convene more often if called by the State Treasurer or a majority of the IAC members.

- C. **Attendance Policy.** IAC members are to attend meetings in person. In urgent situations where personal attendance is not possible IAC members may attend by teleconference or by videoconference. The IAC may require that staff, consultants, and other individuals attend the meetings to provide information as necessary.
- D. **Public Comment.** At the end of each meeting, time will be reserved for public comment. Time for public comment may be limited by the Chair.

IV. Responsibilities

The IAC shall be responsible for advising and assisting the State Treasurer in the areas set forth below. In addition, the IAC will perform any activities related to this Charter as directed by the State Treasurer.

- A. **Assist in Selection and Evaluation of the Chief Investment Officer.** If requested by the State Treasurer, when the Chief Investment Officer ("CIO") position is vacant or is scheduled to become vacant, the IAC will assist in the recruiting process, interview candidates, and/or provide input on the candidates. The IAC may also be asked to provide input to the State Treasurer during the annual evaluation of the CIO.
- B. **Self-Assessment of the IAC.** In order to ensure the IAC is functioning as effectively and efficiently as possible, the IAC will periodically assess its own performance and make appropriate changes with the intent that the assessment will occur at least biannually. During such assessment, it will also determine if the responsibilities in this Charter have been carried out.
- C. **Review and Recommend Investment Policies.** The IAC will assist and advise the State Treasurer on the establishment of the investment policies and any relevant investment guidelines. The IAC will periodically review the existing policies and guidelines and make recommendations as necessary regarding modifications and enhancements.
- D. **Review Asset Allocations.** The IAC will review information presented to it and advise the State Treasurer about the suitability and proper use of the current and any proposed asset classes. The IAC will review asset/liability studies and asset allocation studies for the Retirement Systems. The IAC will analyze and comment on diversification, risk control, asset class targets and ranges, and liquidity within of the stated investment objectives.
- E. **Review and Comment on Investment Management Structure.** The IAC will review and comment on the investment management structure of the Retirement Systems at least annually. The review will include the use of internal and external management, the number and types of managers in each class, the use of active and passive strategies, and correlations among portfolios.

- F. Review and Evaluate the Selection and Monitoring of Investment Managers.** The IAC will review the process used by staff and consultants in the selection and monitoring of investment managers made for the Retirement Systems, and compliance with such process. The IAC has no independent responsibility for the selection or monitoring of specific managers.

- G. Review Performance and Cost Reports.** The IAC will review the performance of the total investment portfolio of the Retirement Systems, each asset class, outside investment managers, and internal managers at least annually along with the cost-effectiveness of the investment program. Performance and costs will be compared to established benchmarks and universes. The IAC will advise the State Treasurer on the reasonableness of the benchmarks and universes.

- H. Review and Evaluate the Custodian Arrangement.** The IAC will periodically review information prepared by the staff and consultants about the quality of the services and the reasonableness of the fees for the custodian. If requested by the State Treasurer, the IAC will evaluate and discuss fees and services proposals and offer observations about the strengths and weaknesses of candidates for custodial and related services.

- I. Evaluate the Selection of Consultants.** If requested by the Treasurer, the IAC will evaluate proposals and offer observations about the strengths and weaknesses of any candidates considered for general or specialized consulting services for the Retirement Systems.

V. Authority

The IAC has the authority to review background data, historical information, staff reports, consultants' reports, and any other documents it deems reasonably necessary to form an opinion on the capabilities of the staff, investment managers, custodian banks, investment consultants, and other service providers to the Retirement Systems. Furthermore, the IAC is authorized to ask any questions of individuals that are relevant to the services they perform on behalf of the Retirement Systems.

The IAC also has the authority to call upon the Department of State Treasurer's Chief of Staff, CIO, General Counsel, investment consultant(s), actuary, and auditor to assist it in carrying out its responsibilities; however, any request for assistance from outside service providers that might result in additional fees must have the prior approval of the State Treasurer.

The IAC does not have the authority to convene meetings to discuss items of business outside of those agreed to by the State Treasurer.

The IAC does not have the authority to sign contracts, obligate the State Treasurer, or spend any portion of the operating budget that has not been designated for IAC purposes.

VI. Expectations

IAC members are not expected to find investment opportunities, analyze individual investments or investment managers, and engage in the types of day-to-day investment activities performed in the Investment Management Division.

Individual IAC members are expected to: (1) be informed about the Retirement Systems' investment policies and practices; (2) work constructively with other IAC members to review investment activities; (3) interact appropriately with the State Treasurer, the staff, and outside service providers; (4) be prepared for all IAC meetings by reviewing agendas and supporting materials prior to the meetings; (5) attend IAC meetings, share expertise, and actively participate in the discussions; (6) respect open meetings laws by not convening meetings with fellow IAC members to discuss business of the Retirement Systems outside the properly noticed meetings; (7) follow conflict of interest, disclosure, and confidentiality rules and policies; (8) discharge duties solely in the interest of the members and beneficiaries and for their exclusive benefit; (9) incur only reasonable expenses in carrying out duties as an IAC member, consistent with the operating budget of the IAC; (10) live up to high ethical standards and avoid the appearance of impropriety; (11) attend an orientation session and on-going education opportunities, as appropriate; and (12) refrain from making individual time-consuming requests to staff without a directive of the full IAC.

VII. Compensation

The IAC members will serve without compensation but shall receive reimbursements for expenses and allowances consistent with those granted to members of other State boards. IAC members will be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as long as they are reasonable, documented, and in compliance with the parameters set by the State Treasurer.

VIII. Staffing

The CIO of the Department of State Treasurer's Investment Management Division will attend and staff all IAC meetings. The CIO shall ensure appropriate internal staff members are assigned to assist the IAC and support the IAC's activities by preparing meeting materials, performing research, and rendering other types of assistance as reasonably requested by the IAC.

Adopted by State Treasurer Janet Cowell on March 5, 2015.