



Meeting Minutes | Finance, Administration, Audit and Compliance (FAAC) Committee

Wednesday, December 7, 2022 | 11:00 a.m.

202 Arbor Lake Dr., Columbia, SC 29223 | First Floor Conference Room

Minutes approved March 1, 2023

Board Members Present: Ms. Amanda Blankenship, Committee Chairman Jennifer Blumenthal, Mr. Steve Matthews, and PEBA Board Chairman Joe “Rocky” Pearce

Others Present for All or a Portion of the Meeting: Bob Avery, Peggy Boykin, Ashley Brindle, Karen Brown, Phyllis Buie, Amber Carter, James Manning, Heather Muller, Tammy Nichols, John Page, Glenn Plummer, Danielle Quattlebaum, Travis Turner, Justin Werner, Faith Wright, and Heather Young from the South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA); Jen Aras, Michelle Blackstock, Danielle Shriver, and Kevin Smith from Crowe; and Sam Griswold from the State Retirees Association of South Carolina.

Others Present for All or a Portion of the Meeting Via Virtual Means: Evan Mitchell and Angie Warren from PEBA.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Jennifer Blumenthal called the PEBA Finance, Administration, Audit and Compliance (FAAC) Committee meeting to order at 11:10 a.m., and stated that the public meeting notice was posted in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes- October 5, 2022

Mr. Steve Matthews a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Amanda Blankenship, and passed unanimously, to approve the October 5, 2022, Committee meeting minutes as presented.

III. Financial Statements Audit Review by the External Auditor

Mr. Travis Turner, Deputy Director and Chief Financial Officer, introduced Mr. Kevin Smith, CPA, from Crowe, PEBA’s new External Auditor, and thanked the PEBA staff for all their tremendous efforts in producing the financial statements. Mr. Smith also thanked PEBA management and staff for their cooperation and professionalism during the audits. Mr. Smith introduced additional members of the Crowe engagement team including Ms. Jan Aras, CPA; Ms. Michelle Blackstock, CPA; and Ms. Danielle Shriver, CPA.

Ms. Blackstock reviewed the scope of services and audit results for the Deferred Compensation Program for the year ending December 31, 2021, and stated that the audit report is an unmodified “clean” opinion, and there were no material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, or findings to report.

Mr. Smith stated that Crowe performed the audit in accordance with the American Institute Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), and additional Government Auditing Standards. Mr. Smith added that there were no corrected or uncorrected misstatements found in the financial statements.

Ms. Aras turned the discussion to the South Carolina Retirement Systems (SCRS) Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2022, and stated that the audit report is an unmodified “clean” opinion, and there were no material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, or findings to report. Ms. Aras noted that Crowe performed the audit in accordance with Government Auditing Standards, and there were no corrected or uncorrected misstatements found in the audit.

Mr. Smith concluded by reviewing the Insurance Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2022, and stated that the audit report is an unmodified “clean” opinion, and there were no material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, or findings to report, and there were no corrected or uncorrected misstatements found in the audit.

IV. Internal Audit Reports

Mr. John Page, Director of Internal Audit, presented internal audit reports related to the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) Compliance Testing, and the annual Conflict of Interest Certification. Mr. Page also provided the December 2022 PEBA Internal Audit Plan Update to the Committee.

V. Old Business/Director’s Report

Ms. Peggy Boykin, Executive Director, stated that she would provide the Director’s Report at the full Board meeting.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, and upon motion by Mr. Matthews, which was seconded by Ms. Blankenship, and passed unanimously, the Committee meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.