



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

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 | 11:30 a.m.

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

Minutes Approved March 6, 2024

Board Members Present for All or a Portion of the Meeting:

Ms. Amanda Blankenship, Committee Chairman Jennifer Blumenthal, Mr. Steve Heisler, 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, Phyllis Buie, Robby Brown, Amber Carter, Justin Ellis, Evan Mitchell, Heather Muller, John Page, Katie Turner, Travis Turner, Angie Warren, Justin Werner, Faith Wright, and Heather Young from the South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA); Sam Griswold from the State Retirees Association of South Carolina; Danielle Shriver and Kevin Smith from Crowe.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Jennifer Blumenthal called the PEBA Finance, Administration, Audit and Compliance (FAAC) Committee meeting to order at 11:30 a.m., and stated that the public meeting notice was posted in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes- June 21, 2023

Mr. Steve Matthews made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Amanda Blankenship, and passed unanimously, to approve the June 21, 2023, Committee meeting minutes as presented.

III. Financial Statements Audit Review by the External Auditor

Mr. Kevin Smith, Audit Partner, CPA, and Ms. Danielle Shriver, Audit Senior Manager, CPA, from Crowe, PEBA’s External Auditor, provided the findings from the 2023 Audit Reports.

Mr. Smith reviewed the audit findings for the South Carolina Deferred Compensation Program (Deferred Comp) for the year ending December 31, 2022, the South Carolina Retirement Systems Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2023, and the Insurance Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2023. Mr. Smith state all three audit reports were 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.

Mr. Smith thanked the PEBA staff and management team 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.

IV. Internal Audit Reports

Mr. John Page, Director of Internal Audit, presented internal audit reports related to Retirement Average Final Compensation (AFC), National Technical Information Service (NTIS) Compliance, System and Organizational Control Reports, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) Compliance 2023, and the Annual Conflicts of Interest Certification. Mr. Page also provided the December 2023 PEBA Internal Audit Plan Update to the Committee.

V. Old Business/Director's Report

Ms. Peggy Boykin, Executive Director, stated that it is important for PEBA to coordinate and collaborate with the South Carolina Retirement System Investment Commission (RSIC) to ensure that the Trust Fund in its entirety is covered with all the internal audit controls.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, and upon motion by Ms. Blankenship, which was seconded by Mr. Matthews, and passed unanimously, the Committee meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.