



Meeting Minutes | Retirement Policy Committee

Wednesday, October 23, 2024 | 11:00 a.m.

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

Minutes Approved December 4, 2024

Board Members Present for All or a Portion of the Meeting: Mr. Calvin Elam, Committee Chairman Paige Lewis, and PEBA Board Chairman Joe “Rocky” Pearce.

Board Members Present for All or a Portion of the Meeting Via Virtual Means: Sheriff Steve Mueller and Mr. Ed Walton.

Other Board Members Present but not Participating: Mr. Steve Heisler

Others Present for All or a Portion of the Meeting: Lee Allen, Peggy Boykin, Ashley Brindle, Donald Brock, Robby Brown, Amber Carter, Heather Muller, Tammy Nichols, Sheila Pinckney, Katie Turner, Travis Turner, Angie Warren, Justin Werner, and Heather Young from the South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA); Nancy Ornduff from Empower; Austin Morris and Tim O’Donnell from TIAA; and Elke De La Cruz, Rene Eisele, and David Rowe from Corebridge Financial.

Others Present for All or a Portion of the Meeting Via Virtual Means: Jessica Moak from PEBA; and Shaun Eskamani and Kevin Fieldman from CAPTRUST, and Rhonda Rodriguez from TIAA.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Paige Lewis called the PEBA Retirement Policy Committee (Committee) meeting to order at 11:00 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 26, 2024

Mr. Calvin Elam made a motion, which was seconded by Chairman Lewis, and passed unanimously, to approve the minutes from the June 26, 2024, Committee meeting.

III. Defined Contribution Plans Quarterly Investment Performance Report

Mr. Shaun Eskamani, Principal and Financial Advisor from CAPTRUST, introduced Mr. Kevin Fieldman, Investment Strategist, who provided market commentary for the quarter, specifically noting that inflation was lower during the second quarter. The S&P was up approximately 15 percent during the quarter, with all major U.S. stock indexes posting gains. Interest rate-sensitive small-cap stocks had negative returns during the second quarter.

Mr. Eskamani reviewed the South Carolina Deferred Compensation Program (Deferred Comp) investment performance for the second quarter of 2024 and stated that CAPTRUST recommends placing the American Beacon Small Cap Growth I fund, and keeping the T. Rowe Price Growth Stock fund and the American Funds Europacific Growth R6 fund on the watch list for further review. Mr. Fieldman provided the rationale behind these investment watchlist recommendations.

Mr. Eskamani turned the discussion to the State Optional Retirement Program (State ORP) investment performance for the second quarter of 2024 and stated that CAPTRUST recommends keeping the Vanguard U.S. Growth Admiral fund in the Corebridge lineup on the watch list for further review. Mr. Fieldman provided the rationale behind the Vanguard U.S. Growth Admiral fund investment watchlist recommendation.

Mr. Eskamani advised that CAPTRUST recommends keeping the JP Morgan Emerging Markets Equity R6 fund in the Empower lineup on the watch list for further review. Mr. Fieldman provided the rationale behind this investment watchlist recommendation. Mr. Eskamani added that CAPTRUST recommends keeping the American Funds Europacific Growth R6 fund in the Corebridge lineup on the watch list for further review, again for reasons previously mentioned by Mr. Fieldman.

Mr. Eskamani reported that CAPTRUST recommends keeping the American Funds Europacific Growth R6 fund in the TIAA lineup on the watch list for further review for reasons previously mentioned by Mr. Fieldman earlier in the presentation.

Mr. Eskamani stated that CAPTRUST recommends keeping the American Funds Europacific Growth R6 fund in the Voya lineup on the watch list for further review, again for reasons previously mentioned by Mr. Fieldman earlier in the presentation.

IV. Deferred Compensation Program Quarterly Plan Summary

Ms. Nancy Ornduff, from Empower, presented the second quarter of 2024 Deferred Comp quarterly plan summary to the Committee. Ms. Ornduff reviewed the plan statistics for the second quarter, including participant accounts; assets; contributions and distributions; rollovers; new enrollments; and participating employers.

Ms. Ornduff concluded her presentation by reviewing retirement plan advisory activity, outreach to participants and employers, and website and call center statistics during the second quarter.

V. State ORP Service Provider Review (TIAA)

Mr. Austin Morris, Client Relationship Manager, with TIAA, provided a service overview of the State ORP administered through TIAA. Mr. Morris stated that target date funds continue to gain the most contributions (77 percent) in the TIAA lineup. Contributions increased nine percent from 2022 to 2023, and distributions also increased 13 percent from 2022 to 2023. Mr. Morris pointed out that Plan participants are looking more than ever to receive education on how to invest their retirement savings.

Mr. Morris reported that TIAA assets through the second quarter of 2024 totaled \$2.3 billion, with 19,523 participants, and a median balance of \$26,707.

Ms. Rhonda Rodriguez, Communications Consultant, reviewed recent communication strategies and participant engagement campaigns.

VI. Committee Vice-Chairman Elections

Chairman Lewis made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Elam, and passed unanimously, to nominate Mr. Ed Walton as the Retirement Policy Committee Vice-Chairman.

VII. Old Business/Director's Report

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

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, and upon motion by Mr. Elam, which was seconded by Sheriff Steve Mueller, and approved unanimously, the Committee meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.