

COUNTY OF TULARE BOARD OF RETIREMENT

Leanne Malison
Retirement Administrator

136 N AKERS STREET VISALIA, CALIFORNIA 93291 TELEPHONE (559) 713-2900 FAX (559) 730-2631 www.tcera.org

AGENDA OF THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, June 9, 2021 @ 10:30 a.m.
TCERA Board Room, 136 N. Akers Street, Visalia, CA 93291

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY PROCEDURES FOR BOARD OF RETIREMENT MEETINGS

On March 17, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20, relating to the convening of public meetings in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Tulare County Employees' Retirement Association (TCERA) hereby provides notice that it will continue to convene its regularly scheduled public meetings of the Board of Retirement in the Board Room at 136 N. Akers Street, Visalia, as provided in the publicly posted agenda notice, and until further notice.

Persons who wish to address the Board of Retirement during public comment or regarding an item that is on the agenda may address the Board of Retirement in person at the meeting. Members of the public may also submit public comment via email to BORPublicComment@tcera.org before the meeting. The comments received via email before the meeting will be read to the Board of Retirement in open session during the meeting as long as the comments meet the requirements for Public Comments as posted in the agenda. Persons wishing to listen to the meeting and/or participate in public comment remotely may call the TCERA Office during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) within 48 hours of the meeting at 559-713-2900 for login information. TCERA business hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Public comments are limited to any item of interest to the public that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board of Retirement. (Gov't Code Section 54954.3(a).)

As a courtesy to those in attendance, all individuals are requested to place cell phones and other electronic devices in the non-audible alert mode.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. Under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the Board at this time. For items appearing on the agenda, the public is invited to make comments at the time the item comes up for Board consideration. Any person addressing the Board will be limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes so that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak. Please state your name for the record.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Discussion and possible action regarding the following items:
 - a. Approve Investment Committee Minutes from April 14, 2021.
 - b. Asset Allocation Status
 - c. 2021 Investment Committee Goals and Objectives Timeline and 2021 Education Calendar
 - d. Investment Guideline Review
 - e. China Exposure Portfolio Review
 - f. Investment Managers
 - 1) Verus Flash Report All Managers
 - 2) Managers of Interest
 - a) Franklin Templeton Manager Review
 - b) Sixth Street Dyal Capital Partners
 - c) PGIM Organizational Update
 - g. Agenda Items for Investment Consultant Due Diligence Visits.

V. UPCOMING MEETING

1. July 14, 2021, 10:30 a.m.

VI. ADJOURN

1. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Secretary of the Board of Retirement at (559) 713-2900. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will help enable staff to make reasonable arrangements to ensure meaningful access. Documents related to the items on this Agenda submitted after distribution of the Agenda packet are available for public inspection at TCERA, 136 N. Akers Street, Visalia, CA. during normal business hours.



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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday, April 14, 2021 @ 10:30 a.m.
TCERA Board Room, 136 N. Akers Street, Visalia, CA 93291

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:07 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Voting Trustees Present:

Gary Reed, Chair; Cass Cook, Nathan Polk, Pete Vander Poel

Alternate Trustees Present:

Dave Vasquez

Staff Members Present:

Leanne Malison, Retirement Administrator

Mary Warner, Assistant Retirement Administrator

Consultants Participating

Remotely:

Scott Whalen and Mike Kamell, Verus

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. Under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the Board at this time. For items appearing on the agenda, the public is invited to make comments at the time the item comes up for Board consideration. Any person addressing the Board will be limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes so that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak. Please state your name for the record.

None

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Discussion and possible action regarding the following items:
 - a. Approve Investment Committee Minutes from March 10, 2021.

Motion to approve minutes as presented.

Motion:

Cook

Second:

Polk

Motion passed unanimously.

b. Asset Allocation Status

Ms. Malison notified the Committee that the rebalancing transactions will be completed in April.

c. 2021 Investment Committee Goals and Objectives Timeline and 2021 Education Calendar

Ms. Malison indicated that the timeline has been updated with the recent items assigned to the Committee.

d. Index Fund Review

Mr. Whalen reviewed the information that Verus compiled regarding index funds available for TCERA investment. The Committee reviewed the options and discussed the fee differences, the inclusion of securities lending, and the cost associated with a transition to a new manager.

Motion to recommend to the Board of Retirement that TCERA accept the fee reduction offered by State Street and transition to the State Street index funds that allow securities lending.

Motion:

Vander Poel

Second:

Cook

Motion passed unanimously.

e. Active Manager Expense Review

Mr. Whalen reviewed the analysis of TCERA's active manager fees. Mr. Whalen noted that two managers, Franklin Templeton and PGIM, were not in line with their peers.

Motion to recommend to the Board of Retirement that the investment consultant be directed to review the current fee structure in place with Franklin Templeton and PGIM.

Motion:

Polk

Second:

Vander Poel

Motion passed unanimously.

f. Active/Passive Investment Allocation Review

Mr. Whalen reviewed the information prepared for the review of TCERA's active/passive domestic equity investments showing the current allocation, an all passive mix and an allocation that would move TCERA to a 50% active/50% passive domestic equity target portfolio.

Motion to recommend to the Board of Retirement a transition to a 50% Active/50% Passive domestic equity target allocation.

Motion:

Polk

Second:

Vander Poel

Motion passed unanimously.

g. Investment Managers

- 1) Verus Flash Report All Managers No action.
- 2) Managers of Interest
 - a) Franklin Templeton Manager Review the manager has shown improvement over the most recent three months.
 - b) Sixth Street Dyal Capital Partners no additional information as of the meeting date.

h. Standard Questions for Investment Consulting RFP Finalist Presentations

Mr. Whalen and Mr. Kamell exited the meeting for this agenda item. The Committee discussed possible questions to have available at the meeting to ensure that the question and answer period is interactive. The Committee directed Staff to develop five questions and assign one to each of the Committee members. The questions will be asked by the assigned Committee member if the question has not been adequately covered in the presentation or asked by another trustee.

V. UPCOMING MEETING

1. The May meeting is canceled. The Committee Chair will report out the agenda items from this meeting at the May 28, 2021 Board of Retirement meeting.

VI. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

	Gary Reed, Chair	



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TCERA, Board of Retirement Investment Committee

Agenda Item # IV. 1 b.

Agenda Date: June 9, 2021

Subject: Asset Allocation Status

Requests:

That the Investment Committee:

- 1. Discuss the current asset allocation status as compared to targets.
- 2. Make recommendations to the Board of Retirement as necessary.

Summary:

The Asset Allocation Comparison is provided as a reference tool for the Committee to note the current allocation as compared to target and to track new manager implementation and rebalancing activity. Depending on the date of the Investment Committee meeting, the report may not be available for distribution with the original packet of backup materials. The report will be provided as soon as the data is available from the custodian bank.

Prepared by: Leanne Malison

TCERA Asset Allocation Comparison 05-31-21 - Preliminary Numbers

Manager	Category	Market Value	Actual %	Target %	Value at Target	Difference to Target	Comments
	DOMESTIC EQUITY						
QMA	Large Core Enhanced	95,248,880	4.97%	3.80%	72,883,254	22,365,626	
SSGA S&P 500 Flagship Index Fund	Large Core	126,088,664	6.57%	7.60%	145,766,508	(19,677,844)	
Boston Partners	Large Value	98,656,792	5.14%	3.80%	72,883,254	25,773,538	
Ivy (Waddell & Reed)	Large Growth	96,076,931	5.01%	3.80%	72,883,254	23,193,677	Active/Passive Rebalance Pending
SSGA	SMID Core Index	44,981,579	2.35%	2.00%	38,359,607	6,621,971	
LMCG (Lee Munder)	Small Value	43,800,798	2.28%	2.00%	38,359,607	5,441,190	
William Blair	Smid Growth	39,551,990	2.06%	2.00%	38,359,607	1,192,382	
	Tota	al 544,405,633	28.38%	25.00%	479,495,091	64,910,542	
	INTERNATIONAL EQUIT	Υ					
SGA	International Growth	98,888,183	5.16%	6.60%	126,586,704	(27,698,521)	
PIMCO RAE	International Value	103,582,390	5.40%	4.20%	80,555,175	23,027,215	
SSGA - ACWI Index Fund	International Core	121,478,482	6.33%	4.20%	80,555,175	40,923,306	
	Tota	al 323,949,055	16.89%	15.00%	287,697,055	36,252,000	
	GLOBAL EQUITY						
Skellig Water Fund (KBI)	Water Related	76,117,758	3.97%	3.00%	57,539,411	18,578,347	
	Tota	al 76,117,758	3.97%	3.00%	57,539,411	18,578,347	
	PRIVATE EQUITY						
Pantheon	Private Equity - F of F	451,311	0.02%				
Stepstone	PE - Secondaries	12,719,335	0.66%				
Ocean Avenue III	Private Equity - F of F	19,544,055	1.02%				
Ocean Avenue IV	Private Equity - F of F	14,200,809	0.74%				Pantheon and BlackRock in liquidation phase.
Pathway Fund 8	Private Equity - F of F	22,726,069	1.18%				
Pathway Fund 9	Private Equity - F of F	15,901,427	0.83%				
Pathway Fund 10	Private Equity - F of F	2,021,032	0.11%				
BlackRock Alternatives	Private Equity - F of F	2,684,500	0.14%				
	Tota	al 90,248,538	4.71%	5.00%	95,899,018	(5,650,480)	
	FIXED INCOME						
BlackRock	Core Plus	146,446,849	7.64%	8.50%	163,028,331	(16,581,482)	
MacKay Shields	Core Plus	121,869,192	6.35%	4.25%	81,514,165	40,355,026	
DoubleLine	Core Plus	116,584,407	6.08%	4.25%	81,514,165	35,070,242	
PGIM	Emerging Market Debt	87,492,829	4.56%	5.00%	95,899,018	(8,406,189)	
Franklin Templeton	Global Credit	85,332,462	4.45%	5.00%	95,899,018	(10,566,556)	
	Tota	al 557,725,738	29.08%	27.00%	517,854,698	39,871,040	

TCERA Asset Allocation Comparison 05-31-21 - Preliminary Numbers

Manager	Category	Market Value	Actual %	Target %	Value at Target	Difference to Target	Comments
	PRIVATE CREDIT						
Sixth Street DCP (TSSP)	Private Credit	81,646,453	4.26%	5.00%	95,899,018	(14,252,565)	
	To	tal 81,646,453	4.26%	5.00%	95,899,018	(14,252,565)	
	REAL ASSETS						
Invesco	Real Estate Debt	-	0.00%	5.00%	95,899,018	(95,899,018)	American Realty and Invesco pending capital
American Realty Advisors	Value Add Real Estate	15,408,082	0.80%	5.00%	95,899,018	(80,490,936)	calls.
RREEF America II	Core Commingled	167,173,864	8.72%	10.00%	191,798,036	(24,624,173)	
	To	tal 182,581,946	9.52%	20.00%	383,596,073	(201,014,127)	
	OPPORTUNISTIC						
KKR - Mezzanine	Opportunistic	3,613,233	0.19%	n/a	-	3,613,233	Opportunistic outside of Target Allocation.
Sixth Street TAO Contingent (TSSP)	Opportunistic	15,856,403	0.83%	n/a	-	15,856,403	KKR and PIMCO funds in distribution phase.
PIMCO BRAVO - Distressed Debt	Opportunistic	10,727	0.00%	n/a	-	10,727	
	To	tal 19,480,363	1.02%			19,480,363	
	OTHER		1.02%		-	19,480,363	
							Capital Calls and Cash Flow Needs. Extra operational cash in anticipation of potential
Cash		41,824,880	2.18%	0.00%		41,824,880	liquidity issues due to market volatility.
	To	tal 41,824,880	2.18%	0.00%	-	41,824,880	
	Grand To	tal 1,917,980,364	100.00%	100.00%	1,917,980,364		

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TCERA, Board of Retirement Investment Committee

Agenda Item # IV. 1 c.

Agenda Date: June 9, 2021

Subject: 2021 Investment Committee Goals and Objectives Timeline and 2021 Education Calendar

Requests:

That the Investment Committee:

- 1. Discuss the Goals and Objectives Timeline and Education Calendar
- 2. Direct Staff to make revisions as determined by the Committee
- 3. Make recommendations to the Board of Retirement as necessary

Summary:

The Goals and Objectives Timeline is provided to assist the Committee in monitoring the progress of its goals and objectives for the year. The Education Calendar is provided to ensure that education items related to the Committee's goals and objectives are included in the presentation schedule for the year.

Prepared by: Leanne Malison

TCERA Investment Committee Goals and Objectives Timeline

Revised 6/2/2021

2021

January - March

<u>Active/Passive Investment Panel</u> – The presentation occurred at the February 24, 2021 Board meeting. **Completed**

<u>Investment Refresher Course</u> – At the Board meeting of January 27, 2021, the trustees directed Staff to arrange for an Investment Refresher Course to be provided as an educational opportunity during a future Board meeting. The education was presentation at the March 24, 2021 Board meeting. *Completed*

April - June

Active/Passive Investment Analysis – As directed by the Board at its February 24, 2021 meeting. Scheduled for April 14, 2021 Investment Committee. Committee reported to Board of Retirement on May 26, 2021. Board directed Staff to work with Verus to implement a 50/50 active/passive split for the domestic equity portfolio. Transition pending.

<u>Index Fund Review</u> – As directed by the Board at its February 24, 2021 meeting. Scheduled for April 14, 2021 Investment Committee. Committee reported to Board of Retirement on May 26, 2021. Board authorized changing the SSgA index funds to those allowing securities lending. Contract amendment pending.

<u>Asset/Liability Study</u> – The asset liability study conducted every three years by the investment consultant is scheduled for presentation to the Board of Retirement on May 26, 2021. The Board directed Verus to prepare asset allocation options that add some additional risk (volatility) to the portfolio. Discussion scheduled for June 23, 2021 Board meeting.

<u>BlackRock Guidelines Review</u> – BlackRock has indicated that the investment guidelines for the fixed income investment are outdated. Review pending receipt of proposed changes.

<u>TCERA Separate Account Guidelines Review</u> – As directed by the Board at its March 12, 2021 meeting. Review scheduled for Investment Committee – June 9, 2021.

<u>TCERA China Exposure Analysis</u> – As directed by the Board at its March 12, 2021 meeting. Review scheduled for Investment Committee – June 9, 2021.

<u>Securities Lending Education</u> – At its May 26, 2021 meeting, the Board requested that Verus prepare an educational session on Securities Lending. The presentation is scheduled for June 23, 2021.

July - September

Active Manager Expense Review – As directed by the Board at its February 24, 2021 meeting. Scheduled for April 14, 2021 Investment Committee. Committee reported to Board of Retirement on May 26, 2021. Board directed Verus to contact Franklin Templeton and PGIM regarding the investment management fee structures. Results are expected in July.

Consideration of investment manager roundtable in 2021 as directed by the Board of Retirement at its meeting of July 8, 2020.

October - December

TCERA Board of Retirement 2021 Trustee Education Calendar

Month	Meeting Date	Education Topics
January	January 13	
	January 27	
February	February 10	
	February 24	12/31/20 Investment Report – Verus Active/Passive Investment Panel - Verus
March	March 10	BlackRock/BlackRock Alternatives (Fixed Income and Private Equity)
	March 24	Investment Refresher Course - Verus
April	April 14	PIMCO RAE Ivy Investments
	April 28	
May	SACRS – May 11-14	
	May 26	3/31/21 Investment Report – Verus Asset/Liability Study – Verus Strategic Asset Allocation Review - Verus
June	June 9	Boston Partners SGA
	June 23	Securities Lending Education – Verus Asset/Liability Study Follow Up – Strategic Asset Allocation Review – Verus
July	July 14	Pathway Pantheon
	July 28	Private Markets Review – Verus
August	August 11	Franklin Templeton DoubleLine
	August 25	6/30/21 Investment Report - Verus

September	September 8	Invesco SSGA
	September 22	
October	October 13	
	October 27	
November	November 3 - due to SACRS	Actuarial Valuation Report - Cheiron
	SACRS Nov 9-12	
	November 17- due to Thanksgiving Holiday	9/30/21 Investment Report
December		Brown Armstrong – Audit Results

Expected 2022 Investment Manager Regular Biennial Presentations:

QMA LMCG Sixth Street (TSSP) Stepstone RREEF Ocean Avenue William Blair KBI PGIM KKR American Realty Advisors MacKay Shields



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TCERA, Board of Retirement Investment Committee

Agenda Item # IV. 1 d.

Agenda Date: June 9, 2021

Subject: Investment Guideline Review

Requests:

That the Investment Committee:

- 1. Discuss the information compiled by Verus regarding manager guidelines
- 2. Make recommendations to the Board of Retirement as necessary

Summary:

The Board of Retirement directed Verus to contact TCERA's investment managers with separate portfolios regarding any recommended updates to investment guidelines associated with the investments. In many cases, the guidelines have been in place for a number of years. The Board thought it prudent to determine if any of the current guidelines need to be amended to ensure managers are investing within parameters that make sense for the portfolio.

Prepared by: Leanne Malison



Memorandum

To: Investment Committee, Tulare County Employees' Retirement Association

From: Scott Whalen, CFA, CAIA, Executive Managing Director | Senior Consultant

Date: June 10, 2021

RE: Investment Manager Guideline Review

Executive Summary

As directed by the Board, Verus recently reached out to TCERA's separate account managers to determine if any were interested in adjusting their investment guidelines to help meet their investment objectives. TCERA currently invests in six separately managed accounts across five domestic equity mandates and one fixed income mandate. The following table summarizes manager responses to our inquiry.

SMA Managers	Contact	Requested Changes?
Boston Partners	Kristin Butner	No
William Blair	James Dominguez	No
lvy	Brian Sullivan	Yes
QMA	Pat McMenamin	No
LMCG	Jenna Oliver	Yes
BlackRock	Grant Dechart	Yes

Investment managers are responsible for notifying the Board when they believe investment guidelines limit their ability to meet their stated objectives. BlackRock reached out specifically and proactively to TCERA on this point prior to the Board's direction. The other managers on the list were reacting to our inquiry. While some managers suggested guideline changes for consideration, none of the requests were significant or of an urgent nature.

Boston Partners Large Cap Value

Boston Partners pointed out that the TCERA guidelines vary modestly from their standard large cap value strategy guidelines in the following areas:

- TCERA guidelines allow a maximum cash position of 5%, compared to the standard strategy guideline of 10%;
- TCERA requires that at least 80% of the portfolio to be invested in companies with market capitalizations within the range of the Russell 1000 Value Index, whereas the

standard strategy has no such limitation (verbiage changed recently at the request of Boston Partners); and

• The TCERA guidelines state the number of portfolio holdings shall be between 75-100, whereas the standard strategy has no such limitation.

Boston Partners stated these differences do not limit their ability to meet their investment objectives and have requested no changes at this time.

William Blair

William Blair responded to our inquiry that they have no suggestions for guideline changes at this time.

Ivy Large Cap Growth

The only guideline Ivy would consider changing is the requirement that:

"No more than 10% of the portfolio value at market may be invested in the securities of any one issuer."

Currently, Ivy holds two securities that may be restricted based on the above guideline, AAPL (Apple) and MSFT (Microsoft). The guideline as written keeps Ivy from taking an active overweight position on either of these two securities and may at some point compel an active underweight. Ivy has suggested they would like the added flexibility that comes with relaxing this guideline.

We believe this suggestion is reasonable, and If the Board wishes to provide Ivy with additional flexibility to make active bets, we recommend the following language:

"Manager may hold no more than 2% above the benchmark weighting in any one issuer."

LMCG Small Cap Value

While LMC did not express strong conviction in their suggested guideline change, they communicated a desire to have the ability to invest in IPO's if the Board and Verus were amenable. This is not a change we would recommend, based on our view that it would be a fairly significant change to the current guidelines, would add risk to the portfolio, and is not one for which LMCG has expressed high conviction or made a compelling case.

BlackRock Core Plus Fixed Income

BlackRock is the one manager that reached out proactively to the Board in light of their concerns that the current market environment does not provide a sufficient opportunity set for them to meet their stated investment objective. We held a detailed review meeting with the BlackRock portfolio management team to discuss their proposed guideline changes and reached agreement on the red-lined version incorporated as an attachment to this memo.



BlackRock Financial Management US Core Fixed-Income

Statement of Objectives, Guidelines & Procedures

Investment Approach - Core Fixed-Income

The investment objectives of the core fixed-income portfolio are to provide stable income to the Fund, provide safety of principal and consistent returns above the fixed-income market as measured by the Bloomgberg Barclays Capital U.S. Aggregate Bond Index. The fund will be actively managed by BlackRock Financial Management (BlackRock), hereinafter also referred to as "Manager", and invested in a diversified portfolio of fixed-income securities. BlackRock's portfolios are typically duration neutral and value is added to its portfolio incrementally across a number of decisions, including yield curve structure, convexity, sector selection, and issue selection. The Investment Strategy Committee meets weekly to establish guidelines for the characteristics of the portfolios, including sector allocation, desired duration, convexity bias and yield curve positioning. Once the strategic decisions have been made, the Portfolio Management Group is responsible for their implementation and for monitoring the portfolios on a daily basis.

The Fund is concerned about market volatility and wishes to avoid portfolio compositions which might lead to a substantial decline in market value of 10% or more in any fiscal year, even under extraordinary bad market conditions.

General Guidelines.

All investments are subject to compliance with Investment Policies, Objectives and Guidelines for the Tulare County Employees' Retirement Association, with applicable State and Federal statutes, and shall be managed in a diversified and prudent manner.

Sector and security selection, portfolio structure and timing of purchases and sales are delegated to the manager subject to the investment management contract. The following transactions are prohibited: short sales, selling on margin, writing options, "prohibited transactions" as defined under the Employees Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), and transactions that involve a broker acting as a "principal" where such broker is also the investment manager who is making the transaction. Transactions shall be executed on the basis of "best price and execution" for the sole benefit of the Tulare County Employees' Retirement Association's beneficiaries.

Any material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines is to be corrected immediately upon discovery. A realized loss to the Fund resulting from a material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines will require reimbursement of the amount of the loss by the manager.

The Manager shall invest within the scope of their stated style. With respect to this Agreement, the Manager shall adhere to the calculation and preservation of performance as described by the Association of Investment Management and Research's Code of Ethics and the Standards of Professional Conduct as presented in the Standards of Practice Handbook.

Portfolio Characteristics and Guidelines

Commented [ME1]: Comment for contracting - should we include delegation ability for BIL or BSL? The portfolio is permitted to use up to 30% in non-USD and we'd like to be able to utilize our teams on the ground in global markets.

We will also need to add affiliated Fund language given the inclusion of ETFs for the option to use iShares ETFs

Commented [ME2]: Using options (both buying and selling) offers opportunities to take advantage of mispriced volatility markets.

Revised 12/5/2012 1

The following is a list of Portfolio Guidelines which delineates the ranges within which the following characteristics of the Barclays Capital portfolio should vary:

Portfolio Duration +/- 20% of the BC Aggregate Index benchmark

Minimum Issue Credit Rating A24/P24 or equivalent for commercial paper

B for long-term corporate debt B for Mortgage Backed Securities B for Asset Backed Securities

A for Collateralized Loan Obligations

B for Foreign Government or Agency obligations

Limitations on Below Investment

No more than 10% of the portfolio may be
Grade Rated Issues below BBB rated issues.

If bonds are downgraded below the minimum credit quality allowable in the guidelines at time of purchase, the Manager is allowed to hold up to 2% in aggregate market value of these securities. At no time, however, will the total of below investment grade rated issues exceed 10% of the portfolio.

In the event of a downgrade which causes the portfolio to not be in compliance with any of these investment guidelines, no violation will be deemed to have occurred, but BlackRock will promptly notify the administrator and recommend proposed action within five business days of the event.

Sector Limitations US Government issues will comprise a

minimum of 4510% of the portfolio market value: Corporate and Mortgage Backed Securities will each be subject to a maximum limit of 65%.

Average Portfolio Credit Quality A- or better

Minimum Number of Issues 15 issues

Issuer Limits Except for US Government and Agency issues,

no more than 5% of the portfolio will be invested in the securities of a single issuer.

CMO's Investments in mortgage interest only (IO) and

principal only (PO) securities or their derivations

2

are prohibited.

Commercial Mortgage-Backed Sec. CMBS are permitted, but shall comprise no more

than 15% of the portfolio market value.

Revised 12/5/2012

Collateralized Loan Obs (CLOs)	CLOs are permitted, but shall comprise no more than 10% of the portfolio market value.
Non-USD denominated securities	Non-USD denominated securities are permitted, but shall comprise no more than 30% of the portfolio market value, of which no more than 5% of the portfolio may be exposed to non-USD.
Private Placements	Schedule D. Reg-S and 144A private placements aree permitted but shall comprise no more than 25% permitted but shall comprise no more than 20% of the portfolio market value.
Derivatives	Futures, options, and swaps may be used for purposes of hedging, managing duration, and as a substitute for cash. Derivative securities shall not be used to lever the portfolio or expose the portfolio to risk and/or volatility in excess of what the account would experience excluding derivatives.
Cash Investments	For the purposes of these investment guidelines, a cash investment shall be defined as any security that has an effective duration under one year, a weighted average life of less than one year, and spread duration less than one year.

Exceptions to these guidelines will be considered by TCERA on a case-by-case basis, and will require prior written approval.

The use of derivative securities must comply with the uses and restrictions outlined in TCERA's Investment Policy Statement.

Authorized Investments

Non-agency Mortgage Backed Securities

Bankers Acceptances

Certificates of Deposit

Bank trust preferreds/capital securities (eg. Contingent Convertible Bonds)

Convertible Bonds

Preferred Equities

Repurchase Agreements

Commercial Paper rated A24/P24 or equivalent

Corporate Bond Obligations rated B- or better Government or Agency obligations of the US

Foreign Government or Agency obligations

Mortgage-Backed Securities (including Collateralized Mortgage Obligations)

Commercial Mortgage-Backed Securities

3

Collateralized Loan-Obligations (CLOs)
Asset Backed Securities
Municipal Bonds (taxable and tax-exempt)
Exchange-traded Funds tracking fixed income indices (ETFs)
STIF provided by TCERA's custodian

Performance Objectives

The portfolio's performance objective will be to out-perform the <u>Bloomberg</u> Barclays <u>Capital-U.S.</u> Aggregate Index by <u>85-55</u> basis points per annum (net of fees) over a full market cycle, defined as a three to five year period.

Exceed inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) by 3.0% per annum over the long-term;

Perform in the top 40% of a peer group of similar style fixed-income managers over a full market cycle, defined as a three to five year period.

Reporting Requirements

- A. Monthly Transaction statement, asset (portfolio) statement, breakdown of directed commission activity and performance of the portfolio and benchmark for the month to be sent to Staff at the Fund's office (2 copies) and Board members at their homes.
- B. Quarterly Same as monthly plus discussion of portfolio's recent strategy and expected future strategy, demonstration of compliance with guidelines, performance of the portfolio and benchmark for the quarter, year-to-date, 1 year, 3 years, 5 years and since inception, review of transaction costs and participation in TCERA's commission recapture program to be sent to Staff at the Fund's office (2 copies) and Board members at their homes. A proxy voting report with an explanation of all significant votes should also be included in the quarterly reporting package.
- C. BlackRock will be responsible to ensure that a copy of each trade confirm is immediately forwarded to TCERA's accountant.
- D. BlackRock will reconcile every month accounting, transaction, and asset summary data with custodian reports and communicate and resolve any significant discrepancies with the custodian and forward a copy of the reconciliation to TCERA's accountant.
- E. BlackRock will meet with representatives of TCERA as often as determined necessary by the Board.

BlackRock will keep TCERA apprised of relevant information regarding its organization and personnel. The firm will notify TCERA within 24 hours of any changes in the lead personnel assigned to manage the account.

Revised 12/5/2012 4

Acknowledged By	
BlackRock Financial Management	Date:
Tulare County Employees' Retirement Association	Date:



COUNTY OF TULARE BOARD OF RETIREMENT

Leanne Malison Retirement Administrator

136 N AKERS STREET VISALIA, CALIFORNIA 93291 TELEPHONE (559) 713-2900 FAX (559) 730-2631 www.tcera.org

TCERA, Board of Retirement Investment Committee

Agenda Item # IV. 1 e.

Agenda Date: June 9, 2021

Subject: China Exposure – Portfolio Review

Requests:

That the Investment Committee:

- 1. Discuss the information compiled by Verus regarding TCERA's exposure to Chinese investments
- 2. Make recommendations to the Board of Retirement as necessary

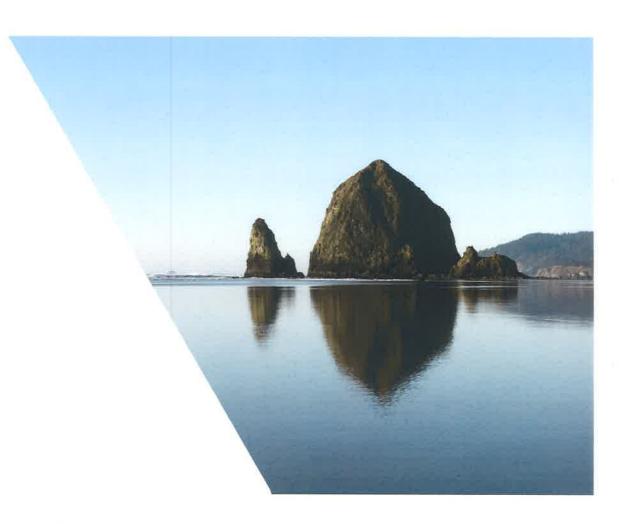
Summary:

The Board of Retirement directed Verus to prepare a report that identifies TCERA's exposure to Chinese investments across its portfolio allocations. The information is provided for the Committee's review.

Prepared by: Leanne Malison

Verus⁷⁷⁷





JUNE 9, 2021

China: Fund Exposure and Education

Tulare County Employees Retirement Association

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China investment case	PAGE 13
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Appendix – China disputes detail	PAGE 26

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TCERA China exposure



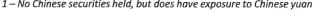
TCERA China exposure summary

Asset Class	Total Market Value (millions)	China exposure mkt value (millions)	% Exposure Asset Class level
Domestic Equity	\$508.5	\$ 0	0.0%
Non-US Equity	\$308.6	\$31.7	10.26%
Global Equity	\$ 74.5	\$0.2	0.25%
Fixed Income	\$548.0	\$ 4.0	0.74%
Real Estate	\$180.5	\$ 0	0.0%
Private Equity	\$ 87.0	\$1.8	2.06%
Private Credit	\$ 99.3	\$0.0	0.0%
Total fund	\$1,843.9	\$37.7	2.04%



China exposure – public market detail

As of 3/31/21	% Portfolio Exposure	Strategy Market Value (millions)	Exposure ir \$ (millions)
Domestic Equity	0.0%	\$508.5	\$0
Non-US Equity	10.26%	\$308.6	\$31.67
SSGA MSCI ACWI ex-US Index Fund	11.54%	\$114.3	\$13.19
PIMCO RAE Fundamental Global ex-US	5.21%	\$101.2	\$ 5.27
SGA Global Growth	14.18%	\$ 93.1	\$13.20
Global Equity	0.25%	\$ 74.5	\$0.18
Skellig DST Water Fund	0.25%	<i>\$ 74.5</i>	\$0.18
Fixed Income	0.74%	\$548.0	\$4.03
BlackRock Core Fixed Income	0.0%	\$144.6	\$0
DoubleLine Core Plus Fixed Income	0.18%	\$115.2	\$0.21
MacKay Shields Core Plus Fixed Income	0.20%	\$120.0	\$0.24
Franklin Templeton Global Bond Plus	$0.0\%^{1}$	\$ 84.4	\$0
PGIM Emerging Market Debt	4.28%	\$ 83.8	\$3.59
Real Estate	0.0%	\$180.5	\$0
Total public market exposure	2.2%	\$1,620.2	\$35.88
– No Chinese securities held, but does have exposure to Chinese yuan			





China exposure – private market detail

As of 3/31/21	% Portfolio Exposure	Strategy Market Value (millions)	Exposure in \$ (millions)
Private Equity	21.8%	\$87.0	\$ 1.8
Pantheon USA Fund VI	1.1%	\$0.45	\$0.005
BlackRock Private Capital II	11.5%	\$2.68	\$0.309
Stepstone Secondary Opps Fund II ¹	4.9%	\$11.1	\$0.544
Ocean Avenue Fund III and IV	0.0%	\$31.6	<i>\$ 0</i>
Pathway PE Fund 8	3.2%	\$23.9	\$0.763
Pathway PE Fund 9	1.1%	\$15.9	\$0.174
Pathway PE Fund 10	0.0%2	\$ 1.4	\$0
Private Credit/Opportunistic	0.0%	\$99.3	\$ 0
Total private market exposure	1.0%	\$186.2	\$1. <mark>8</mark>

^{2 –} Early in investment cycle so could have China exposure going forward



^{1 -} Data as of 9/30/20.

Geopolitical context



A shifting relationship

From cooperation toward hegemonic competition

THEN

- The late 1990s and 2000s were characterized by engagement
- Foreign policy anticipated a convergence of China as a "responsible stakeholder" alongside the US
- Crises were averted as economic interdependence drove cooperation

NOW

- The Trump Administration redefined relations with China
- China is viewed as an adversary and the optimism of convergence is gone
- Several new policies beyond tariffs exhibit the hardened stance
 - Power to block foreign investment
 - Increased military spending
 - Foreign aid to counter Chinese influence

AHEAD

- Biden is likely to remain tough on China, but to take a more bilateral approach with the full force of the United States' allies
- Bipartisan consensus on tougher China policies
- Financial cooperation isn't dead, but different economic systems make protracted trade issues likely

U.S.-China tensions escalating - timeline

January 15th – U.S. and China sign the Phase One Deal. Agreements include the rollback of recently applied tariffs, increased purchases of certain goods, greater intellectual property protection, and limited currency practices.

May 1st – The Trump Administration directs the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, a retirement fund with over \$500 billion in assets, to halt its plans to invest in Chinese the contested Spratly Islands, and equities. The U.S. Labor Secretary explained that these investments would put American funds "in risky companies" that pose a threat to U.S. national securities."

July 14th - The U.S. Navy conducts a freedom of navigation operation near sends a guided missile destroyer into waters which China claims as its own.

January 31st – The U.S. implements a ban against all non-U.S. citizens who have visited China recently, amid COVID-19 fears.

June 30th – China passes a sweeping new Hong Kong national security law, effectively eliminating free speech and the right to protest, and eroding the sovereignty of the country. Under the new law, any talk or protesting for Hong Kong independence, or of anti-China sentiment, can result in imprisonment.

July 22nd - The U.S. orders China to close its consulate in Houston, Texas, "in order to protect American intellectual property and Americans' private information" said U.S. State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus.

2019

2020

March 18th - China ousts American journalists from the country, including the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, and the Washington Post. China adds new requirements that these companies must share details of their operations with the Chinese government.

October 9th – The U.S. Secretary of State announces visa restrictions against Chinese officials accused of human rights abuses of ethnic populations in the Xinjiang region, including "mass detentions in internment camps; pervasive, hightech surveillance; draconian controls on expressions of cultural and religious identities; and coercion of individuals to return from abroad to an often perilous fate in China."

May 15th – In a continued push to stop China's proliferation of its 5G technology, the U.S. Commerce Department amends export rules which cut off Huawei from global chip manufacturers that use American technology.

June 30th – The United States revokes its special trade status with Hong Kong—a move which signals that Hong Kong is no longer viewed as autonomous from China. All U.S. trade with Hong Kong will effectively be treated as trade with China.

> July 10th – President Trump comments that he is not focused on a Phase Two Trade Deal, and that the U.S. relationship with China has been "severely damaged" by the outbreak of COVID-19. The President continues his comments that China is at fault for failing to prevent the global spread of the virus.

> > July 13th – The U.S. announces new interpretations of China's recent claims in the South China Sea. "We are making clear: Beijing's claims to offshore resources across most of the South China Sea are completely unlawful, as is its campaign of bullying to control them." —Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

U.S.-China tensions escalating - timeline

November 8th – President Trump signs an executive order limiting U.S. investors from buying shares of companies with ties to the Chinese military. Transactions would be banned beginning January 11th, 2021, and investors with exposure would have until November 2021 to divest them.

January 13th – The Trump administration banned cotton and tomato products sourced from the Xinjiang province in China, including products manufactured outside of China but using cotton and tomatoes from Xinjiang, due to forced labor allegations.

January 6th – MSCI, a major index data provider, announced it would stop including China Mobile, China Telecom, and China Unicom in its benchmarks.

January 20th – Joe Biden is inaugurated as the 46th President of the United States. Chinese officials have pressured Biden to lift the multiple restrictions imposed under the Trump administration. Biden said he did not have immediate plans to remove the tariffs and planned to review the phase one trade deal and discuss the matter with allies first.

2021

December 18th – The U.S. Department of Commerce bans U.S. sales to the Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation (SMIC), a major Chinese semi producer, further restricting U.S. semi exports to one of the industry's largest buyers.

August 17th – The U.S. Department of Commerce adjusted its foreign-produced direct product rule to further limit Huawei's access to chips, amid the context of a developing global chip shortage. The new version of the rule applies the same licensing restrictions to semiconductors developed outside of the U.S. that use American software or technology as chips manufactured within the U.S. itself.

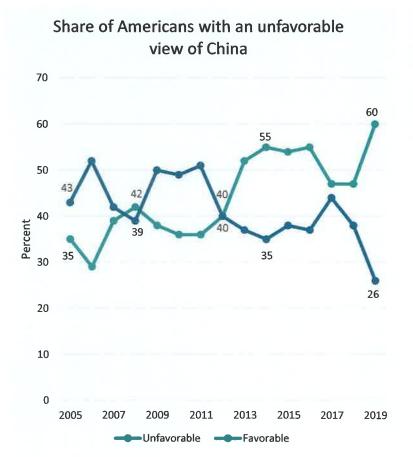
January 6th – The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) announced it would delist stocks linked to China Mobile, China Telecom, and China Unicom.

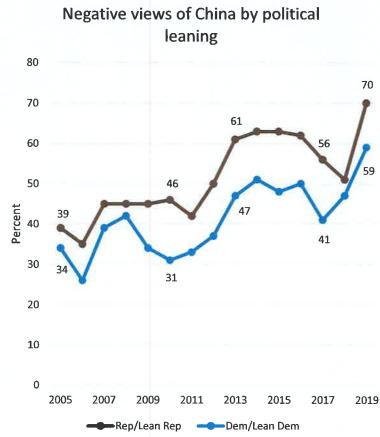
February 8th – China officially imported \$94 billion in U.S. goods in 2020, considerably short of the 2020 target laid out in the phase one trade deal. Imports of U.S. goods were just 59% of the \$159 billion legal commitment.

March 18-19 – High level talks were held in Anchorage, Alaska, where key officials discussed various geopolitical disagreements.

Public perception toward China is shifting

Share of Americans with an unfavorable view of China reaches a new high, according to PEW poll





The uptick in negative views toward China is consistent across political leanings

Source: Spring 2019 Global Attitudes Survey. Q8b. PEW Research Center

Trump to Biden: what changes?

The Trump administration's approach to foreign policy generally, and specifically with regard to China, diverged materially from the status quo over most of the post-war period. Negotiations were often viewed as tactical rather than strategic, and unilateral rather than bilateral.

Under Trump, the United States cracked down on China on several fronts, including intellectual property transfers, the trade deficit, tariff policies viewed as lacking reciprocity, China's aggression in the South China Sea, and the human rights abuses taking place in Xinjiang province. The U.S. also supported pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong, and boosted defense exports to Taiwan, which China views as part of China. Over the course of the Trump administration, Americans began to cultivate a more-negative view on China broadly, and the policies of the Communist Party of China specifically, across party lines.

With Biden at the helm, the approach to China is expected to remain strong, and to bring back into the fold the allies of the United States. In his Senate confirmation hearing, Biden's Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, noted that Trump "was right in taking a tougher approach to China" and that though he disagreed with the strategy, his policy was "actually helpful to [the United States'] foreign policy.



Secretary Antony Blinken ② @SecBlinken · Feb 5

► United States government official

In my call with my counterpart in Beijing, Yang Jiechi, I made clear the U.S. will defend our national interests, stand up for our democratic values, and hold Beijing accountable for its abuses of the international system.

Q 1.5K

1 5.2K

President Biden himself has said that his administration is not going to "do it the way Trump did", and that although there is no need for conflict, "there is going to be extreme competition". Overall, Biden's stated approach is to work with Beijing when it is in America's interest to do so, and to compete from a position of strength by building back better at home and working with our allies and partners.

Leland Miller, CEO of the U.S.-based consultancy, China Beige Book, stated that "there is very little chance the incoming Biden administration in the early days uses what political chips it has to [do] anything construed as being weak on China." As a result, tensions are likely to remain high over the intermediate-term, occasionally spilling out into the various vectors of the current bilateral competition, as tends to be the case historically when the global hegemon is challenged by a rising power. We will continue to monitor developments.

China investment case



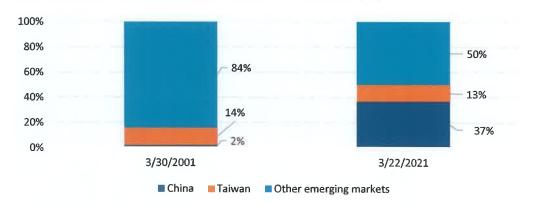
Thoughts on Chinese equities

China's economy and stock market have grown explosively in recent decades, attracting interest from investors all over the world in the process. China now represents close to 36% of MSCI's Emerging Markets Index - including Taiwan, that percentage rises to nearly 50%. However, that number might be even higher, were it not for MSCI's decision to slowly integrate Chinese equities into the index.

MSCI's concerns, which we find to be reasonable, center around the following issues:

- 1. Lower confidence in the openness and fairness of the Chinese equity market
- 2. High government involvement and intervention which has limited freedom of security trades and general liquidity in China.
- 3. Heightened concerns of market integrity around securities that are mid- or small-capitalization, which is why MSCI's A-share inclusion is of large-cap only.

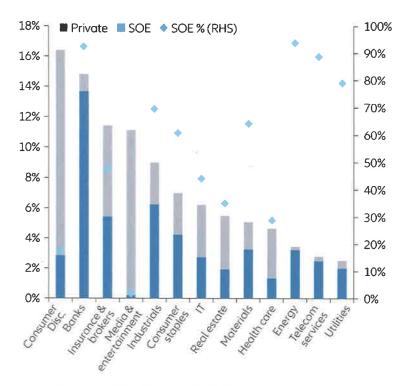
MSCI EMERGING MARKETS INDEX – COUNTRY ALLOCATIONS



Source: MSCI, as of 3/26/21

Additionally, investing in Chinese A-shares involves a heavy allocation to Chinese state-owned enterprises, which in the past have been synonymous with inefficiency, questionable governance, and lackluster shareholder returns.

STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES - MARKET SHARE BY SECTOR



Source: Bloomberg, HSBC, Allianz, as of 4/30/19

Thoughts on Chinese equities

Aside from concerns around the general lack of transparency, government intervention, and the involvement of state-owned enterprises in Chinese equity markets, there has been immense realized volatility in Chinese equity markets in recent years.

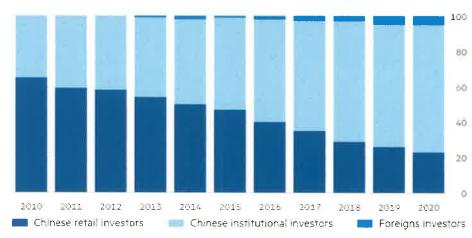
Swings back and forth in China have far exceeded the broader emerging market equity universe, due in part to the high proportion of retail investors in China. Investment managers with China products have contended that the concentration of retail investors in Chinese equity markets, alongside the nebulous state-owned-enterprise-dominated landscape, combine to produce fertile soil for active management. As a firm, we believe that investors deciding to make a China-specific allocation are best suited to pursue an active implementation approach, with a high-conviction manager.

REALIZED VOLATILITY - TRAILING 1-YEAR



Source: MSCI, Bloomberg, as of 3/25/21

ESTIMATED HOLDINGS OF CHINA'S STOCK MARKET FLOAT



Source: Financial Times, China Renaissance, as of 6/30/20



Outlook

- Chinese equities have proven quite volatile in past years, and investors considering stand-alone allocations should be prepared to accept volatility that exceeds that of most other equity investments.
- If the global vaccine campaign continues to pick up steam and the economy continues to recover, China may
 enjoy a high beta to that recovery. China's economy is linked to nearly every other economy on earth, and
 will likely benefit from the ongoing support of global fiscal policy.
- On the flip side, in recent months, the People's Bank of China has indicated that they are concerned with bubbles in certain financial markets, and excessive leverage in the housing sector. As a result, China has started to taper liquidity, thereby marginally tightening financial conditions, and putting pressure on the highgrowth tech companies which have come to dominate the Chinese equity indices in recent years.
- Overall, while the long-term outlook for China remains constructive, a number of other uncertainties have obfuscated our shorter-term outlook. Whether you're investing over the long- or short-term in China, expect a bumpy ride.

Appendix – manager detail



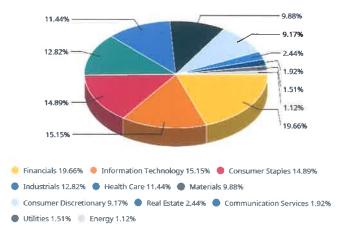
SSGA ACWI ex-US Index

Security/Index name	% of China exposure				
MSCI CNY Index NL CTF	The MSCI China A Onshore Index captures large and mid cap representation across China securities listed on the Shanghai and Shenzhen exchanges.	99.3%			
MSCI China A Inclusion Index NL CTF	The MSCI China A Inclusion Index is designed to track the progressive partial inclusion of A shares in the MSCI Emerging Markets Index over time. It is calculated using China A Stock Connect listings based on the offshore RMB exchange rate (CNH).	0.7%			

ssga Acwi ex-US Index fund represents a 4.3% China exposure at the non-US equity sector level and 0.7% at the total fund level

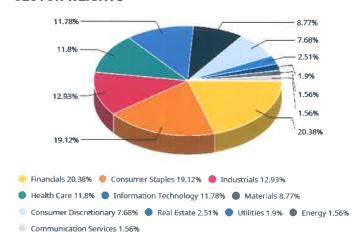
MSCI CNY Index

SECTOR WEIGHTS



MSCI China A Inclusion Index

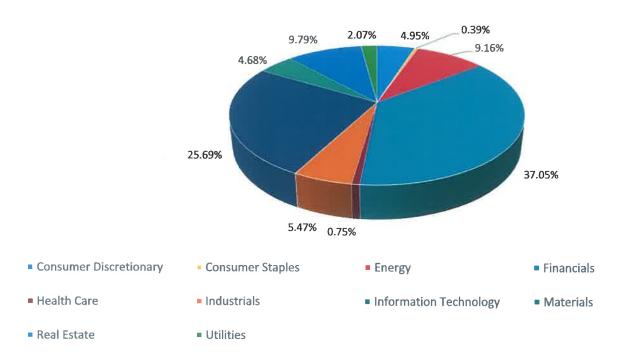
SECTOR WEIGHTS



Source: MSCI



PIMCO RAE Fundamental Global ex-US



PIMCO RAE
Fundamental
Global ex-US
represents a
1.7% China
exposure at the
non-US equity
sector level and
0.3% at the
total fund level

As of March 31, 2021

- China exposure is 5.1% of the fund portfolio
- On a 3-year basis, combined attribution of all holdings is -0.19%

Attribution is Total Effect (Allocation + Selection Effect)



SGA Global Growth

As of March 31, 2021

Security name	Sector	% Portfolio exposure
Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. Sponsored ADR	Technology	3.8%
New Oriental Education & Technology Group, Inc. Sponsored ADR	Technology	3.0%
Shandong Weigao Group Medical Polymer Co. Ltd. Class H	Health Care	4.0%
Tencent Holdings Ltd.	Technology	3.4%
Total		14.2%

SGA Global
Growth
represents a
4.3% China
exposure at the
non-US equity
sector level and
0.7% at the
total fund level

3-years as of March 31, 2021

Security name	Sector	Portfolio attribution*
Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. Sponsored ADR	Technology	0.7%
New Oriental Education & Technology Group, Inc. Sponsored ADR	Technology	0.4%
Shandong Weigao Group Medical Polymer Co. Ltd. Class H	Health Care	2.9%
Tencent Holdings Ltd.	Technology	0.7%
JD.com, Inc. Sponsored ADR Class A	Technology	-0.2%
Sinopharm Group Co., Ltd. Class H	Pharmaceutical	-0.8%
TAL Education Group Sponsored ADR Class A	Education	1.8%
Trip.com Group Ltd. Sponsored ADR	Consumer Discretionary	-1.3%
Total	HERETSYN	3.8%

^{*}Total Effect (Allocation + Selection Effect)



Skellig DST Water Fund

As of March 31, 2021

Security name	% Portfolio exposure	
China Everbright Environment Group	Wastewater treatment plants	
Beijing Enterprises Water Group	Wastewater treatment plants	
Guangdong Investment Limited	Water transport + wastewater treatment	0
China Water Affairs Group Ltd	Water utility	
SIIC Environment (HKD) Holdings	Wastewater treatment plants	
Total		0.25%

KBIGI Water Fund represents a 0.25% China exposure at the Global equity sector level and 0.01% at the total fund level

Thesis for holding: Chinese water utilities and the investment thesis behind these.

Our Chinese water Utilities are leading companies in their markets with significant government, international development bank, and/or regulatory support.

Four of the five of the water utilities trade on low single digit multiples and are producing double-digit earnings growth (compare this to US water utilities that are trading on 25x+ with low single digit earnings growth). This compares to PE's greater than 20x five years ago, yet the business models and cash generation are improving as more developed assets move from construction to operation phase. They are trading on such cheap multiples mainly on the back of negative investor sentiment towards non-tech EM.

The dividend yields of the Chinese utilities are roughly 5-6%, a very attractive return cushion in a volatile market environment

Fixed income managers

DOUBLELINE

Security name	Industry	% Portfolio exposure	Inception to date return	Trade date
JD.com, Inc. (3.375% 01/14/30)	Technology	0.07%	-0.18%	05/20/20
Tencent Holdings Ltd. (2.39% 06/03/30)	Technology	0.05%	-1.36%	05/27/20
Baidu Inc. (3.425% 04/07/30)	Technology	0.03%	8.82%	04/01/20
ENN Energy Holdings Ltd. (3.25% 07/24/22)	Energy	0.03%	1.31%	09/17/20
Total		0.18%		

DoubleLine

- and MacKay
Shields each
represent a
0.04% China
exposure at the
total fixed
income sector
level and 0.01%
at the total
fund level

MACKAY SHIELDS

Security name	Industry	% Portfolio exposure	1-year attribution*	3-year attribution*			
Weibo Corp Technology		0.12%					
Sands China Ltd	Travel & Leisure	0.08%					
Total	23.04 0 -1-20	0.20%	0.03%	0.05%			

As of March 31, 2021

*Total Effect (Allocation + Selection Effect)



Fixed income managers continued

PGIM as of March 31, 2021

Security name	Industry	% Portfolio exposure	2020 Attribution ¹	2019 Attribution ¹
State Grid Corporation	Utilities	0.03%		
China Peoples Republic	Local Sovereign Bonds	3.40%		
Country Garden Holdings Co. Ltd	Real Estate	0.15%		
China Metallurgical Group Corp	Mining & Metals	0.39%		
Prosus NV	Media	0.04%		
Sinochem Group	Multiple ²	0.04%		
Sinopec Group	Energy	0.29%		
Currency exposure		-0.06%		
Total		4.28%	-2.73%	3.8%

PGIM
represents a
0.07% China
exposure at the
total fixed
income sector
level and 0.2%
at the total
fund level

 $²⁻Government\ state-owned\ enterprise\ (SOE)\ in\ agricultural,\ chemical,\ energy,\ real\ estate\ and\ finance$



^{1 -} Total Effect (Allocation + Selection Effect); Total may include other holdings no longer in the portfolio as of 3/31/21 and therefore not listed in the table.

Private Markets

Pantheon USA Fund VI - Vintage 2004

Security name	Description	% Portfolio exposure
Company #1	Provides strategic research portals, business research content and search technology to global enterprises.	0.5%
Company #2	Venture capital firm specializing in growth capital, early & expansion stage investments. They primarily invest in consumer, technology, industrial and energy/clean energy sectors	0.3%
Company #3	Specializes in investments in biotechnology & life sciences sectors in Mainland China	0.3%
Company #4	Specializes in growth capital and early-stage investments in IT sector	0.0%
Company #5	Develops monoclonal antibodies offering epitope tag & loading control antibodies.	0.0%
Company #6	Developer of a platform intended for antibody discovery	0.0%
Total		1.1%

BlackRock QPC II—Vintage 2005

Regarding QPC II, we do not readily have look-through exposures maintained for these older, legacy Quellos funds. It may be easier to note that QPC II (a fund of funds program which committed capital from 2004-2007) committed to two underlying funds with a focus on China: Northern Light Venture Fund L.P. (2005 Vintage Fund; \$3.5mn in cumulative contributions with a \$5.6mn reported valuation as of 9/30/2020) and IDG Accel China Growth Fund, L.P. (2006 Vintage Fund; \$2.8mn in cumulative contributions with a \$3.0mn reported valuation as of 9/30/2020). In sum, QPC II committed \$6.5mn and paid in (i.e. invested) \$6.3mn across these two China-focused funds which represented about 1.6% and 1.5% of total QPC underlying fund commitments and paid-in capital. It's safe to assume these exposures (in commitment and contribution terms) were consistent over the last five years. These funds represented 3.3% of QPC II's reported valuation (at the underlying investment level) as at 9/30/2015 and 11.5% as at 9/30/2020. The increase is due to underlying funds (focused on other funds) distributing capital to investors faster than these two funds.

As of March 31, 2021



Private Markets continued

Stepstone Secondary Opportunities Fund II – Vintage 2011

Security name	Description	% Portfolio exposure					
Jinko Solar Power Engineering	Owns, operates & develops a portfolio of photovoltaic solar stations in Eastern and Northwest China						
Shenyang Shengyuan Water	Owner & operator of two of the largest tap water treatment plants in Northeast China	0.9%					
Shenyang Zhenxing Environmental	Large-scale wastewater treatment plant in Liaoning Province, Northeast China	0.8%					
eBaoTech Corporation	Provides insurance software products & services for life and general insurance customers in China, Asia, Europe and North America	0.3%					
Project Independence	Super 8 budget hotels in Greater China	0.3%					
Shenyang Zhenxing Wasterwater Treatment	Water treatment in Shenyang Zhenxing, China	0.1%					
Total		4.9%					

Pathway

Fund	Detail	% Portfolio exposure
PE Fund 8	54 entities/companies across broad spectrum of sectors	3.2%
PE Fund 9	29 entities/companies across broad spectrum of sectors	1.1%
PE Fund 10	Early in investment cycle, so could have exposure going forward	0.0%

As of March 31, 2021



Appendix – China disputes detail



U.S. and China: the serious disputes

HONG KONG | moderate and simmering

ISSUE | severity

- Landscape: Hong Kong is guaranteed "a high degree of autonomy" per the British Handover to China in 1997 and the U.S. granted Hong Kong preferential trade status as a result. The U.S. recently revoked that status following a new national security law imposed by Beijing
- Consequences: Hong Kong's status as a global financial hub is diminished; institutions risk violating
 U.S. sanctions by doing business with individuals complicit with the impingement on HK autonomy;
 China plans to sanction U.S. officials in retaliation

TARIFFS & TRADE | high and simmering

- Landscape: The U.S. accuses China of unfair trading practices in subsidizing its domestic companies and appropriating the intellectual property of global competitors; China claims to play by the global trade rules. The U.S. began levying tariffs on China in 2018, which responded in kind; a trade truce was inked in January 2020
- Consequences: The Phase One trade deal of 2020 halted U.S. tariffs in exchange for Chinese
 agricultural purchases; China is not on pace to meet the purchase requirements and the underlying
 causes of the trade war are left unaddressed; further escalation exacerbates business uncertainty

HUAWEI | high and simmering

- Landscape: The U.S. labeled Huawei and ZTE Corp as national security threats, warning their telecommunications equipment could be used by the Chinese government for spying; the U.S. pressured allies to blacklist the companies as well; the U.K. is set to phase out Huawei equipment
- Consequences: Huawei is barred from using U.S. technologies, a barrier for the company to design and produce proprietary chips.

Source: Bloombera

U.S. and China: potentially serious disputes

ISSUE | severity

- MEDIA | moderate and escalating
 - Landscape: The Trump administration considers nearly all Chinese media outlets to be arms of the government while China says the companies promote understanding; China is responding with increasing force to unfavorable portrayals by U.S. media
 - Consequences: The U.S. designated some Chinese media companies as "foreign missions", requiring
 they conform to rules imposed on embassies and consulates in the U.S.; China has called for some
 U.S. media companies to submit requests on personnel and assets, and expelled American reports in
 Beijing from the New York Times, Washington Post and Wall Street Journal
- XINJIANG | high and simmering
 - Landscape: China purports that the Uighurs, ethnic Muslims its most western province, are engaged
 in illegal religious and separatist activities and has interned roughly one million in "voluntary
 education centers"; The U.S. and others consider this is a human rights atrocity
 - Consequences: The Trump administration blacklisted companies involved in the human rights violations and sanctioned four associated officials in the region, including a top official in the Communist Party; China responded with sanctions on U.S. officials, including Senators Rubio and Cruz
- RESEARCH | moderate and simmering
 - Landscape: The U.S. claims some Chinese academics in the U.S. are stealing intellectual property
 - Consequences: The U.S. suspended entry to thousands of researchers and post-graduate students
 with ties to Chinese military schools this year. As of last year, the U.S. requires Chinese diplomats to
 give official notice prior to visiting universities, research institutions or government officials

Source: Bloomberg



U.S. and China: the symbolic disputes

ISSUE | severity

- TAIWAN | low and escalating
 - Landscape: The Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, requiring the U.S. to support the democratic island's self-defense, social and economic systems, is diametrically opposed to the "One-China Policy"
 - Consequences: Every sale of U.S. arms to Taiwan draws China's ire, which responded to the latest with sanctions on Lockheed Martin; the Trump administration is increasing its direct contact with Taiwanese officials and China deems this a provocation; China maintains that it will reunite Taiwan—by force if necessary
- DELISTING CHINESE COMPANIES | moderate and simmering
 - Landscape: China prevents U.S. regulators from auditing Chinese companies, even if they are listed on U.S. exchanges; a current bill in Congress would halt trading of those companies that don't conform to U.S. accounting standards
 - Consequences: Under the bill, a Chinese company is only delisted after failing to comply for three consecutive years; the bill would require firms to certify they aren't run by a foreign government—language yet to be written by the SEC



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COUNTY OF TULARE BOARD OF RETIREMENT

Leanne Malison Retirement Administrator

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TCERA, Board of Retirement Investment Committee

Agenda Item # IV. 1. f.

Agenda Date: June 9, 2021

Subject: Investment Manager Review

Requests:

That the Investment Committee:

- 1. Review and Discuss manager performance as reported in the most recent Verus Flash Report.
- 2. Review and Discuss any Managers of Interest and other presented topics

Summary:

- 1. Verus Flash Report The Flash Report provides the most current performance information provided by Verus. The Committee will periodically discuss individual managers and their performance as well as overall portfolio performance. The Flash report is prepared by Verus as soon as month end information is available from TCERA's managers and is generally available by the 15th of the month. Depending on the timing of the receipt of the investment data and the date of the committee meeting, the most recent month-end report may not be ready in time for distribution or discussion.
- Managers of Interest The Committee has requested a standing agenda item to discuss managers of
 interest in greater detail. Most often these will be current investment managers as listed on the Verus
 Flash Report that have reported firm/personnel changes or managers that require additional
 discussion or scrutiny.
 - a. Franklin Templeton Manager Review
 - b. Sixth Street Dyal Capital Partners
 - c. PGIM Organizational Update

Prepared by: Leanne Malison

	Market Value	% of Portfolio	1 Mo	QTD	Fiscal YTD	Fiscal 2020	Fiscal 2019	Fiscal 2018	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	15 Yrs	20 Yrs
Total Fund	1.898,305,398	100.0	2.8	2.8	20.4	0.6	6.0	7.5	26.2	8.6	9.1	6.8	-	-
Policy Index			2.2	2.2	17.9	3.2	7.0	7.4	22.2	9.3	9.3	7.0	-	
Total Domestic Equity	539.741.078	28.4	5.1	5.1	40.8	4.2	7.6	16.6	52.2	17.8	17.3	13.8		_
Russell 3000			5.2	5.2	40.1	6.5	9.0	14.8	50.9	18.9	17.7	14.0	10.3	8.7
SSGA S&P 500 Flagship Fund	125,216,553	6.6	5.3	5.3	36.6	7.5	10.4	14.4	45.9	18.6	17.4	5275	-	-
S&P 500			5.3	5.3	36.6	7.5	10.4	14.4	46.0	18.7	17.4	14.2	10.3	8.3
QMA Large Cap Core	94,107,536	5.0	4.9	4.9	35.9	3.8	6.6	16.0	45.9	15.8	15.7	13.7	=	=
S&P 500			5.3	5.3	36.6	7.5	10.4	14.4	46.0	18.7	17.4	14.2	10.3	8.3
Ivy Large Cap Growth	96,065,564	5.1	7.5	7.5	31.0	20.2	15.1	26.3	45.3	24.1	22.2	16.6	122	=
Russell 1000 Growth			6.8	6.8	36.0	23.3	11.6	22.5	51.4	25.4	22.9	17.0	12.9	9.3
Boston Partners Large Cap Value	95,226,474	5.0	3.6	3.6	47.0	-8.8	4.5	10.0	52.8	11.5	13.1	11.6	Sec.	-
Russell 1000 Value			4.0	4.0	42.0	-8.8	8.5	6.8	45.9	12.3	12.2	11.1	7.8	7.7
SSGA Russell Small Cap Completeness Index	45,240,721	2.4	4.2	4.2	57.6	0.8	2.3	16.7	78.1	19.7	18,6	255	1,777	-
Russell Small Cap Completeness			4.3	4.3	57.6	0.9	2.4	16.9	78.2	19.8	18.7	13.3	10.6	10.2
William Blair SMID Cap Growth	41,109,678	2.2	4.4	4.4	43.1	6.1	10.1	23.6	59.1	20.8	20.9	15.3	-	-
Russell 2500 Growth			3.5	3.5	46.1	9.2	6.1	21.5	67.3	21.6	20.5	14.2	11.4	10.2
Lee Munder Small Value	42,774,552	2,3	4.5	4.5	60.5	-14.9	-4.7	8.9	66.5	11.6	11.6	9.5	-	-
Russell 2000 Value			2.0	2.0	69.1	-17.5	-6.2	13.1	79.0	11.7	13.5	10.1	7.5	9.4
Total International Equity	319,123,334	16.8	3.4	3.4	35.4	-4.0	3.5	6.1	48.2	8.6	10.9	5.1		
MSCI ACWI ex USA Gross			3.0	3.0	32.9	-4.4	1.8	7.8	43.6	7.5	10.3	5.2	4.8	6.4
SSGA MSCI ACWI Ex US Index Fund	117,757,294	6.2	3.0	3.0	32.6	-4.5	1.5	7.5	43.2	7.2	10.1	5.0	=	-
MSCI ACWI ex USA			2.9	2.9	32.5	-4.8	1.3	7.3	43.0	7.0	9.8	4.7	4.3	6.0
PIMCO RAE Fundamental Global Ex US Fund	103,582,390	5.5	2.4	2.4	42.6	-14.9	-1.5	6.1	53.6	3.8	8.6	:==	-	-
MSCI ACWI ex USA Value			2.2	2.2	34.8	-15.3	-0.1	4.6	42.9	2.3	6.9	2.8	2.9	5.4
SGA Global Growth	97,783,650	5.2	5.0	5.0	31.5	6.5	10.7	4	47.6	-	-	-	155	155
MSCI ACWI ex USA Growth			3.7	3.7	30.0	5.8	2.6	9.9	42.6	11.4	12.5	6.5	5.6	6.5

Policy (10/1/2020): 25% Russell 3000, 15% MSCI ACWI ex US, 3% MSCI ACWI, 17% BBgBarc US Aggregate, 5% JPM GBI Global, 5% (50% JPM EMBI Global Div/50% JPM GBI EM Global Div/, 20% NCREIF-ODCE, 5% Private Equity Returns, 5% Private Credit Returns. Shenkman HY liquidated 3/11/19. PGIM EMD funded 8/26/19. Ocean Ave Fund IV funded 9/16/19. Gresham Commodity and Wellington Commodity liquidated 9/27/19. American Realty funded 12/20/19. Pathway Fund 10 funded 3/25/20. TAO Contingent funded 4/16/20. All data is preliminary.



	Market Value	% of Portfolio	1 Mo	QTD	Fiscal YTD	Fiscal 2020	Fiscal 2019	Fiscal 2018	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	15 Yrs	20 Yrs
Total Global Equity	74,248,297	3.9	6.8	6.8	47.9	-3.6	1.9	8.0	58.2	12.6	13,4	- *	-	-
MSCI ACWI Gross			4.4	4.4	35.8	2.6	6.3	11.3	46.4	13.9	14.4	9.8	7.7	7.5
Skellig Water Fund (aka KBI)	74,248,297	3.9	6.8	6.8	47.9	-3.6	1.9	8.0	58.2	12.6	13.4	_	-	-
MSCI ACWI			4.4	4.4	35.3	2.1	5.7	10.7	45.7	13.3	13.9	9.2	7.1	6.9
Total Fixed Income	554,389,002	29.2	1.2	1.2	1.7	2.9	7.2	-0.2	5.1	3.8	3.2	3.4		-
BBgBarc US Aggregate TR			0.8	0.8	-1.4	8.7	7.9	-0.4	-0.3	5.2	3.2	3.4	4.4	4.6
Total Domestic Fixed Income	383,450,366	20.2	1.0	1.0	1.0	7.3	7.6	0.1	3.6	5.4	3.9	3.9		-
BBgBarc US Aggregate TR			0.8	0.8	-1.4	8.7	7.9	-0.4	-0.3	5.2	3.2	3.4	4.4	4.6
BlackRock Fixed Income	145,959,010	7.7	0.9	0.9	-0.6	9.1	8.0	-0.6	1.3	5.6	3.5	3.7	=	-
BBgBarc US Aggregate TR			0.8	0.8	-1.4	8.7	7.9	-0.4	-0.3	5.2	3.2	3.4	4.4	4.6
Doubleline Core Plus	116,205,271	6.1	0.9	0.9	1.8	4.1	7.0	0.2	4.9	4.4	3.3	-	-	-
BBgBarc US Aggregate TR			0.8	0.8	-1.4	8.7	7.9	-0.4	-0.3	5.2	3.2	3.4	4.4	4.6
MacKay Shields Core Plus	121,286,085	6.4	1.1	1.1	2.2	8.5	7.4	-0.2	5.1	6.1	4.3	-		100
BBgBarc US Aggregate TR			0.8	0.8	-1.4	8.7	7.9	-0.4	-0.3	5.2	3.2	3.4	4.4	4.6
Total Global Fixed Income	85,105,514	4.5	0.8	0.8	-1.9	-7.9	6.1	-1.4	-2.0	-2.5	0.6	-	1 100	
JPM GBI Global TR USD			1.1	1.1	0.0	5.2	5.7	1.7	0.4	3.2	2.0	1.6	3.6	. 41
Franklin Templeton Global Bond Plus	85,105,514	4.5	8.0	8.0	-1.9	-7.9	6.1	-1.4	-2.0	-2.5	0.5	-	-	544
JPM GBI Global TR USD			1.1	1.1	0.0	5.2	5.7	1.7	0.4	3.2	2.0	1.6	3.6	
Total Emerging Markets Fixed Income	85,833,123	4.5	2.4	2.4	8.4	-2.4	-		20.1			-		
50% JPM EMBI Global Div/50% JPM GBI EM Global Div			2.2	2.2	5.5	-1.1	10.8	-1.9	13.6	3.2	4.1	3.0	5.5	**
PGIM Emerging Markets Debt	85,833,123	4.5	2.4	2.4	8.4		22	<u>-</u>	20.1	-		=	-	-
50% JPM EMBI Global Div/50% JPM GBI EM Global Div			2.2	2.2	5.5	-1.1	10.8	-1.9	13.6	3.2	4.1	3.0	5.5	-
Total Real Estate	182,568,362	9.6				5.3	6.7	7.6	2.2	4.7	5.8	8.6	11.00	E.,
NCREIF-ODCE						2.2	6.4	8.4	2.3	4.9	6.2	9.7	6.3	7.5
RREEF America II	167,173,864	8.8				5.3	6.6	7.4	2.1	4.7	5.8	9.6	=	-
NCREIF-ODCE						2.2	6.4	8.4	2.3	4.9	6.2	9.7	6.3	7.5
American Realty	15,394,499	0.8				100			3.4	*	***	-	-	-
NCREIF-ODCE						2.2	6.4	8.4	2.3	4.9	6.2	9.7	6.3	7.5

Policy (10/1/2020): 25% Russell 3000, 15% MSCI ACWI ex US, 3% MSCI ACWI, 17% BBgBarc US Aggregate, 5% JPM GBI Global, 5% (50% JPM EMBI Global Div/50% JPM GBI EM GLOBAL GBI EM



	Market Value	% of Portfolio	1 Mo	QTD	Fiscal YTD	Fiscal 2020	Fiscal 2019	Fiscal 2018	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	15 Yrs	20 Yrs
Total Private Equity	86,608,602	4.6				5.4	17.8	17.1	15.9	12.9	12.7	12.3	-	1277
Private Equity Benchmark						5.4	17.8	17.1	15.9	12.9	12.7	12.3		
BlackRock Alternative Advisors	2,684,500	0.1				8.1	8.8	12.6	7.1	8.0	7.7	8.9	_	
Ocean Avenue Fund III	19,544,055	1.0				13.7	35.4	43.3	11.2	19.6	17.4		_	_
Ocean Avenue Fund IV	12,059,527	0.6				_	_	-	8.3		-	-	_	_
Pantheon Ventures	451,311	0.0				-23.1	5.6	7.7	6.2	-4.8	0.2	3.8	_	_
Pathway Private Equity Fund Investors 8	23,266,096	1.2				4.9	26.4	26.6	28.1	19.3	18.5	_	_	_
Pathway Private Equity Fund Investors 9	15,862,235	0.8				0.0	22.0	-	27.9			_	_	_
Pathway Private Equity Fund Investors 10	1,639,947	0.1				¥40			18.9	_	-	_	_	_
Stepstone Secondary Opportunities Fund II	11,100,931	0.6				-0.5	2.1	8.6	2.3	1.3	4.8	_	_	_
Total Private Credit	80,835,231	4.3				-4.5	11.2	7.9	23.4	9.4	-		**	
Private Credit Benchmark						-4.5	11.2	7.9	23.4	9.4		_	_	=
Sixth Street DCP (frmrly TSSP DCP)	80,835,231	4.3				-4.5	11.2	7.9	23,4	9.4	- 75	_	_	-
Total Opportunistic	18,444,091	1.0				-6.2	-6.2	28.8	17.2	1.0	7.8		-	-
Sixth Street TAO Contingent (frmrly TSSP TAO Contingent)	14,813,294	0.8				==	==	=	30.5		-	22	-	=
KKR Mezzanine Partners I	3,613,233	0.2												
PIMCO Bravo	17,564	0.0												

Policy (10/1/2020): 25% Russell 3000, 15% MSCI ACWI ex US, 3% MSCI ACWI, 17% BBgBarc US Aggregate, 5% JPM GBI Global, 5% (50% JPM EMBI Global Div/50% JPM GBI EM Global Div/), 20% NCREIF-ODCE, 5% Private Equity Returns, 5% Private Credit Returns. Shenkman HY liquidated 3/11/19. PGIM EMD funded 8/26/19. Ocean Ave Fund IV funded 9/16/19. Gresham Commodity and Wellington Commodity liquidated 9/27/19. American Realty funded 12/20/19. Pathway Fund 10 funded 3/25/20. TAO Contingent funded 4/16/20. All data is preliminary.



Leanne C Malison

From:

PGIM Fixed Income <FixedIncome@e.email-prudential.com>

Sent:

Wednesday, April 14, 2021 2:16 PM

To:

Leanne C Malison

Subject:

Organizational Update from PGIM Fixed Income

View this email in your browser



April 14, 2021

The following announcement has been prepared exclusively for PGIM Fixed Income's clients and consultants.

Susan Courtney and Jürgen Odenius to Retire; Erik Schiller to Depart

At PGIM Fixed Income, our investment business has been shaped over the years by individuals who have spent significant portions of their careers building what we have today—a premier, active global fixed income investment management organization.

In our ongoing efforts to provide transparency to our partners, we would like to announce the following organizational changes:

- After a 35-year career and 16 years at PGIM Fixed Income, Susan Courtney, Managing Director and Head of Municipal Bonds, will be retiring at the end of 2021. To continue to provide premier service to our clients and enhance our investment organization, we have begun an external search for Susan's successor as the Head of the Municipal Bond team.
- After a 27-year career and 10 years at PGIM Fixed Income, Jürgen Odenius, Principal and Economic Counsellor, will be retiring on August 30, 2021. Given Jürgen's pending retirement, we have added an economist in our London office who will be starting in the third quarter of 2021.
- After 21 years with PGIM Fixed Income, Erik Schiller, Managing Director and Head of Liquidity, will be departing the firm for a new opportunity. Michael (Mick) Meyler has been promoted to Head of Developed Market Rates and will lead our liquidity relative value strategies.

We would like to thank Susan, Jürgen and Erik for their contributions to PGIM Fixed Income. Our client representatives will be glad to discuss these changes with you at your convenience. As always, we continue to maintain a steadfast focus on our business globally, as we build on our vision to be widely regarded as the premier, active global fixed income manager. We look forward to serving our clients and consultants for years to come.



COUNTY OF TULARE BOARD OF RETIREMENT

Leanne Malison Retirement Administrator

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TCERA, Board of Retirement Investment Committee

Agenda Item # IV. 1. g.

Agenda Date: June 9, 2021

Subject: Agenda Items for Investment Consultant Due Diligence Visits

Requests:

That the Investment Committee:

1. Identify agenda items for the investment consultant due diligence visits

Summary:

TCERA has identified a due diligence team comprised of two trustees (Pete Vander Poel and Paul Sampietro) and one staff member (Leanne Malison) to conduct due diligence site visits to the three finalists under consideration pursuant to TCERA's Investment Consultant RFP. The visits are scheduled for July 6 – July 9, 2021. The Committee is asked to establish a standard agenda for these visits to ensure that topics of importance are covered and the visits are conducted uniformly and consistently at each site. Staff has prepared the attached draft agenda as a starting point for discussion.

Prepared by: Leanne Malison

TULARE COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCATION INVESTMENT CONSULTANT ON-SITE DUE DILIGENCE AGENDA

Welcome 20 Minutes
Team introductions
Firm Overview
Office Tour

Trustee/Staff Communication 10 Minutes
Understanding Diverse Trustee Experience
Staff Interaction and Support

Investment Policy 30 Minutes
General Observations
Approach to Investment Policy Development

Asset Allocation 60 Minutes
Capital Market Assumptions

Asset/Liability Modeling
Risk Assessment and Management

Break 10 Minutes

Research Capabilities 60 Minutes

Manager Research and Approval Process
Public Markets
Private Markets
Asset Class Research

Manager Monitoring
Active vs. Passive Investments
Manager Search Materials

Top Tier Manager List Incorporating Client Manager Referrals

Performance Measurement 20 Minutes

Performance Measurement Process
Performance Reports and Customization

Education 15 Minutes

White Papers and Topical Research Customized Education

Final Questions and Wrap Up 15 Minutes