

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 10, SECTION 5
General Business Management

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 5. Statement of Investment Objectives and Policies for the Endowment Fund

1. Introduction

- a. This statement of investment objectives and policies (*the "Guidelines"*) governs the investment management of the Endowment Fund (the "Fund") of the NSHE (*the "System"*). These Guidelines relate to the Fund as a whole. The purpose of these Guidelines is to establish a clear understanding between all parties as to the objectives, investment policies, and goals of the Fund.
- b. The Regents are responsible for establishing the investment policies for the Fund. Accordingly, the Regents have promulgated these Guidelines pursuant to which they have established permitted asset classes, ranges, and distribution policy. The Regents will review and revise these Guidelines from time to time as appropriate.
- c. The Regents have delegated to the Investment Committee (the "Committee") the oversight of the Fund. The Chancellor and the Chief Financial Officer or designee shall serve as ex officio nonvoting members of the Committee. The Chair of each University Foundation Investment Committee or their designee shall serve as an ex officio nonvoting member of the Committee to provide advice for items involving the Endowment Fund. The Board Chair shall appoint a Chair of the Committee and may appoint one or more individuals with investment knowledge or expertise to serve as nonvoting members of the Committee. Minutes of each meeting of the Investment Committee shall be provided to the Regents for acceptance at their next meeting.
- d. The Regents have granted investment management authority of the Fund to one or more Outsourced Chief Investment Officer service providers (collectively, the "Fund Manager"). The Fund Manager will manage the Fund on a discretionary basis, in accordance with the guidelines listed below.
- e. No member of the Board of Regents and no voting or nonvoting member of the Committee shall accept or approve the acceptance by staff or any other person of any gift, travel expense, or other perquisite proffered by an investment manager, the value of which exceeds \$25, without the advance approval of the Committee. Regents and employees of the System are also subject to the Code of Ethical Standards of the State of Nevada codified at NRS 281A.400-480 and promulgated to govern the conduct of public officers and employees, and Regents are also subject to certain additional conflict of interest provisions.

2. Objectives

- a. The long-term financial objectives of the Fund are to provide a relatively stable stream of spendable revenue that increases over time at least as fast as the general rate of inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index. In order to achieve this objective over the long term, the unit value of the Fund must also increase at least as fast as the rate of inflation.

- b. The long-term objectives of the Fund should align with the following overall Nevada System of Higher Education goals.
 - i. Increase participation in post-secondary education.
 - ii. Increase student success.
 - iii. Close the achievement gap among underserved student populations.
 - iv. Collaboratively address the challenges of the workforce and industry education needs of Nevada.
 - v. Co-develop solutions to the critical issues facing 21st century Nevada and raise the overall research profile.

- c. ***Consistent with the exercise of fiscal prudence and to more fully reflect the highly diverse population of Nevada and the System's institutional values of inclusion, diversity, equity and access, the System seeks to achieve robust diversity within its investment program and through enhanced inclusive investment practices by its Fund Manager. Accordingly, the Fund Manager will make best efforts to hire diverse investment managers that are women, disadvantaged and minority owned.***

d[e]. To meet the long-term financial objectives, the long-term investment objective of the Fund is to achieve an average annual real total return at least equal to the contemplated distribution rate set forth in Section 3 below over ten-year periods, net of fees. It is recognized that the real return objective may be difficult to attain in every ten-year period, but the Fund will seek to achieve the objective over a series of ten-year periods. In order to achieve this objective over extended periods, endowments have had to exceed the objective substantially during some periods, such as the 1980s, in order to compensate for shortfalls during other periods, such as the 1970s. It is also recognized that given the static nature of this objective, it is not directly related to market performance; this reinforces the view that success or failure in achieving this objective should be evaluated in the context of the prevailing market environment and over the long term. The secondary objective of the fund is to outperform the Fund's custom Policy Benchmark (set forth in 6(b)(1) below) over rolling three-year periods.

e [d]. The Fund will be invested in a manner that is expected to maximize the long-term total return with reasonable and acceptable levels of investment risk. Investment risk is defined in two ways: (1) the possibility of investments declining in value, and (2) the expected performance volatility of the investments in the portfolio. The Fund aims to achieve the stated return objective with a targeted annualized standard deviation similar to a simple blend of 70% global stocks (MSCI All Country World Index)/30% Bonds (Barclays Aggregate) portfolio over rolling five- to ten-year periods (or a full equity market cycle). Similar to the return objective, it is recognized that these objectives may be difficult to attain in every five-year period, but the Fund will seek to achieve these objectives over a series of five-year periods.

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