

**Alameda County Employees'  
Retirement Association**

**ACERA**

**GENERAL INVESTMENT GUIDELINES, POLICIES  
AND PROCEDURES**

**AMENDED May 20, 2013**

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**PROCEDURES**  
**2013**

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<sup>1</sup> Prepared for ACERA by Cortex Consulting; adopted by the Board of ACERA on March 8, 2000; revised in May, 2013.

**ACERA**  
**GENERAL INVESTMENT GUIDELINES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**SECTION I: MISSION AND PURPOSE**

The Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association (ACERA) exists for the purposes of providing accurate, timely benefits to its members and their beneficiaries and defraying reasonable expenses of administration.

The Board of Retirement (the Board), having exclusive authority and exclusive fiduciary responsibility for the investment and administration of the Trust Fund (the Fund), hereby establishes the following "General Investment Guidelines, Policies and Procedures" (the Policy) for the investment of ACERA's assets. The Board reserves the right to amend, supplement, or rescind this Policy at any time.

The Board is directed by law and given discretion to prudently invest the retirement plan assets. The purpose of this statement of Policy is to assist ACERA in effectively supervising said investments and to encourage effective communication between ACERA and its investment managers (Manager(s)) and investment consultants (Consultant(s)).

ACERA's investment goal is to operate at a level of performance in the upper quartile of comparable pension funds on a risk-adjusted basis and to be as fully funded as possible so that ACERA's benefit costs do not become a burden upon future generations of members and taxpayers.

**SECTION II: CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

Article 16 §17 of the California State Constitution provides in pertinent part as follows:

"Notwithstanding any other provisions of law or this Constitution to the contrary, the retirement board of a public pension or retirement system shall have plenary authority and fiduciary responsibility for investment of moneys and administration of the system, subject to all the following:

- a. The retirement board of a public pension or retirement system shall have the sole and exclusive fiduciary responsibility over the assets of the public pension or retirement system. The retirement board shall also have sole and exclusive responsibility to administer the system in a manner that will assure prompt delivery of benefits and related services to the participants and their beneficiaries. The assets of a public pension or retirement system are trust funds and shall be held for the exclusive purposes of providing benefits to participants in the pension or retirement system and their beneficiaries and defraying reasonable expenses of administering the system.

- b. The members of the retirement board of a public pension or retirement system shall discharge their duties with respect to the system solely in the interest of, and for the exclusive purposes of providing benefits, to participants and their beneficiaries, minimizing employer contributions thereto, and defraying reasonable expenses of administering the system. A retirement board's duty to its participants and their beneficiaries shall take precedence over any other duty.
- c. The members of the retirement board of a public pension or retirement system shall discharge their duties with respect to the system with the care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiar with these matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims.
- d. The members of the retirement board of a public pension or retirement system shall diversify the investments of the system so as to minimize the risk of loss and to maximize the rate of return, unless under the circumstances it is clearly not prudent to do so.
- e. The retirement board of a public pension or retirement system, consistent with the exclusive fiduciary responsibilities vested in it, shall have the sole and exclusive power to provide for actuarial services in order to assure the competency of the assets of the public pension or retirement system.
- f. With regard to the retirement board of a public pension or retirement system which includes in its composition elected employee members, the number, terms, and method of selection or removal of members of the retirement board which were required by law or otherwise in effect on July 1, 1991, shall not be changed, amended, or modified by the Legislature unless the change, amendment, or modification enacted by the Legislature is ratified by a majority vote of the electors of the jurisdiction in which the participants of the system are or were, prior to retirement, employed.
- g. The Legislature may by statute continue to prohibit certain investments by a retirement board where it is in the public interest to do so, and provided that the prohibition satisfies the standards of fiduciary care and loyalty required of a retirement board pursuant to this section.
- h. As used in this section, the term "retirement board" shall mean the board of administration, board of trustees, board of directors, or other governing body or board of a public employees' pension or retirement system; provided, however, that the term "retirement board" shall not be interpreted to mean or include a governing body or board created after July 1, 1991 which does not administer pension or retirement benefits, or the elected legislative body of a jurisdiction which employs participants in a public employees' pension or retirement system."

### **SECTION III: ROLES AND PRINCIPAL DUTIES**

The Fund investments shall be prudently planned, implemented, managed, monitored and guarded. The Board, Investment Committee (Committee), Investment Staff (Staff), Consultant, Custodian Bank (Custodian), and Manager shall coordinate this process. See the defined roles and principal duties of the above-mentioned parties below:

- A. THE BOARD shall review and approve Committee recommendations. The Board also reviews, adopts and monitors all investment policies, guidelines and procedures required to prudently administer the Fund and to effectively mitigate risk to the Fund.
- B. THE COMMITTEE shall identify issues pertinent to the effective investment and administration of the Fund and initiate analysis of such issues by Staff, Consultant or Managers. It also reviews Staff's and Consultant's recommendations regarding all investment policies and investment Fund management. The Committee provides recommendations to the Board for adoption, oversees implementation, and monitors the investment programs in accordance with all applicable laws and Board-established policies, guidelines and procedures. Refer to Schedule VII – Charter of ACERA's Investment Committee of the Board for detailed Committee responsibilities.
- C. STAFF shall oversee the Fund's investment program activities, implement the Board/Committee's decisions, make recommendations to the Committee regarding Fund management, and recommend investment-related policies and procedures to the Committee. Additionally, Staff monitors the performance and compliance of Managers in accordance with all applicable laws, Board-established policies, guidelines and procedures, as well as "Specific Investment Guidelines"<sup>2</sup> set out in the investment agreement between ACERA and each Manager (Agreement or Contract). Staff also facilitates the Committee meetings and completes activity as directed by the Board/Committee.
- D. CONSULTANT shall review, analyze and evaluate the Fund's effectiveness and efficiency and make fund management related recommendations. Consultant assists Staff in implementing the Board/Committee's decisions and developing all investment-related policies. Consultant's responsibilities are detailed in the service agreement between ACERA and Consultant.
- E. CUSTODIAN shall provide custody of ACERA's investment assets. Custodian's responsibilities are detailed in the service agreement between ACERA and Custodian.
- F. MANAGER shall prudently manage its Managed Account (defined in Section VII – Eligible Asset Categories) in accordance with all applicable laws, Board-established policies, guidelines and procedures, as well as Specific Investment Guidelines. Manager's responsibilities are detailed in the Agreement.

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<sup>2</sup> Includes the Objectives/Guidelines of all comingled funds.

## **SECTION IV: INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY**

The following is a summary of ACERA's investment philosophy. For the complete statement, please refer to Schedule VI of this document, "ACERA Investment Philosophy."

The Board believes that its investment policies, in aggregate, are the most important determinants of its investment success. Compliance with investment policies should, therefore, be monitored rigorously. The Board also believes that performance of the total portfolio, individual asset classes, and Managers should be monitored and compared to appropriate, predetermined benchmarks.

The Board believes that prudent management of risk is a central element of the investment function and that diversification among asset classes will reduce risk and enhance returns of the overall investment portfolio in the long term.

The Board believes that market efficiency and opportunities vary among asset classes and may change over extended periods of time; therefore, the Board believes that ACERA's portfolio management strategies should adapt over time to reflect the changing nature of capital markets.

The Board's primary goals in managing the Fund are

1. To ensure that sufficient funds are available to pay vested benefits and maintain supplemental benefits;
2. To comply with all applicable fiduciary standards; and
3. To add marginal value that will help reduce the costs of the plan and/or to increase benefits for the beneficiaries.

The Board believes that, to achieve its goals, ACERA must invest the necessary resources to build and maintain an appropriate organizational infrastructure.

## **SECTION V: ASSET ALLOCATION AND REBALANCING**

Asset allocation targets, a function of the returns and risks from various asset classes and the nature of the plan's liabilities, are set forth in Schedule I. A goal of asset allocation is balancing asset growth versus liability growth considering time horizons, liabilities and risk tolerance. ACERA's objective is to conduct an asset/liability study once every five (5) years and an asset allocation study once every three (3) years or more often if necessary.

Rebalancing is the risk control process of returning an allocation back to the desired target level after having drifted away from its targeted position. Equal probability bands, as defined by standard deviation factors, shall be used to define the acceptable ranges around the asset allocation targets as set forth in Schedule IA. The objective of rebalancing is to enhance the risk-adjusted performance of the asset allocation structure.

Staff shall be responsible for maintaining the relative weights of asset classes and allocations within the acceptable rebalancing ranges. Should an asset class or allocation fall outside its

target range, Staff shall rebalance the asset class or allocation back to the target weights as specified in the asset allocation targets in Schedule IA.

Staff shall:

1. Monitor the portfolio;
2. Determine whether or not any asset category is out of balance with its target asset allocation in excess of the specified tolerance range;
3. Determine whether or not any Manager within each asset category is out of balance with its target allocation in excess of the specified tolerance range;
4. And, if this is determined, either
  - (a) instruct the relevant Managers to redirect cash income (interest coupon and dividends) in concert with an evaluation of pending commitments and other cash flows (employer and employee contributions), in order to bring the allocation(s) back to the adopted strategic target; and/or
  - (b) instruct the relevant Managers to liquidate or acquire the appropriate dollar value of securities to reach the target and reallocate the cash thus generated or required to the other category(s) or Manager(s), as necessary.

Staff shall report to the Board on a regular basis the status of the Fund with respect to how categories are tracking relative to their allowable ranges, as well as any actions taken to rebalance the portfolio.

## **SECTION VI: INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND MANAGER STRUCTURE**

A. U.S. EQUITY will be structured to capture exposure to the broad U.S. equity market as represented by the Russell 3000 Index. Passively managed (index) portfolios will be used in portions of the markets that are reasonably efficient. These portfolios are intended to provide broadly diversified market exposure with controlled (market) risk and minimal cost.

Actively managed portfolios will be used when the Board determines that a Manager possesses special skills or abilities that enable that Manager to capture excess returns relative to the market, adjusted for risk and fees; or to exploit specialty markets that provide enhanced return with acceptable risk.

A great part of the Russell 3000 Index, on a market value basis, is comprised of large-cap stocks. The Board has adopted a policy of obtaining overall exposure to this segment of the market via passively managed indexed products. In addition, some active Managers have been employed to enhance overall portfolio return on a risk- and fee-adjusted basis.

The remainder of the Russell 3000 Index is comprised of small to mid-cap companies. Some opportunities for active management enhancement exist in these securities due to market inefficiencies. ACERA will attempt to capture these opportunities through a mix of Managers who have the special skills required to identify smaller companies that may be undervalued or possess substantial growth potential.



The U.S. equity portfolio shall be allocated among the various styles and Managers. The U.S. equity asset allocation and manager structure targets are outlined in Schedules IA and IB.

- B. INTERNATIONAL EQUITY represents an opportunity to diversify risk and capture enhanced returns within markets generally less efficient than the U.S. domestic equity market. 100% of the international equity portion of the Fund will be invested in actively managed portfolios.

The international equity portfolio shall be allocated among the various styles and Managers. The international equity asset allocation and manager structure targets are outlined in Schedules IA and IB.

- C. FIXED INCOME represents a means of reducing overall portfolio risk and capturing incremental returns either domestically or globally. Inefficiencies in the pricing and trading of fixed income securities create opportunities to add value through active management. 100% of the fixed income portion of the portfolio will be invested in actively managed portfolios.

The fixed income portfolio shall be allocated among the various styles and Managers. The fixed income asset allocation and manager structure targets are outlined in Schedules IA and IB.

- D. REAL ESTATE will be used as a means for diversifying the portfolio and capturing additional returns due to the low correlation between returns on real estate and financial assets. Due to the illiquid nature of real estate assets, distinctions between active and passive management are not applicable. Detailed information regarding real estate investments is included in ACERA's "Real Estate Strategic Plan," which is maintained as a separate document.

The real estate portfolio shall be allocated among the various styles and Managers. The real estate portfolio asset allocation target is outlined in Schedules IA and IB.

- E. PRIVATE EQUITY AND ALTERNATIVES represents a means of further diversifying the portfolio and generating returns superior to those available in the public equity market to compensate the Fund for the long term and illiquid commitments associated with such investments. Due to the absence of an appropriate index for private equity and alternatives investments, distinctions between active and passive management are not applicable.

The private equity and alternatives portfolio shall be allocated among the various sub-categories and Managers. The private equity and alternatives total portfolio asset allocation target is outlined in Schedules IA and IB. Specific details on the strategic allocation to the private equity and alternatives investment portfolio are outlined in ACERA's "Private Equity and Alternatives Return Leading Strategies Policy (PEARLS Policy)" which is maintained as a separate document.

- F. REAL RETURN POOL investments are expected to produce positive returns with a goal of protecting the Fund against unexpected U.S. inflation and increasing U.S. inflation expectations.

The real return pool portfolio shall be allocated among the specific types of Managers. The real return pool total portfolio allocation target is outlined in Schedules IA and IB. See the Addendum for additional detail.

In aggregate, investments in non U.S. markets across all asset classes shall not exceed 45% of the market value of the total Fund.

## **SECTION VII: ELIGIBLE ASSET CATEGORIES**

The Fund shall hold assets in categories established by the Board. Any asset category may be held in direct form, in pooled/commingled form, or in both. Asset categories managed by one or more “Qualified Investment Managers” are called “Managed Accounts or Funds.” Eligible asset categories are listed and defined below.

- A. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENT shall consist of, but not be limited to, cash, short term (12 months or less) interest bearing investments of high quality such as U.S. Treasury issues, insured certificates of deposit of U.S. banks (fixed and/or variable), commercial paper rated A-1, P-1 or both, or other instruments of equal or better quality, and money market funds available through the Custodian.
- B. U.S. EQUITY shall consist of, but not be limited to, common stocks and other securities which are convertible into common stocks, and ADRs (American Depository Receipts), as well as cash (per “A” above) and fixed income (per “D” below) when used as temporary substitutes for common stocks.
- C. INTERNATIONAL EQUITY shall consist of, but not be limited to, common stocks and other securities convertible into common stocks of companies domiciled outside of the U.S., GDRs (Global Depository Receipts), IDRs (International Depository Receipts) and other depository receipts as well as cash/cash equivalents (per “A” above) and fixed income (per “D” below), domestic or international, which are being used as temporary substitutes for common stock.
- D. FIXED INCOME shall consist of investments in, but not be limited to, U.S. taxable bonds, debentures, notes and other evidences of debt. Fixed income may also include, but not be limited to, non-dollar denominated bonds issued by corporations or governments domiciled outside of the U.S. Other eligible investments shall include cash/cash equivalents (per “A” above), convertible bonds, and preferred stock.
- E. REAL ESTATE shall consist of investments in real estate and equity real estate through the use of commingled or direct investments. Detailed information about real estate investments is included in ACERA’s “Real Estate Strategic Plan,” which is maintained as a separate document.

- F. PRIVATE EQUITY AND ALTERNATIVES shall consist of investments including, but not limited to, venture capital, corporate buyouts, debt-related and special situations, absolute return strategies, and other non-traditional and uncorrelated investments. Private equity and alternatives investments may be denominated in U.S. dollars or other currencies. Detailed information about private equity and alternatives investments is included in ACERA's "PEARLS Policy" which is maintained as a separate document.
- G. REAL RETURN POOL shall consist of investments including, but not be limited to, commodities, TIPS, Inflation Break-evens, and REITs. All Real Return Pool investments/strategies are Alternative Investments. See the Addendum for additional detail.

In aggregate, non U.S. currency exposure (net) across all asset classes shall not exceed 45% of the market value of the total Fund.

### **SECTION VIII: ASSET CATEGORIES OBJECTIVES**

The general objective of the Board is to preserve capital and to earn a return from appreciation and income, as described herein:

1. To ensure the integrity of ACERA's actuarial funding plan, one minimum return objective for the Fund shall be the current actuarial interest assumption rate plus 25 basis points per year over a full market cycle. Returns shall be calculated net of all fees (both administrative and investment fees).
2. To ensure that ACERA's assets grow appropriately to match salary increases which directly impact benefit levels, an additional minimum return objective for the Fund over a full market cycle (up to five (5) years) shall also be 400 basis points (4.00%) per year over the national Core Consumer Price Index, published by the U.S. Department of Commerce. Returns shall be calculated gross of investment management fees.
3. To ensure that ACERA's external investment manager structure, in the aggregate, is performing satisfactorily, an additional minimum return objective for the Fund over a market cycle (up to five (5) years) shall be to achieve annualized investment returns equivalent to the Fund's Policy Index on a gross of investment management fees basis.

The objectives of each asset category are

#### **A. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENT**

1. An annualized rate of return in excess of 90-Day U.S. Treasury bills, and
2. An annualized rate of return within the upper one half of a universe of like short-term funds.

#### **B. U.S. EQUITY**

1. An annualized rate of return in excess of the annualized U.S. equity market returns as measured by the Russell 3000 Index, and

2. An annualized rate of return within the upper 33<sup>rd</sup> percentile of the InvestorForce database or similar database of the annualized returns of diversified domestic equity portfolios.

#### C. INTERNATIONAL EQUITY

1. An annualized rate of return in excess of the Morgan Stanley Capital International All Country World Investable Market Index Ex U.S. (MSCI ACWI Ex U.S. IMI), and
2. An annualized rate of return within the top quartile of the InvestorForce database or similar database of the annualized returns of diversified international equity portfolios.

#### D. FIXED INCOME

1. An annualized rate of return in excess of the Barclay's Aggregate Bond Index, Citigroup World Government Bond Ex. U.S. and Barclay's High Yield Index in a ratio of 75/15/10, and
2. A rate of return within the top quartile of the InvestorForce database or similar database of the performance of diversified fixed income portfolios.

#### E. REAL ESTATE

1. Total Net Return – equivalent to the National Council of Real Estate Investment Fiduciaries Open-End Diversified Core Equity (NFI ODCE) as a minimum return for the total portfolio over rolling five-year periods, and
2. Income Return – Income, which is defined as cash distributed to ACERA , should comprise generally 50% of the total expected return over rolling five-year periods for all Core (as defined in ACERA's "Real Estate Strategic Plan") products.

#### F. PRIVATE EQUITY AND ALTERNATIVES

1. An annualized rate of return in excess of the Russell 3000 Index plus 100 basis points net of all fees and expenses over a full market cycle. Please refer to ACERA's PEARLS Policy, which is maintained as a separate document, for detailed information.

#### G. REAL RETURN POOL

1. An annualized rate of return in excess of the Core Consumer Price Index plus 300 basis points (3.00%). See the Addendum for additional detail.

In addition, objectives that reflect a particular investment strategy or style employed by an individual Manager shall be outlined in the Specific Investment Guidelines attached to the Manager's Contract.

## **SECTION IX: ALLOCATION OF CASH FLOW**

Cash flow not needed for benefit payments or administrative expenses shall be allocated to Managed Accounts in a ratio that best funds the overall targeted asset allocation as reflected in Schedules IA and IB.

If cash flow is insufficient for the payment of benefits or to cover administrative expenses, then Managed Accounts shall be debited in a ratio that best satisfies the target allocation shown in Schedules IA and IB. Such debits, if necessary, will be carried out as needed and with timely notice to Managers to facilitate effective funds transitions and performance measurement.

For all planned investments which may not need to be funded immediately, a reserve may be budgeted and invested in appropriate accounts in accordance with the asset allocation targets until such moneys are required. Alternatively, Managed Accounts within “overfunded” asset classes may be called upon to provide the required moneys.

## **SECTION X: PROHIBITED INVESTMENTS**

Managers shall exercise prudent expert standards in defining prohibited investments. For example, prohibited investments include, but are not limited to, securities issued by the County of Alameda or any agency thereof.

## **SECTION XI: DIRECTED BROKERAGE**

ACERA has established an open Directed Brokerage (DB) Program designed to maximize the recapture of brokerage commissions by enforcement of the target percentages of direction. ACERA’s DB Program is governed by ACERA’s DB Policy, which is maintained as a separate document.

The strategic objective of the DB Program is to take advantage of the industry-accepted recapture of a portion of trade commissions paid to brokers. The primary goals of the DB Program are to 1) recapture 50% or more of commissions paid on a specific percentage of trades sent to correspondent brokers on a timely basis; 2) construct the percentage of trades subject to recapture so as to allow investment managers to have access to the research they need; 3) seek “Best Execution” through third-party administration and outside consultant monitoring; and 4) encourage local and emerging broker participation through the use of an open correspondent network program.

## **SECTION XII: DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENT USAGE**

Exposure to risk by use of derivative instruments must be consistent with ACERA’s overall investment policy as well as an individual Manager’s Specific Investment Guidelines. In general, derivatives shall not be used to establish a leveraged position (i.e., offsetting Cash positions must be maintained against all delayed settlement transactions). Should there be any conflict between an individual Manager’s Specific Investment Guidelines and this Policy statement regarding the use of derivative instruments, the Specific Investment Guidelines shall control.

### **SECTION XIII: SELECTION OF INVESTMENT MANAGERS**

The Investment Committee shall direct Staff and/or a Consultant to initiate searches for Managers. Staff and/or the Consultant shall research for qualified candidates and present a list of finalists to the Investment Committee for its approval. Upon approval of the list, the finalists shall be interviewed by Staff and the Consultant (if applicable). Staff and the Consultant (if applicable) shall evaluate the interviews, rank the finalists, and make a recommendation to the Investment Committee to hire one or more firms attaining the highest rankings in a publicly noticed meeting at which no less than five (5) Investment Committee members shall be present. It is possible that none of the firms will be recommended for hire.

The above-mentioned procedures are developed for the convenience and benefit of ACERA, and shall not bind ACERA or invalidate the selection of a Manager, if different processes are used subsequent to the promulgation of this Policy. ACERA recognizes that some investments by their nature present unique opportunities and there may not be suitable competitors for a unique investment opportunity. ACERA also recognizes that due to inherent features of some investments, time constraints may require ACERA to use a different investment manager selection process.

### **SECTION XIV: EMERGING INVESTMENT MANAGERS**

The Board has established the ACERA Emerging Investment Manager Policy (EM Policy), which is maintained as a separate document. The purpose of the EM Policy is to establish a framework for the development and administration of ACERA's Emerging Investment Manager Program (EM Program), consistent with the Board's fiduciary responsibilities in the investment of the Fund. The EM Policy states that the initial investment of the EM Program is not to exceed 1% of the total Fund.

The strategic objective of the EM Program is to add incremental value to the Fund through the hiring of the most talented Emerging Investment Managers (EMs) to manage ACERA's assets.

The primary goals of the EM Program are to 1) identify and gain early access to the most talented investment managers in their early business stages; 2) generate superior Fund return performance through the EM Program; 3) identify superior EMs and/or investment opportunities in the State of California and Alameda County that are equal to or superior to comparable available investments; and 4) further diversify the Fund's overall investment program, so as to enhance risk-adjusted returns of the Fund.

### **SECTION XV: AUTHORITY OF INVESTMENT MANAGERS**

Subject to the laws of the United States and the State of California, and to the terms and conditions of this Policy, Managers shall have full discretion to direct the purchase, exchange, sale and reinvestment of the assets of the Managed Accounts. The Board expects that Managers will recommend changes to this Policy when any part of this Policy appears to be at variance with overall market and economic conditions.

Managers shall place orders to buy and sell securities and, by notice to the Custodian, shall cause the Custodian to deliver and receive securities on behalf of the Fund. Managers shall, upon Board inquiry, report placement of ACERA brokerage activities such that the Board shall be assured commissions were placed for the sole and exclusive benefit of the Fund.

Separate account Managers shall not vote proxies. Proxies shall be voted by ACERA, via a proxy voting service vendor, in accordance with “ACERA Proxy Voting Guidelines and Procedures” which is maintained as a separate document.

Securities lending shall be performed under the oversight of Staff, in accordance with Board-established procedures.

## **SECTION XVI: INVESTMENT GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGED ACCOUNTS**

Individual Manager discretion shall be governed by the Investment Guidelines for the Managed Accounts as well as the Specific Investment Guidelines for each Manager. Should there be any conflict between the Specific Investment Guidelines of an individual Manager and the Investment Guidelines for the Managed Accounts, the Specific Investment Guidelines shall prevail.

### **A. GENERAL**

1. All investments shall comply with all applicable laws of the U.S. and the State of California governing the investment of pension trusts.
2. All securities transactions shall be executed by reputable broker/dealers, banks, or the Custodian, and shall be on a best-price and best-execution basis, and shall be reported to ACERA as is called for elsewhere in this Policy.
3. All Managers shall refrain from investing in a tobacco producer investment opportunity when, in their expert opinion, an alternative non-tobacco producer investment opportunity is available that will satisfy the same ACERA portfolio guidelines, instructions and objectives for risk, return and diversification.

### **B. EQUITY**

Managers have full discretion to invest solely in readily marketable and diversified equity securities subject to the following:

1. For Managed Accounts, no more than 10% of the value (at time of purchase) of the account shall be invested in the securities of a single issuer.
2. ACERA shall not hold more than 10% of the equity securities of any issuer.
3. Equity securities shall possess value and quality corroborated by generally accepted techniques and standards of fundamental securities analysis.
4. Assets in a Managed Account not invested in equity securities shall be kept with interest in appropriate money market instruments, including any money market fund available through the Custodian.

5. A Managed Account shall be subject to ACERA's Policy statement on the use of derivatives in Section XII.
6. All Managers shall endeavor to be fully invested in stocks at all times unless they have received specific authorization to the contrary from the Board. Cash holdings, as defined in this Policy, shall generally not exceed 5% of the portfolio on a market value basis.

### C. FIXED INCOME

Managers have full discretion to invest solely in readily marketable and diversified securities including, but not limited to

1. Obligations of the U.S. and/or eligible foreign government treasuries.
2. Obligations guaranteed by agencies of the U.S. and/or eligible foreign governments.
3. Insured certificates of deposit and banker's acceptances of credit worthy banks.
4. Corporate and other evidences of debt. At least 80% of this debt must be rated by Moody's Investor's Services or by Standard & Poors Corporation.
5. Commercial paper and banker's acceptances of issuers rated P-1 by Moody's Investor's Service or A-1 by Standard & Poors Corporation.
6. Excepting direct obligations of the U.S. and/or eligible foreign governments, and those explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. and/or eligible governments, no account shall hold more than 5%, at cost, of the obligations of any single issuer.
7. Excepting direct obligations of the U.S. and/or eligible foreign governments, and those explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. and/or eligible governments, no security shall comprise more than 5% of the account, as determined at the time of purchase.
8. A Managed Account shall be subject to ACERA's Policy on the use of derivatives as stated in Section XII.

### **SECTION XVII: INVESTMENT MANAGER SPECIFICATIONS**

- A. Managers must be registered as investment advisers under the Investment Adviser's Act of 1940, a bank (as defined in that Act) or an insurance company qualified to perform investment management services under state law in more than one state, including the State of California. Unless an exception is granted by the Board, by accepting appointment as ACERA's Managers, Managers shall acknowledge that they are "Plan Fiduciaries" and "Qualified Investment Managers" as defined by the Employees' Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) of 1974 (see or reference United States Code Title 29 Section 1001 et. seq.).
- B. Managers shall maintain fiduciary insurance in the amount of 10% of the total assets managed in the ACERA account or \$25 million, whichever is higher, unless the Contract specifies otherwise.
- C. Managers shall promptly notify ACERA of changes that occur in any of the following:
  1. The investment strategy used in managing the subject product.
  2. The key personnel involved in managing ACERA's account.
  3. The ownership, key personnel, or organizational structure of the Manager's company.



4. The Manager company's financial condition.
  5. The number of clients invested in the subject product and firm wide.
  6. The market value of the total assets managed in the subject product and firm-wide.
- D. Managers shall promptly notify ACERA if they are subject to censure or disciplinary action by a regulatory agency.
- E. Managers shall provide to ACERA all required documents and reports as set forth in Schedule V – ACERA's Compliance Schedule.
- F. Managers shall not make contributions, provide gifts, reimbursements of expenses or provide personal benefits exceeding \$440.00<sup>3</sup> in the aggregate within any 12-month period to any Trustee, fiduciary, employee or Consultant of ACERA. Donations of educational conferences and similar events and benefits, including travel, meals and accommodations will be made to ACERA and not directed to individuals. The Board will determine whether to accept any donations and will be solely responsible for selection of the Trustee, Staff, or other individual, who will attend or otherwise participate on behalf of ACERA.

## **SECTION XVIII: MANAGER MONITORING PROCEDURE**

The Board has contracted with a number of external Managers to invest ACERA assets in the capital markets. As part of the Board's fiduciary duties to prudently select, monitor and supervise these Managers, the Board has adopted this Procedure. The intent of this Procedure is to notify Managers of the standards by which they will be evaluated and to establish a structure which the Investment Committee and the Board can use to monitor the performance of the Managers.

Managers will be monitored to:

1. Evaluate how well they achieve their investment objectives.
2. Ensure that they adhere to their established investment approach/style and do not attempt to index returns to preserve stellar performance or take extraordinary risk to overcome poor performance.
3. Identify issues or trends that have the potential to result in losses to the Fund.
4. Alert the Board when Managers are not performing to expectations so that appropriate remedial action can be taken.

Managers will be evaluated on the basis of the following: performance, style integrity, organizational stability, compliance, client service, and fees described in greater detail below.

### **A. PERFORMANCE**

On a monthly basis Staff will monitor Manager holdings, activity, and performance.

On a quarterly basis Staff and/or a Consultant will furnish the Investment Committee and/or Board with an in-depth evaluation of each Manager which will include a comparison of the

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<sup>3</sup> Updated annually by the California Fair Political Practices Commission.

Manager to its Contract benchmark and a peer universe of Managers using a similar investment style. This report shall include an analysis of the sources of Managers' returns (stock selection, industry selection, asset allocation, etc.) and shall identify which decisions enhanced or diminished performance.

On a quarterly basis, trading costs will be evaluated in terms of commissions paid and execution of trades. Staff and/or Consultants shall furnish a report to the Investment Committee and/or Board regarding trading costs on an annual basis.

## B. STYLE INTEGRITY

Each Manager will be analyzed at least annually to ensure that the Manager is continuing to invest the portfolio in the style for which it was originally hired. Style integrity is essential to maintain the Board's asset allocation policy. Any significant deviation in style will result in the overall portfolio having a different characteristic, in some measure, from the broad market which is represented by the Russell 3000 Index. Significant variations in the portfolio characteristics from the style anticipated in the management Contract may indicate a change in its investment style.

This review also provides the Investment Committee and/or Board an opportunity to evaluate the Manager's continuing "fit" with the goals of the overall Fund. By monitoring the Manager style integrity, the Investment Committee and/or Board can assure that its Manager mix takes advantage of opportunities to increase diversification through lower correlation of returns among individual Managers.

## C. ORGANIZATIONAL STABILITY

Managers' organizations will be monitored to ensure continuity of the intellectual and philosophical processes that went into developing the particular investment approach contracted for by ACERA. In addition, Managers will be monitored for business risk, quality of staff, departures of key investment personnel, change in ownership or acquisition, and potential conflicts of interest.

It is ACERA's intent that its portfolio comprises no more than 25% of the Manager's total assets under management (AUM)<sup>4</sup> at any time. Therefore, ACERA will monitor the Managers' assets, firm-wide, as well as in the subject product.

## D. COMPLIANCE

Managers will be monitored to ensure they are adhering to federal and state laws regarding securities and the management of investment portfolios, trading, and pension investments; ethical practices of the investment professions; the Contract governing their relationship with ACERA; this Policy; and any other written directives issued by ACERA.

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<sup>4</sup> ACERA defines total AUM as the total market value of assets a Manager manages on behalf of investors under discretionary management where the client delegates responsibility to the Manager.

Each ACERA Contract will specify which investment vehicles a Manager is authorized to use, which markets the Manager is authorized to transact business in and any limitations within a market (small or large capitalization, value or growth orientation). The assets in each Manager's portfolio shall be reviewed monthly to ensure compliance with Contract guidelines.

All required documents and reports, set forth in Schedule V, must be submitted in a timely manner and in the format specified by ACERA, unless otherwise agreed to.

Managers must provide prior notification and justification for failure to comply with rules, regulations, Contract provisions, deadlines or other directives. Managers must provide a time frame for curing any deficiencies. Staff shall evaluate each incident on a case-by-case basis and determine whether an exception may be granted.

#### E. CLIENT SERVICE

Managers are required to comply with routine portfolio investment guidelines and reporting deadlines and are also expected to cooperate with special requests for information. ACERA will establish reasonable time frames for all requests and reporting and will provide feedback to all external Managers regarding the perceived quality of their client service.

#### F. FEES

Managers are expected to charge ACERA investment management fees no greater than the fees charged for other clients with a similar investment style, investment objective, and account type, size and services. Should a Manager enter into a more favorable fee schedule with a similar client, the manager is expected to modify ACERA's fee schedule to reflect the more favorable terms.

ACERA Staff will endeavor to meet with each Manager at least twice a year by telephone or in person to review performance and other issues.

### **SECTION XIX: CONTRACT REVIEW PROCESS**

If during the course of regular monitoring, ACERA determines that a Manager's performance, style integrity, organizational stability, compliance, client service, and/or fees have reached to unacceptable levels, ACERA may, at its discretion, subject the Manager to ACERA's Contract Review Process. As part of the Board's fiduciary duties to prudently select, monitor and supervise their Managers, the Board has approved this process. The purpose of this process is to ensure as little disruption as possible in the event that concerns or problems arise with respect to a Manager's performance. The Board does not confer any additional rights or protections to its Managers by the promulgation of this Policy and/or this process.

There are generally three stages of review: Watchlist, Probation, and Termination (described below). ACERA reserves the right to terminate an investment management contract at any time, with or without thirty (30) calendar days notice, for any reason, and without resort to this Contract Review Process.

The Contract Review Process may result in one or more of the following:

1. Placement on Watchlist or Probation status
2. Movement from one stage of review to another, or removal from the Contract Review Process
3. Reduction of Assets Under Management
4. Revision of investment Contract guidelines for that Manager
5. Re-negotiation of fees
6. Termination of a Manager's Contract
7. Any other actions deemed appropriate by the Board

Each situation is unique Action by the Board will vary depending on the type of Manager, the style/strategy, and the deficiency involved. The following describes the Contract Review Process:

#### A. INITIAL REVIEW

Prior to a Manager being considered for Watchlist, Probation or Termination, ACERA may take the following steps:

1. Analysis

Staff will conduct in-depth analyses of the perceived deficiency to verify that a deficiency exists, form an initial assessment of the severity of the deficiency, and make an initial determination of possible causes.

2. Discussion with the Manager

Staff will contact the Manager to discuss the situation and the results of Staff's analysis.

3. Consultant Input

ACERA may seek the services of Consultant to provide additional assessment and advice regarding the situation, depending on the severity of the deficiency.

All phases of account compliance may be reviewed during this step, in addition to the specific issue that originated the Review Process.

#### B. FORMAL ACTION

After completing the Initial Review, Staff may recommend to the Investment Committee and/or Board that the Manager be either placed on Watchlist or Probation or, in certain cases, Terminated. The Committee and/or Board will approve or reject the recommendation. However, if a Manager's deficiency satisfies the criteria as listed under Watchlist and Probation in this Review Process, Staff may place a Manager on Watchlist or Probation without the Committee and/or Board's prior approval. In that case, Staff will be required to report to the Committee on

the action taken in this Review Process as soon as possible. The specific criteria for determining which stage of Contract Review to recommend is outlined later in this Policy section and summarized in tabular form in Schedule II.

Upon approval of a Watchlist or Probation recommendation:

1. Staff will notify the Manager of the Board's decision and will provide the Manager with a statement of concerns which outlines the areas which need improvement.
2. The Manager will be asked to respond in writing with an explanation of the issues and a proposed action plan to resolve the issues within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the statement of concerns.
3. Staff, a Consultant and the Manager will collectively draft a Plan of Action. The plan will identify the specific steps to be taken to correct the problem; the time frames for further review; and what additional monitoring may be required.

At the end of the time period specified in the Plan of Action, the Manager will be evaluated and one of the following actions may be taken:

- (a) Removal from Contract Review: if the Manager successfully resolves the issues/deficiencies and demonstrates continued success in all other areas of its relationship with ACERA.
- (b) Movement from Probation to Watchlist: if the Manager has satisfied all or most of the issues/deficiencies that caused it to be placed on Probation, yet Staff continues to have concerns about the Manager. If circumstances warrant, a Manager may also be moved from Watchlist to Probation at any time during the Contract Review Process.
- (c) Extension of Contract Review: a Manager may be given additional time to satisfy the conditions of its Plan of Action if reasonable progress is being made. Extensions may also be granted if unfavorable market conditions or high costs make reallocation of assets inadvisable.
- (d) Termination: if the Manager has not satisfactorily resolved the issues/deficiencies, Staff may recommend termination as described below. Termination may be recommended at any time during the Contract Review Process if circumstances warrant.

## WATCHLIST

Watchlist status indicates an increased level of concern, but does not indicate major deficiencies. Managers may be placed on ACERA's Watchlist for one or more reasons stated below. The Watchlist period is typically one year. Staff shall conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the Manager at the end of the one-year Watchlist status period to determine whether the Manager may be removed from Watchlist status. Any of the following may result in a Watchlist status:

a. UNDERPERFORMANCE

Please refer to Schedule IIA for specific Watchlist criteria for each Manager. A Manager may be removed from ACERA's Watchlist if the Manager's performance has improved to a level where all applicable specific performance criteria as set forth in Schedule IIB of this Policy have been met.

b. STYLE DEVIATION

Managers are expected to adhere to the style of investment management for which they were originally hired. Changes in portfolio characteristics or style drift may lead to a Watchlist status.

c. ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE

1. New Ownership

Even relatively benign ownership changes, which impact personnel key to ACERA's portfolio management may be cause for a Watchlist status.

2. Turnover

Significant turnover or reassignment in top management, portfolio Managers, research or trading staff, or marketing personnel may warrant Watchlist status.

3. Reorganization

Changes which signal management deterioration, departures or reassignment of key investment personnel, a change in ownership that increases risk to ACERA's investments, or hasty, uncontrolled growth in the firm with potential to disrupt the investment team hired for management of ACERA's account will mandate Watchlist status.

4. Assets Under Management (AUM)

If the market value of ACERA's portfolio rises above 25% of the Manager's total AUM, Watchlist status may be warranted.

d. NON-COMPLIANCE

1. Contracts and Other Agreements

Managers are expected to comply with the investment management Contract, investment guidelines, or other directives. Non- or partial compliance may result in a Watchlist status.

## 2. Reporting

Staff will contact Managers to request past due reports. If the Manager's reports are consistently delinquent, the payment of fees may be delayed. If a Manager cannot comply with reporting deadlines, ACERA should be given prior notification. If warranted, a variance may be allowed. Managers are expected to resolve reporting problems immediately upon notification by ACERA. Repeated delinquency in reporting may result in a Watchlist status.

### e. POOR CLIENT SERVICE

If a Manager is uncooperative and demonstrates a poor client service attitude, Watchlist status is appropriate. Managers are expected to resolve client service issues immediately upon notification by ACERA.

### f. HIGH FEES

Watchlist status may be appropriate if a Manager

1. Charges ACERA unreasonably high fees relative to what it charges its other clients with a similar investment style, investment objective, and account type, size and service, and/or
2. Charges ACERA unreasonably high fees relative to the current market fee rate.

## PROBATION

Probation indicates a level of serious deficiency and signals a need for closer contact with the firm. Probation necessitates a cautious, observant relationship with the Manager.

Managers may be placed on Probation with or without first being placed on Watchlist status for one or more reasons stated below. The probation period is typically one year. Staff shall conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the Manager at the end of the one-year Probation period to determine whether the Manager may be removed from Probation status.

The following may result in Probation:

### a. UNDERPERFORMANCE

Please refer to Schedule IIA for specific Probation criteria for each Manager. A Manager may be removed from ACERA's Probation if its performance has improved to a level where all applicable specific performance criteria as set forth in Schedule IIB of this Policy have been met.

### b. STYLE DEVIATION

Probation may be warranted when a Manager's portfolio characteristics are significantly different from its contractually specified style. In general, a Manager will be placed on Probation after four or more consecutive quarters of deviating from its style benchmark. In effect, if the Manager is no longer the same Manager that was retained for ACERA's account, Probation and perhaps even Termination is appropriate.

c. ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE

Changes in ownership, organizational assignments, departures of key investment personnel, a change in ownership that poses substantial risk to ACERA's investments, or turnover that have the potential to seriously disrupt or destroy the investment management team that was hired to manage the ACERA account may result in Probation or Termination. When key personnel, such as top management, portfolio Managers, research and trading staff are no longer available for use on the ACERA portfolio and do not appear to be replaced or replaceable, Probation and perhaps even Termination is appropriate.

d. NON-COMPLIANCE

If a Manager does not comply with securities laws, industry regulations, standards of professional conduct or contractual provisions, Probation is appropriate. Certain circumstances may warrant Termination.

e. POOR CLIENT SERVICE

Failure to correct any issues that previously resulted in the Watchlist status shall result in Probation. Managers will generally be given one calendar quarter to resolve client service issues.

f. HIGH FEES

Failure to reduce unreasonably high investment management fees shall result in Probation.

## TERMINATION

Upon determining that the Manager has not made adequate improvement in the areas outlined in the Plan of Action, Staff may recommend to the Investment Committee and/or Board that the Manager be terminated. Prior to making the final decision to terminate the Manager, the Investment Committee may invite the Manager to make a presentation at the meeting in which the Termination recommendation is to be discussed. Staff will have analyzed the liquidity of the Manager's portfolio and will have a recommendation and plan for disposition of the assets.



Upon the Investment Committee's decision to terminate, Staff will notify the relevant ACERA Staff regarding this decision (See Section IV). All outstanding issues between the Manager and ACERA's Master Custodian, brokers, Consultant, or other parties shall be resolved prior to closing out the Contract. The Manager Termination checklist is attached as Schedule IV.

The Contract Review Process described in this Policy does not provide any additional rights or protections to Managers, beyond what is provided in the contract. The Board reserves the right to terminate an investment management contract without resort to the Contract Review Process, at any time, with or without thirty (30) calendar days notice, for any reason or no reason.

In the event of an emergency or crisis, such as an imminent, foreseeable threat to a Managed Account within the Fund, the following procedure shall be followed to protect the portfolio (with the advice and assistance of the appropriate ACERA consultant(s)):

- (a) Staff shall make a concerted attempt to arrange a special meeting (in person and/or by telephone) of the Board to consider and to resolve the matter.
- (b) If (a) is not practicable within the time necessary to protect the portfolio, the Board delegates temporary authority to the Board Chair (and/or Vice Chair) and the Committee Chair (and/or Vice Chair) to consider and to resolve the matter.

The temporary authority delegated under subsection (b) shall be strictly limited to the matter itself and any related actions that may be necessary and appropriate. Under subsection (b), at least two (2) persons of the four persons identified would be required to consider and resolve the matter. The temporary delegated authority shall be as full and complete as the Board's authority which means that Managed Accounts and funds may be terminated and/or redeemed.

Staff and the consultants shall prepare and submit a full report on any and all actions taken under this section for presentation at the next scheduled Investment Committee meeting.

**SCHEDULE IA**  
**ACERA**  
**ASSET ALLOCATION TARGETS<sup>5</sup>**

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation %</u>
U.S. Equities	32
U.S. Large Cap	26
U.S. Small Cap	6
International Equities	27
Fixed Income	15
Real Estate	6
Private Equity and Alternatives	15
Real Return Pool	5
Cash	0

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<sup>5</sup> The target asset allocation to each asset class was adopted by the Board in September 2012.

## SCHEDULE IB

### ACERA

#### MANAGER STRUCTURE TARGETS

<u>Managers</u>		<u>Target Allocation %</u>	
		<u>Within</u>	
		<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Total Fund</u>
U.S. Equity			
Large Cap (Core Index)	Mellon Capital	44.5	14.2
Large Cap (Growth)	Trust Company of the West	17.5	5.6
Large Cap (Value)	Pzena	17.5	5.6
Small Cap (Growth)	Next Century Growth	6.5	2.1
Micro Cap (Growth)	Next Century Growth	2.5	0.8
Small Cap (Value)	Kennedy Capital	9.0	2.9
All Cap	Bivium	2.5	0.8
International Equity			
Core Non-U.S. Equity (Growth)	Capital Guardian	40.0	10.8
Core Non-U.S. Equity (Value)	Mondrian	30.0	8.1
Core Non-U.S. Equity (Quantitative)	AQR	20.0	5.4
Core Non-U.S. Equity (Small Cap)	Franklin Templeton	10.0	2.7
Fixed Income			
Enhanced Index	Baird	50.0	7.5
Aggressive Core Plus	Loomis Sayles	25.0	3.8
Global Bond	Brandywine	25.0	3.8
Real Estate <sup>6</sup>			6.0
Private Equity and Alternatives <sup>6</sup>			15.0
Real Return Pool			5.0
Cash			0.0

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<sup>6</sup> ACERA's real estate, private equity, and alternative manager structure targets are specified in ACERA's "Real Estate Strategic Plan" and "PEARLS Policy," respectively.

## **SCHEDULE IC**

### **ACERA**

#### **ASSET ALLOCATION PORTFOLIO REBALANCING**

The objective of rebalancing is to control risk and enhance the risk-adjusted return of the asset allocation strategy. For purposes of enhancing the risk-adjusted return of the asset allocation structure, the relative deviation of any liquid sub asset class away from its target weight (or liquidity-adjusted target weight) shall be no more than plus or minus 1.80 standard deviation factors of each allocation's expected volatility, relative to the other allocations in the asset mix. This standard deviation factor shall be used to define the range of allowable deviation from Policy target asset allocations. If any sub asset class reaches its allowable deviation from its target allocation, all sub asset classes will be evaluated.

The actual reallocation will be at the discretion of Staff (with oversight by the rebalancing Consultant) after reviewing the following: the relative magnitude of deviation from target for all other sub asset classes; the available cash liquidity of sub asset classes that could be used to fund rebalancing; pending cash flows (employer and employee contributions, or proceeds from a terminated Manager's portfolio); pending liquidity windows with commingled investment pools; pending investment commitments (real estate transactions and/or new funding commitments); and pending interest coupon and dividend cash flows.

Asset allocation and rebalancing status reports, and any rebalancing activity taken toward attaining the objective of the rebalancing program will be reported to the Board quarterly.

Significant modifications to the asset allocation strategy shall be cause to review the appropriateness of maintaining this rebalancing parameter or revising it to a parameter more suitable to the revised asset allocation structure.

## SCHEDULE IIA

### ACERA

#### Watchlist/Probation Criteria for Underperformance<sup>7</sup>

Watchlist Criteria	Probation Criteria
<b>U.S. Equity</b>	<b>U.S. Equity</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large Cap Core Index: negative tracking error exceeds 5 bps on an annualized basis in any 1 year period.</li> <li>• Large Cap (Growth/Value): cumulative 5 year rolling return is below the benchmark for 2 consecutive quarters, or the Manager’s peer ranking falls below the median for 2 consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> <li>• Small/Micro Cap Growth: cumulative 5 year rolling return is below the benchmark for 2 consecutive quarters, or the Manager’s peer ranking falls below the median for 2 consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> <li>• Small Cap Value: cumulative 5 year rolling return is below the benchmark for 2 consecutive quarters, or the Manager’s peer ranking falls below the median for 2 consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> <li>• Large Cap Enhanced Core: cumulative 5 year rolling return is below the benchmark for 2 consecutive quarters, or the Manager’s peer ranking falls below the median for 2 consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large Cap Core Index: negative tracking error exceeds 5 bps on an annualized basis in any period greater than 1 year, or negative tracking error exceeds 10 bps for any 2 consecutive quarters.</li> <li>• Large Cap (Growth/Value): cumulative 5 year rolling return is below the benchmark for 3 or more consecutive quarters, or the Manager’s peer ranking falls below the median for 3 or more consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> <li>• Small/Micro Cap Growth: cumulative 5 year rolling return is below the benchmark for 3 or more consecutive quarters, or the Manager’s peer ranking falls below the median for 3 or more consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> <li>• Small Cap Value: cumulative 5 year rolling return is below the benchmark for 3 or more consecutive quarters, or the Manager’s peer ranking falls below the median for 3 or more consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> <li>• Large Cap Enhanced Core: cumulative 5 year rolling return is below the benchmark for 3 or more consecutive quarters, or the Manager’s peer ranking falls below the median for 3 or more consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> </ul>

<sup>7</sup> If the Fund history is less than 5 years, ACERA will use a rolling 3 year period.

<b>Watchlist Criteria</b>	<b>Probation Criteria</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>International Equity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core Non-U.S. Equity (growth/ value/ quant/ small cap): cumulative 5 year rolling return is below the benchmark for 2 consecutive quarters, or the Manager’s peer ranking falls below median for 2 consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5year rolling period.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>International Equity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core Non-U.S. Equity (growth/value/quant/small cap): cumulative 5 year rolling return is below the benchmark for 3 or more consecutive quarters, or the Manager’s peer ranking falls below median for 3 or more consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fixed Income</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggressive Core Plus: cumulative 5 year rolling return is below the benchmark for 2 consecutive quarters, or the Manager’s peer ranking falls below the median for 2 consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> <li>• Global Bond: cumulative 5 year rolling return is below the benchmark for 2 consecutive quarters, or the Manager’s peer ranking falls below the median for 2 consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> <li>• Enhanced Index: cumulative 5 year rolling return is below the benchmark for 2 consecutive quarters, or the Manager’s peer ranking falls below the median for 2 consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fixed Income</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggressive Core Plus: cumulative 5 year rolling return is below the benchmark for 3 or more consecutive quarters, or the Manager’s peer ranking falls below the median for 3 or more consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> <li>• Global Bond: cumulative 5 year rolling return is below the benchmark for 3 more consecutive quarters, or the Manager’s peer ranking falls below the median for 3 more consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> <li>• Enhanced Index: cumulative 5 year rolling return is below the benchmark for 3 or more consecutive quarters, or the Manager’s peer ranking falls below the median for 3 or more consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> </ul>

## SCHEDULE IIB

### ACERA

#### Performance Criteria for Watchlist/Probation Removal <sup>8</sup>

Watchlist Removal	Probation Removal
<b>U.S. Equity</b>	<b>U.S. Equity</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large Cap Core Index: negative tracking error falls below 5 bps on an annualized basis in any 1 year period.</li> <li>• Large Cap (Growth/Value): cumulative 5 year rolling return exceeds the benchmark for 2 consecutive quarters, and the Manager’s peer ranking exceeds the median for 2 consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> <li>• Small/Micro Cap Growth: cumulative 5 year rolling return exceeds the benchmark for 2 consecutive quarters, and the Manager’s peer ranking exceeds the median for 2 consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> <li>• Small Cap Value: cumulative 5 year rolling return exceeds the benchmark for 2 consecutive quarters, and the Manager’s peer ranking exceeds the median for 2 consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> <li>• Large Cap Enhanced Core: cumulative 5 year rolling return exceeds the benchmark for 2 consecutive quarters, and the Manager’s peer ranking exceeds the median for 2 consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large Cap Core Index: negative tracking error falls below 5 bps on an annualized basis in any period greater than 1 year, and negative tracking error falls below 10 bps for any 2 consecutive quarters.</li> <li>• Large Cap (Growth/Value): cumulative 5 year rolling return exceeds the benchmark for 3 or more consecutive quarters, and the Manager’s peer ranking exceeds the median for 3 or more consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> <li>• Small/Micro Cap Growth: cumulative 5 year rolling return exceeds the benchmark for 3 or more consecutive quarters, and the Manager’s peer ranking exceeds the median for 3 or more consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> <li>• Small Cap Value: cumulative 5 year rolling return exceeds the benchmark for 3 or more consecutive quarters, and the Manager’s peer ranking exceeds the median for 3 or more consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> <li>• Large Cap Enhanced Core: cumulative 5 year rolling return exceeds the benchmark for 3 or more consecutive quarters, and the Manager’s peer ranking exceeds the median for 3 or more consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> </ul>

<sup>8</sup> If the Fund history with a Manager is less than 5 years, ACERA will use a rolling 3 year period. ACERA reserves the right not to remove a Manager from its Watchlist/Probation status even though the Manager may qualify for removal based on the Performance Criteria for Watchlist/Probation Removal.

<b>Watchlist Removal</b>	<b>Probation Removal</b>
<p data-bbox="337 262 620 296" style="text-align: center;"><b>International Equity</b></p> <ul data-bbox="191 338 774 569" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core Non-U.S. Equity (growth/value/quant./small cap): cumulative 5 year rolling return exceeds the benchmark for 2 consecutive quarters, and the Manager’s peer ranking exceeds the median for 2 consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> </ul>	<p data-bbox="971 262 1253 296" style="text-align: center;"><b>International Equity</b></p> <ul data-bbox="800 338 1435 541" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core Non-U.S. Equity (growth/value/quant./small cap): cumulative 5 year rolling return exceeds the benchmark for 3 or more consecutive quarters, and the Manager’s peer ranking exceeds the median for 3 or more consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> </ul>
<p data-bbox="386 611 571 644" style="text-align: center;"><b>Fixed Income</b></p> <ul data-bbox="191 686 774 1358" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggressive Core Plus: cumulative 5 year rolling return exceeds the benchmark for 2 consecutive quarters, and the Manager’s peer ranking exceeds the median for 2 consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> <li>• Global Bond: cumulative 5 year rolling return exceeds the benchmark for 2 consecutive quarters, and the Manager’s peer ranking exceeds the median for 2 consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> <li>• Enhanced Index: cumulative 5 year rolling return exceeds the benchmark for 2 consecutive quarters, and the Manager’s peer ranking exceeds the median for 2 consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> </ul>	<p data-bbox="1019 611 1205 644" style="text-align: center;"><b>Fixed Income</b></p> <ul data-bbox="800 686 1435 1289" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggressive Core Plus: cumulative 5 year rolling return exceeds the benchmark for 3 or more consecutive quarters, and the Manager’s peer ranking exceeds the median for 3 or more consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> <li>• Global Bond: cumulative 5 year rolling return exceeds the benchmark for 3 or more consecutive quarters, and the Manager’s peer ranking exceeds the median for 3 or more consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> <li>• Enhanced Index: cumulative 5 year rolling return exceeds the benchmark for 3 or more consecutive quarters, and the Manager’s peer ranking exceeds the median for 3 or more consecutive quarters in a cumulative 5 year rolling period.</li> </ul>



### SCHEDULE III

#### ACERA

### POLICY INDEX FOR TOTAL FUND AND BENCHMARKS FOR ASSET CLASSES AND INVESTMENT MANAGERS

#### POLICY INDEX FOR TOTAL FUND

32% Russell 3000/ 11.25% Barclay's Aggregate/ 2.25% Citigroup World Government Bond Ex. U.S./ 1.50% Barclay's High Yield/ 27% MSCI All Country World Index Ex U.S. IMI/ 6% ODCE /15% Russell 3000 + 100 basis points (net)/5% Core CPI + 300 basis points.

#### BENCHMARKS FOR ASSET CLASSES

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Benchmark</u>
U.S. Equity	Russell 3000
International Equity	MSCI ACWI Ex. U.S. IMI
Fixed Income	Barclay's Aggregate /Citigroup World Government Bond Ex U.S./ Barclay's High Yield in the ratio of 75/15/10
Real Estate	NCREIF ODCE
Private Equity and Alternatives	Russell 3000 + 100 basis points (net)
Real Return Pool	Core CPI + 300 basis points

### SCHEDULE III (cont.)

#### ACERA

#### POLICY INDEX FOR TOTAL FUND AND BENCHMARKS FOR ASSET CLASSES AND INVESTMENT MANAGERS

##### BENCHMARKS FOR INVESTMENT MANAGERS<sup>9</sup>

<u>Manager</u>	<u>Benchmark</u>
U.S. Equity	
Bivium	Russell 3000 + 200 bps
Kennedy Capital	Russell 2000 Value + 250 bps
Mellon Capital	S&P 500
Next Century Growth (small growth)	Russell 2000 Growth +250 bps
Next Century Growth (micro growth)	Russell Microcap Growth + 250 bps
Pzena	Russell 1000 Value + 200 bps
Trust Company of the West	Russell 1000 Growth + 250 bps
International Equity	
AQR	MSCI ACWI Ex U.S.
Capital Guardian	MSCI ACWI Ex U.S.
Franklin Templeton	MSCI ACWI Ex U.S. Small Cap
Mondrian	MSCI ACWI Ex U.S.
Fixed Income	
Baird	Barclay's Aggregate Index
Brandywine (Global Bond)	Citigroup World Gov. Bond Index
Loomis Sayles (Boston)	Barclay's Baa Credit Index
Real Estate <sup>10</sup>	NFI ODCE
Private Equity and Alternatives <sup>11</sup>	Russell 3000 + 100 bps
Real Return Pool	Core CPI + 300 bps

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<sup>9</sup> Individual Manager's Contract contains more specific information about each Manager's benchmark.

<sup>10</sup> Benchmarks for real estate Managers are specified in ACERA's "Real Estate Strategic Plan."

<sup>11</sup> Benchmarks for Private Equity and Alternatives Managers are specified in ACERA's "PEARLS Policy" and/or individual Manager's Contract.

## **SCHEDULE IV**

### **ACERA**

#### **MANAGER TERMINATION CHECKLIST**

This checklist is used to ensure that all details are covered when terminating investment management services.

- 1) Officially notify the Manager in question of the Board's decision to terminate.
- 2) Establish a plan of action for reallocating assets from the terminated portfolio; transfer assets to other portfolios or prepare for liquidation.
- 3) Review department files and logs to identify any outstanding issues.
- 4) Notify ACERA Administration, Fiscal Services Department, Legal Counsel, Consultant, Custodian and any other vendors of the termination. Identify and resolve all outstanding issues with these parties.
- 5) Have Manager and Custodian review and sign off on monthly market values and performance figures produced during the Contract period.
- 6) Hold payment of last invoice until all issues are resolved.
- 7) Retain terminated Manager files in the ACERA office for a minimum of one year; then send to ACERA archives.
- 8) Hold terminated Manager files in ACERA archives in accordance with the ACERA Record Retention Policy and Schedule or applicable securities laws and accounting practice.

## SCHEDULE V<sup>12</sup>

### ACERA

#### Compliance Schedule

##### REQUEST

##### DUE DATE

##### MONTHLY

Soft Dollar Commission Report (if applicable) (Submit each month regardless of activity.)	By the 20 <sup>th</sup> calendar day of the month following the reported month
Broker Commission Report (Submit each month regardless of activity.)	By the 20 <sup>th</sup> calendar day of the month following the reported month
Accounting Report/Portfolio Valuation (Provide transaction data – buys/sells, a portfolio listing including cost and market values, and performance returns.)	By the 20 <sup>th</sup> calendar day of the month following the reported month
Derivative Report (if applicable) (Submit each month regardless of whether any derivative instruments were used.)	By the 20 <sup>th</sup> calendar day of the month following the reported month
Confirmation that monthly reconciliation with Custodian is performed. (Reconciliation should include market values, transactions, and performance.)	By the 20 <sup>th</sup> calendar day of the month following the reported month
ACERA overall compliance checklist	By the 20 <sup>th</sup> calendar day of the month following the reported month

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<sup>12</sup> This schedule is designed for all investment Managers of ACERA. However, Managers may be required to provide additional compliance reports based on their individual Investment Agreements with ACERA. Should there be any conflict between individual Investment Agreements with ACERA and ACERA's "General Guidelines, Policies and Procedures," the individual Investment Management Agreements shall prevail.

**REQUEST****DUE DATE****QUARTERLY**

Fee Billings (Provide all pertinent backup documentation for fee calculations)	Within 30 calendar days following the end of the quarter
Confirmation of compliance with limitations on investment vehicles and investment markets <sup>13</sup>	Within 30 calendar days following the end of the quarter
Confirmation of compliance with % limitations on cash holdings, on equity investment and on fixed-income investment <sup>13</sup>	Within 30 calendar days following the end of the quarter
Confirmation that ACERA's assets under management do not exceed 25% of the Total assets under management firm-wide	Within 30 calendar days following the end of the quarter
Market and Portfolio Analyses and Commentaries	Within 45 calendar days following the end of the quarter

**Additional requirements applicable to Real Estate Program**

Operations Report/Financial Statements	Within 60 calendar days following the end of the quarter
Preliminary Investment Packages (Applicable to Individually Managed Account)	Within 30 calendar days following the completion of the report, if applicable
Valuation Adjustments Memo (Applicable to Individually Managed Account)	Within 90 calendar days following the anniversary date of asset acquisition
Property Valuation Report (Applicable to Individually Managed Account)	Within 90 calendar days following the anniversary date of asset acquisition

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<sup>13</sup> Detailed information can be found in "Specific Investment Guideline" section of each Manager's Investment Contract.

**REQUEST**

**DUE DATE**

**ANNUAL**

Annual Performance Fee Billing (if applicable)  
(Provide all backup documentation/  
reconciliation sign-offs.)

Within 30 calendar days following the  
end of the performance fee  
period

Organization Chart

Within 30 calendar days following the  
end of the year or as soon as updated,  
whichever is earlier

Fidelity Bond/  
Errors and Omissions Insurance  
(Submit an original certificate.)

Within 30 calendar days of renewal

Audited Financial Statements

Within 90 calendar days following the  
end of the year

Form ADV, Parts 1 and 2A and 2B (Brochures)  
(as applicable)

Within 30 calendar days of filing

Statement or Summary of Code of Ethics

Within 30 calendar days of any  
change

SEC Examination Reports

Within 30 calendar days of receipt

Fair Political Policies Commission Form 700

On or before March 31<sup>st</sup> of each year

Placement Agent Policy Update

Within 30 calendar days, provide an  
update of any change to the information  
included in the most recently filed  
Placement Agent Information  
Disclosure Form.

**Additional requirements applicable to Real Estate Program**

Tactical Plans/Management Investment Plans<sup>14</sup>  
(applicable to Individually Managed Account)

Within 30 calendar days of completion

Asset Management and Budget Plan<sup>14</sup>  
(applicable to Individually Managed Account)

Within 30 calendar days prior to fiscal  
year end

Audited Financial Statement for ACERA's Fund  
(applicable to Individually Managed Account)

Within 90 calendar days following the  
end of the year

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<sup>14</sup> Seven copies of this report shall be submitted to Staff.

## SCHEDULE VI

### ACERA

#### INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY (REVISED MAY 2013 )

This document describes the investment philosophy of the Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association (ACERA). Its purpose is to enunciate the basic principles and beliefs that underlie ACERA's investment policy and impact the overall management of the pension Fund. The Investment Philosophy (Philosophy) is designed to complement rather than replace the specific investment policies of ACERA. It is expected that ACERA's approach to investments, as reflected in its policies and strategies, will be consistent with the Philosophy over time. Though the Philosophy allows significant flexibility, it also raises some constraints or implications. Where these were deemed to be significant, they have been explicitly identified and labeled as *Implications*.

Future Boards may choose to amend the investment Philosophy, as their experiences and circumstances will almost certainly differ. The initial document and any subsequent changes will provide staff, advisors and future trustees with a frame of reference to help them understand how the investment program has evolved as well as the rationale behind its design. Future Boards may modify the Philosophy as their experiences and circumstances suggest is prudent.

The major sections of the Philosophy are:

1. Mission
2. Risk Management
3. Diversification
4. Market Efficiency
5. Organizational Infrastructure and Communications
6. Performance Monitoring and Time Horizon

#### **1. MISSION**

- a) The Board's primary goals in managing the Fund are:
  - i) To ensure that sufficient funds are available to pay vested benefits and maintain supplemental benefits;

- ii) To comply with all applicable fiduciary standards; and
- iii) To add value, where feasible, that will help reduce the costs of the plan, increase benefits, or both.

## 2. RISK MANAGEMENT

- a) The Board believes that prudent management of risk is a central element of the investment function.
- b) Though there are numerous risks involved in the management of a pension investment program, ACERA believes that the following warrant particular attention:
  - i) ***Funding-related Risk*** - The risk that the funds available in the Plan will be insufficient to pay the promised benefits, both vested and supplemental, or that contribution volatility will be unacceptably high. The primary methods for managing funding risk include regularly conducting integrated asset/liability studies, and establishing appropriate and prudent investment and funding policies.
    - 0.1 In managing the relationship between assets and liabilities, the approved asset allocation of the Fund should provide an adequate level of certainty of meeting the projected liabilities of the Plan over a time period, as determined by the actuary.
  - ii) ***Benchmark-related Risk*** – The risk that the investment benchmarks adopted by the Fund are inappropriate, or that the aggregate of the individual Manager benchmarks within an asset class do not adequately reflect the benchmark for the asset class as a whole. The latter risk is a specific risk generally referred to as *benchmark misfit risk (i.e. style risk)*. Inappropriate benchmarks or excessive benchmark misfit risk could result in investment performance different than expected and could adversely impact decisions concerning the hiring or firing of investment managers.
    - 0.1 The primary methods for effectively managing benchmark-related risk are
      - (a) regular review of the Fund’s benchmarks; and
      - (b) regular measurement and monitoring of misfit risk using proper methodologies.



iii) **Manager Risk** - The risk of aberrant performance on the part of individual investment Managers, and the related active management risk for asset classes as a whole.

0.1 The primary methods for mitigating Manager risk are:

- (a) Prudent processes for selecting and monitoring investment Managers;
- (b) Competent internal investment Staff;
- (c) Effective investment consulting support; and
- (d) Clear communication to investment Managers of ACERA's objectives, expectations, and investment time horizons.

0.2 The primary method for mitigating active management risk for asset classes include:

- (a) Establishment of appropriate asset class benchmarks;
- (b) Careful monitoring of asset class performance relative to the benchmarks; and
- (c) Prudent use of passive management.

iv) **Fortitude Risk** - The risk that the Board or Staff will fail to exercise the patience, judgment, or fortitude required to support long-term policies and strategies for the investment and funding program.

0.1 The keys to managing fortitude risk are believed to include:

- (a) Effective orientation and education with respect to institutional investing and actuarial science; and
- (b) A commitment to continually refining, confirming, and communicating the investment philosophy and funding policy of the Association.

### **3. DIVERSIFICATION**

- a) ACERA acknowledges the basic tenets of modern portfolio theory, which suggest that diversification, or combining assets that are not perfectly correlated with each other, will reduce the long-term volatility of the overall portfolio.
- b) It is generally desirable however to avoid overly complex asset structures, provided the allocation selected can reasonably be expected to meet the objectives of the Plan. ACERA believes that the benefits of diversification must be weighed against the costs

involved, which may include fees, liquidity, complexity, communication, internal staff resources and expertise and trustee knowledge and effort.

- c) The following asset classes are appropriate candidates for inclusion in its portfolio:
  - i) Domestic equity
  - ii) International equity (including emerging markets)
  - iii) Fixed income, including high yield fixed income and international fixed income
  - iv) Real estate
  - v) Private Equity and Alternatives
  - vi) Real Return Pool

#### Implications

- A systematic methodology for re-balancing the investment portfolio is required to ensure proper implementation and adequate risk control concerning ACERA's asset allocation.
- Adding or deleting asset classes or investment Managers should be considered in light of the impact such decisions are likely to have on the general complexity and cost structure of the portfolio, as well as ACERA's ability to prudently achieve its investment and funding goals over the long run.

#### **4. MARKET EFFICIENCY**

- a) ACERA does not believe in the viability of active management strategies that rely on market timing.
- b) ACERA does not believe in the viability of management strategies that call for over weighting or under weighting styles or sectors within an asset class; i.e., benchmark misfit risk will not generate long-term alpha. Accordingly, ACERA generally believes that it should maintain exposures within an asset class (such as style or capitalization weightings) that are consistent with the broad benchmark for the asset class as a whole.
- c) ACERA does believe that market efficiency varies among asset classes, creating opportunities for successful active management strategies based on securities selection.
- d) Asset classes that can be demonstrated to be efficient should be managed passively in order to reduce active management risk and lower the costs of managing the portfolio.

- e) For inefficient asset classes, ACERA believes that it has the ability and a duty to prudently exploit such inefficiencies through active securities selection strategies.

### Implications

- ACERA should be conscious of any subtle forms of market timing that may arise in the course of managing the Fund, or that may be implicit in investment strategies presented to ACERA for inclusion in the investment program.
- ACERA must determine appropriate methodologies for determining whether an asset class is efficient or presents appropriate opportunities, thus providing insight to the Board on the use of particular strategies.

## **5. ORGANIZATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- a) ACERA believes that, in order for the investment program to achieve its goals, ACERA must invest the necessary resources to build and maintain an appropriate organizational infrastructure, key elements of which include:

- i) A competent, internal investment staff comprised of a sufficient number of investment professionals possessing appropriate leadership, technical, and administrative skills.

0.1 Attracting a competent staff. ACERA recognizes that it competes with the private sector. It must therefore continually strive to create a total work environment that is challenging, rewarding, and competitive.

- ii) A strong relationship with outside general investment Consultant(s) who are able to provide ACERA with the following:

0.1 A high degree of investment expertise;

0.2 Innovative and proactive advice and counsel;

0.3 Strong research support; and

0.4 Strong reporting capabilities.

- iii) A broad-based information gathering and reporting system to present well-researched, relevant and timely data in a manner that is easily understood and that supports rigorous and consistent monitoring of critical investment activities.
  - iv) An open channel of communication among the Board, management, and ACERA's external investment professionals.
- b) By providing the Board with timely, accurate, and thorough information, the organizational infrastructure will give the Board the high level of comfort it needs to set policy, make investment decisions, oversee the performance of the investment program, and maintain the fortitude necessary to support its investment philosophy, policies, and strategies.

### Implications

- ACERA must determine what constitutes an appropriate internal investment staff structure, given the nature of the current investment program.
- ACERA must, over time, take concrete steps toward creating a work environment that will allow the Association to attract and retain needed staff.
- ACERA must recognize that developing the organizational infrastructure it needs – staffing, consulting support, information systems, and communication channels cannot be achieved overnight, but rather will require an ongoing commitment of time and resources.

## **6. PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND TIME HORIZON**

- a) ACERA holds the following basic beliefs concerning performance monitoring practices and methodologies:
- i) The various investment policies of the Fund, in the aggregate, are the most important determinants of investment success; compliance with investment policies should, therefore, be monitored rigorously;
  - ii) The performance of the total portfolio, individual asset classes, and investment Managers should be compared to appropriate, predetermined benchmarks;

- iii) Peer comparisons are an additional valid tool in assessing individual Manager performance (supplementing the use of benchmarks), given that ACERA aims to select superior Managers within particular investment styles or mandates. Peer comparisons, or performance rankings, are also valid tools for measuring the performance of asset class portfolios; and
  - iv) Peer group comparisons may not be an appropriate means of assessing the performance of the total Fund, given that sponsors have different objectives and risk tolerance levels, and therefore may have different asset allocation policies.
  - v) Benchmark misfit risk, or the risk that the aggregate of individual investment Manager benchmarks in an asset class do not adequately reflect the benchmark for the asset class as a whole, should be explicitly measured on a regular basis.
  - vi) Investment Managers are generally hired to fulfill a specific role in a portfolio. Accordingly, ACERA believes it is important that ACERA monitor the extent to which Managers comply with their stated style and mandates.
- b) ACERA believes that successful funding and investment decisions require a long-term perspective on the part of the Board and management:
- i) It is the intention of the Retirement Board that commitments to asset classes and investment strategies should involve long time horizons that may include more than one business cycle (3-5 years each). Relatively illiquid asset classes may require even longer time horizons.
  - ii) The Board acknowledges that commitments to individual investment Managers also require a long time horizon of at least one business cycle (3-5 years).
  - iii) ACERA believes that proper reporting and monitoring systems; and clear communication among Consultants, management, investment Managers and the Board will enable the Board to maintain the necessary long term perspective on all investment decisions.

## Implications

- Assessing the investment performance relative to appropriate, pre-determined, benchmarks is as applicable to the total portfolio and to individual asset classes as it is for individual investment Managers and, therefore, warrants a commensurate share of the Board's time and attention.
- The Board will spend relatively little time assessing the performance of the Fund relative to that of comparable pension funds.
- ACERA will need either to develop in-house capabilities to measure benchmark-related risk regularly or to purchase such capabilities from external investment Consultants.
- ACERA will monitor all investment Managers to ensure they are complying with their stated investment style, regardless of whether they are performing well or poorly. Strongly performing Managers who are found not to be following their stated styles will be carefully scrutinized and may be subject to disciplinary action.
- ACERA will monitor all investment providers to ensure compliance with ACERA's "General Investment Guidelines, Policies and Procedures."

## **SCHEDULE VII**

### **CHARTER OF ACERA'S INVESTMENT COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD**

To identify issues pertinent to the effective management of the investment portfolio, initiate analysis of such issues by management or consultants, review all policy recommendations by staff and consultants, provide recommendations to the Board for adoption, and oversee the implementation of the investment program. Specific responsibilities include:

1. The Investment Committee shall review recommendations of staff and consultants and in turn provide its own recommendations to the Board on all investment policies, including investment philosophy, requiring Board approval. Said policies shall normally be contained in, or appended to, the *ACERA General Investment Guidelines, Policies and Procedures*.
2. The Investment Committee shall review and recommend additional policies for the Board's approval as requested by the Board and in accordance with the Policy Development Process.
3. The Investment Committee shall review recommendations of staff and consultants and in turn provide its own recommendation for Board approval on the following matters:
  - a) Appointment of Investment Managers;
  - b) Appointment of the Investment Consultants;
  - c) Appointment of the Custodian Bank.
4. The Investment Committee shall monitor the investment program of ACERA in accordance with all relevant policies of the Board. In general, the Investment Committee shall monitor:
  - a) Compliance with and continued appropriateness of all ACERA investment policies;
  - b) Progress towards achievement of investment goals;
  - c) Progress towards implementation of the ACERA budget and Business Plan with respect to investments; and
  - d) Cost effectiveness of the ACERA investment program.
5. In accordance with the provisions of the Open Meeting Law, the Investment Committee shall allow adequate opportunity for input from the public and shall respond to such input in a manner that reflects the Committee members' fiduciary duties as trustees of the Plan.

#### **Frequency of Meetings**

The Investment Committee shall generally meet monthly on the second Wednesday of the month, but may meet more or less frequently as required.

### **Committee Composition**

The Investment Committee shall be composed of all Board members, one of whom shall serve as Committee Chair. Alternate members shall serve on the Investment Committee as provided by law.

### **Staff Contact**

The Chief Executive Officer shall appoint a staff person to serve as a staff contact to the Investment Committee.



## SCHEDULE VIII

### ACERA

#### TABLE OF AMENDMENT DATES

##### AMENDING RESOLUTIONS

Jun. 27, 1985	Jun. 10, 1993
Oct. 10, 1985	Jul. 8, 1993
Jan. 9, 1986	Nov. 18, 1993
Jan. 16, 1986	May. 14, 1994
Mar. 13, 1986	Aug. 18, 1994
May. 22, 1986	Nov. 20, 1994
Sep. 11, 1986	Feb. 16, 1995
Oct. 9, 1986	May. 18, 1995
Nov. 20, 1986	Jan. 16, 1997
May. 14, 1987	Aug. 20, 1998
Aug. 13, 1987	May 20, 1999
Oct. 8, 1987	Jan. 31, 2000
Apr. 21, 1988	Apr. 19, 2001
Jul. 28, 1988	Jul. 18, 2002
Jan. 29, 1989(4)	Feb. 21, 2003
Apr. 13, 1989(5)	Feb. 19, 2004
May. 18, 1989	Feb. 17, 2005
Jul. 13, 1989	Jul. 20, 2006
Aug. 10, 1989	Jun. 21, 2007
Nov. 16, 1989(2)	Sep. 18, 2008
Jul. 11, 1991	May 20, 2013
Jun. 11, 1992	

# **ADDENDUM**

## **Real Return Pool**

### **I. SCOPE**

In April 2011,<sup>15</sup> the ACERA Board of Retirement adopted the establishment of a Real Return Pool Asset Class with a target allocation of 5% of the total Fund. This Addendum is an integral part of the Policy. If there is any conflict between this Addendum and the Policy pertaining to investments in the Real Return Pool asset class, this Addendum prevails.

### **II. DEFINITION**

Real Return Pool investments consist of Real Assets that are expected to produce positive returns with a bias toward periods of unexpected U.S. inflation and increasing U.S. inflation expectations. The strategy is implemented using a diverse set of exposures to inflation sensitive instruments, hedges intended to reduce various risk exposures, and active strategies intended to provide additional sources of absolute returns by under- and over-weighting the strategic risk target of the various inflation sensitive instruments and securities. Instruments and securities employed include, but are not limited to, commodity futures and swaps on commodity futures, global exchange-traded equities issued by publicly held corporations in natural resource related sectors, publicly-traded real estate investment trusts (“REITs”), treasury inflation protected securities (TIPS) and currency forwards. It is expected that the Real Return Pool portfolio will also consist of short positions in equity index futures and currency forwards used to hedge partially the equity exposure of the portfolio. Limited leverage and short positions are employed to build certain hedging and long investment positions in the Real Return Pool portfolio. All Real Return Pool investments/strategies are Alternative Investments.

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<sup>15</sup> ACERA Investment Committee, April 13, 2011; ACERA Board of Retirement, April 22, 2011.

### **III. PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE**

Real Return Pool investments are principally intended to hedge against inflation, provide significant real returns during periods of unexpected or rising U.S. inflation, and provide long-term protection of purchasing power. Real Return Pool Assets are expected to exhibit low correlations to equity or fixed income assets and thus provide an additional diversifying benefit to the overall ACERA portfolio.

### **IV. INVESTMENT PARAMETERS/DIVERSIFICATION**

The Real Return Pool will invest in a broad, diverse set of inflation-hedging and return-seeking instruments. The Real Return Pool portfolio should generally provide return and risk above bonds but below equity, with generally low correlations to both asset categories.

### **V. TARGET ALLOCATION**

The target allocation to the Real Return Pool Asset Class is 5% of the total Fund.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Range</u>
Commodities	40%	30-50%
Other Inflation Hedging Assets	60%	50-70%

It is expected that the Real Return Pool assets will be managed on a discretionary basis by investment managers under specific investment guidelines which are consistent with the intent of this Addendum.

### **VI. INVESTMENTS**

Real Return Pool investments include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Commodities
2. Treasury Inflation Protected Securities (TIPS), Inflation Break-evens
3. Developed and Emerging Market Currencies
4. Natural Resources Related Equities
5. Gold, Other Precious Metals
6. Publicly-traded Real Estate Investment Trusts (REIT's)
7. Hard Assets
8. Farmland, Timber
9. Publicly-traded Energy Master Limited Partnerships (MLP's)
10. Infrastructure
11. Other Inflation-Hedging Assets

### **VII. BENCHMARK**

Core Consumer Price Index Plus 300 Basis Points Annualized