

Florida Board of Governors
Office of Inspector General and Director of Compliance

ANNUAL REPORT
Fiscal Year 2022-2023



Introduction

In compliance with Florida's Inspectors General Act, the Office of Inspector General and Director of Compliance (OIGC) has prepared this annual report to summarize the office's activities for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Authority, Standards, and Functions

Authority

As authorized by state law², the Board of Governors (Board) established the OIGC in July 2007 to promote accountability, integrity, and efficiency by providing quality audits, investigations, management reviews, and technical assistance

To achieve and maintain independence and objectivity, the inspector general and director of compliance (inspector general) reports functionally to the Board, through the chair of the audit and compliance committee (AACC), and administratively to the chancellor.

Standards

All audit and investigative work in the OIGC is conducted in accordance with the Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspector General, published by the Association of Inspectors General. Additionally, audit engagements are performed in accordance with the International Professional Practices Framework (Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing), published by the Institute of Internal Auditors, Inc.

Functions

The OIGC's three main areas of responsibility are audits, investigations, and compliance. The office also provides staff support to the AACC.

Audits

The OIGC promotes integrity, accountability, and process improvement by providing objective, timely, sufficient, and value-added audit services. The OIGC conducts audits of the Board office and communicates the results of those audits in accordance with audit standards. The inspector general determines the scope and assignment of audits; however, the AACC chair and the chancellor may at any time direct the inspector general to perform an audit of a special program, function, or organizational unit.

¹ Section 20.055, Florida Statutes

² Sections 20.055(2) and 20.155(5), Florida Statutes



Investigations

The goal of the OIGC's investigative function is to deter, detect, and investigate internal and external fraud, waste, mismanagement, misconduct, and other abuses in the Board office. The OIGC also has the authority to investigate waste, fraud, or financial mismanagement within the 12 universities that make up the State University System of Florida (System).

Compliance

The OIGC is responsible for promoting and supporting a culture of compliance, risk management, and accountability by conducting compliance reviews and providing training. The office assists in the prevention and detection of conduct that is contrary to applicable laws, regulations, rules, policies, or procedures; and promotes a culture that encourages a commitment to compliance.

Support for the Audit and Compliance Committee

The OIGC provides staffing support for the AACC, which meets face-to-face or by conference call at least four times per year. Activities in support of the AACC routinely include:

- Participating in one-on-one briefings with Board members prior to Board meetings to discuss agenda topics.
- Preparing meeting materials and presentations for the AACC meetings
- Communicating by phone and email with the AACC chair for guidance in handling concerns under the committee's purview.
- Assisting AACC members in staying abreast of applicable regulations and statutes.

Audit Activities

During the past fiscal year, we conducted the following internal audit-related



evaluate the Board Office's implementation and oversight of the Programs of Strategic Emphasis Tuition and Fee Waivers Program.

During the engagement, we identified and reviewed applicable statutes and internal policies and procedures; interviewed Board Office staff in University Budgets, Academic and Student Affairs, and the Office of Data Analytics; and reviewed pertinent agency documentation and records.

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OIGC Audit Follow-up Activities

The OIGC is required by law³ and professional auditing standards to establish and maintain a system to monitor the disposition of results communicated to management in a prior audit or review. The OIGC's monitoring process consists of bi-annual meetings or communications to evaluate the progress and status of corrective actions of all audit

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Of the 70 new cases opened during the year, the OIGC closed 65 in the following ways:

- Referred 50 to the appropriate university or agency for handling, and monitored the outcome, if necessary;
- Processed 10 within the OIGC; and
- Determined 5 required no referral as they were either previously or concurrently being addressed by other appropriate entities.

Additionally, the OIGC closed five historical cases related to complaints and notifications that carried over into the 2022-2023 fiscal year from the previous fiscal year.

Accreditation

Florida is the only state that has an accreditation program for the investigative function within Offices of Inspector General, through the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc. (Commission). Accreditation has long been recognized as a means of maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and entails a rigorous review process of our investigative function. We are proud to have appeared before the Commission in February to receive reaccreditation status.

Whistle-blower Activity

The OIGC assesses every complaint it receives to determine if the Whistle-blower's Act's provisions might apply. The OIGC did not receive any complaints from the Board Office that would fall under the Whistle-blower's Act.

If the OIGC receives a university-related complaint that may fall under the provisions of the Whistle-blower's Act, the OIGC refers it to the appropriate university chief audit executive for primary handling. The OIGC referred four of the complaints received during the fiscal year to the universities.





improvement opportunities related to communication, review of authoritative documents, and continued self-monitoring.

Other OIGC Activities

Support for the Audit and Compliance Committee

The Board's inspector general is responsible for keeping the Audit and Compliance Committee (AACC) informed of the OIGC's activities that may be required by professional auditing standards. The IG provides information or updates on any topics AACC members request. Presentations made to the AACC during the year included the following topics:

- System Audits Summary, FY2021-2022. The summary described the results of all audits conducted on the 12 System institutions.
- Foreign Influence Legislation Implementation Summary. The summary explained the statutory requirements for reporting foreign gifts and travel, as well as the screening of foreign researchers.
- Foreign Influence Prevention in the State University System Panel Discussion. Panelists included institutional researchers and chief compliance officers who described the ways in which their universities monitor foreign travel, screen foreign researchers, and educate faculty and staff on how to identify any adverse influence or activity from representatives or companies from the countries of concern.
- University Performance Based Funding and Preeminence Audit Results. This presentation is annually provided to the AACC in March and provides a summary of the results of each System institution's audit results and corrective actions related to the internal controls surrounding the integrity of the data used for these PBF or preeminence metrics.
- State University System Chief Audit Executives Panel Discussion, "University





Lukes Toussaint
Student Assistant

Lukes joined the OIGC in May 2022 after graduating from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and in Management Information Systems. In May 2023, he completed his Master of Acc



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