



## Committee Oversight Responsibilities and Operating Procedures

### I. Background and Authority

The Committee on Audit, Risk Management, and Compliance (CARMC) is a standing committee of the Board of Governors. The committee acts on behalf of the Board of Governors to provide independent oversight of the University's audit, risk management, and compliance functions as well as the University's internal control practices. The committee shall be supported and staffed by the University's legal affairs, internal audit, and risk management/compliance staff, whose roles and responsibilities shall be defined and described by the president.

The committee also has access to other members of management and employees, and relevant information across the UNC System that the committee considers necessary to discharge its oversight responsibilities.

The legislation and policies relevant to the committee's jurisdiction and oversight responsibilities are set forth in Appendix A.

The committee's oversight responsibility with respect to the UNC System Office internal audit function is set forth in the charter attached as Appendix B.

### II. Purpose

The purpose of CARMC is to act on behalf of the Board to provide structured, systematic oversight of the University of North Carolina System's audit, risk management, and compliance activities, as well as the University's internal control practices. The committee does not exercise decision-making authority on behalf of the University. It is the responsibility of management at the System Office and at each constituent institution to maintain programs and systems of internal audit, risk management, compliance, ethics, legal affairs, and internal controls. The committee exercises oversight responsibilities on behalf of the Board as defined herein and makes reports and recommendations to the Board related to:

- A. The integrity of the University's annual financial statements.
- B. The University's systems of internal control and management practices.
- C. The internal audit function, external auditors, firms, and other providers of assurance.
- D. The University's compliance with legal, regulatory, ethics, conflict of interest, and policy requirements.
- E. The University's information governance and security program.
- F. Designation of special responsibility constituent institutions.
- G. The required elements of University associated entities.
- H. System-wide enterprise risk management and compliance processes.
- I. Campus safety and emergency operations.

### III. Organization

The chair of the Board of Governors selects the committee members and designates the committee officers after evaluating the members' collective competencies and balance of skills. As provided in *The Code* of the University of North Carolina, the committee shall consist of voting members and be appointed from the membership of the other standing committees. A quorum for the committee will be a majority of the voting members. The CARMC members:

- A. Must be independent of the UNC System or associated entity management and free of any relationship that would impair the members' independence.
- B. May not receive, directly or indirectly, consulting, advisory, or other fees from any of the constituent institutions, affiliated entities, associated entities, the UNC System Office, or outside contractors hired to perform special engagements.
- C. Should collectively possess sufficient knowledge of audit, finance, higher education, information technology, law, governance, risk, compliance, and principles of internal control in order to respond to regulatory, economic, reporting, and other emerging developments and needs.
- D. Should adhere to the UNC System's code of conduct and values and ethics established by the UNC System. It is the responsibility of the committee members to disclose any conflict of interest or appearance of conflict of interest to the CARMC chair.
- E. Are obligated to prepare for and participate in committee meetings, as provided in Section 200.7 of the UNC Policy Manual.

#### **IV. Meetings**

The committee shall meet no fewer than four times a year. The committee will invite, when needed, the president of the University, the chancellors of the constituent institutions, external and internal auditors, representatives of the Office of the State Auditor, and others to attend the meetings and provide pertinent information as required and requested. The committee will communicate its information requirements, including the nature, extent, and timing of information. The committee expects all communication with UNC System leadership and staff, as well as external assurance providers, to be direct, open, and complete.

The committee chair will collaborate with the president, the general counsel, the vice president for Compliance and Audit Services, and the UNC System chief audit officer to establish a work plan that ensures the responsibilities of CARMC are properly scheduled and carried out. Meeting agendas and related materials will be prepared and provided in advance to members. Minutes will be prepared in accordance with applicable requirements.

#### **V. Education**

The president and the designated committee staff are responsible for providing the committee with educational resources related to auditing, compliance, risk management, accounting principles and practices, legal and regulatory requirements, ethics, conflicts of interest, and other information that the committee may require. The University's vice president for Compliance and Audit Services and the general counsel will assist the committee in maintaining literacy in the appropriate areas related to the committee's function.

#### **VI. Duties and Responsibilities**

The following shall be the principal duties and responsibilities of this committee:

- A. General
  - 1. Adopt and annually update a formal written document describing the committee's responsibilities and operating procedures for approval by the Board of Governors. The operating procedures shall describe the scope of the duties and responsibilities of the committee, the structure of the University's functions within the committee's oversight responsibilities, and the basic responsibilities of management with respect to each function.

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2. As needed, recommend for approval by the Board of Governors and issuance by the president annual guidance, initiatives, and areas of focus for the relevant committees of the boards of trustees of the constituent institutions in the areas of internal audit, risk management, ethics, and legal and regulatory compliance.
  3. Hold meetings in accordance with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act.
  4. Report committee oversight activities to the Board of Governors, along with advice and recommendations as the committee may deem appropriate.
  5. Oversee, authorize, and/or hear reports concerning investigations into any matters within the committee's scope of oversight responsibility. The committee will ordinarily expect management to conduct investigations within its oversight responsibility. When deemed necessary by the Board of Governors on the committee's recommendation, the committee may authorize independent auditors and others to conduct investigations and deliver reports.
  6. Review and monitor implementation of management's response to recommendations by internal and external audit or other assurance providers.
  7. Review and/or recommend policies to the Board that support the internal audit, risk management, governance, compliance, ethics, and legal functions.
  8. Consider and advise regarding the effectiveness of the University's internal control system in responding to risks, including information technology governance and security.
  9. Perform other oversight responsibilities assigned by the Board of Governors.
- B. Financial Statements. Management is responsible for the preparation, presentation, and integrity of the University's financial statements and for the appropriateness of the accounting, internal control, and reporting policies used by the University. The Office of the State Auditor currently conducts the annual audits of the University's financial statements, which includes financial statement audits of each of the constituent institutions and the UNC System Office. The following shall be the principal duties and responsibilities of the committee regarding the financial statements of the University, including its constituent institutions:
1. Receive an annual overview from the State Auditor or a designated representative regarding the annual audits (financial and compliance) of the constituent institutions. Review the results of the UNC System Office's independent financial statement audit by the State Auditor, including any difficulties encountered and reportable issues.
  2. Resolve any differences between management and the State Auditor regarding financial reporting and other matters.
  3. Review with management and the University general counsel any legal matters (including pending litigation) that may have a material impact on the University's financial statements and any material reports or inquiries from regulatory or governmental agencies.
- C. External Audit/Outside Auditors. In addition to the annual financial statement audits (noted above), the Office of the State Auditor conducts federal compliance audits of select institutions on an annual basis, and may, on occasion, conduct other audits or investigations of the University. Other external auditors may also be engaged by the UNC System Office or by the constituent institutions for particular projects and matters. With respect to any such external audits, the committee's responsibilities are as follows:
1. Review significant audit-related communications from the Office of the State Auditor or, as necessary, other external audit groups or firms with respect to the University and the constituent institutions. Meet separately with the external auditors or firms, if necessary, to discuss sensitive and any other matters that the committee or auditor believes should be discussed privately.

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2. Review reports on the progress of implementing approved management action plans and audit recommendations resulting from completed audit engagements.
3. Be available to meet during the year with external auditors (the State Auditor, engaged CPA firm, or audit staff) for consultation purposes or to discuss the auditor's judgment about the quality, not just the acceptability, of any accounting principles and underlying estimates in the preparation of a financial statement and other matters required to be communicated to the committee under generally accepted auditing standards.
4. Receive audit reports in those matters where the Board of Governors or the president authorize or request an external audit or other independent review.
5. Where needed and appropriate, as determined by the president or the vice president for Compliance and Audit Services or the general counsel, receive audit reports in those matters where a board of trustees or the chancellor/executive director of a constituent institution or affiliated entity authorizes or requests an external audit or other independent review.

### D. Internal Audit

1. Receive, review and approve an annual summary of the internal audit plans submitted by each constituent institution and the UNC System Office.
2. Receive and review an annual summary of the internal audit activities overseen by the audit committee of each constituent institution's boards of trustees. This report will incorporate a summary of audits, reviews, investigations, or special assignments completed by the internal audit department of each constituent institution and the UNC System Office, and will note material reportable conditions and the status of their resolution. In addition, the annual summary will affirm that the structure of each internal audit function across the UNC System aligns with legislative requirements.
3. Serve as the audit committee for the UNC System Office's internal audit function. The committee's oversight is defined in the charter for the UNC System Office internal audit function as set forth in Appendix B.
4. The UNC System Office chief audit officer's appointment or termination of appointment shall be by the president, after consultation and concurrence of the Board of Governors.

### E. Legal Affairs, Risk Management and Compliance. It is the responsibility of management, rather than the committee and its members, to ensure adherence to laws, regulations and policies. The responsibilities of the committee regarding the University's legal, risk management, and compliance activities are as follows:

1. Support the efforts, establishment of, and collaboration among the risk management, ethics, and compliance programs within the University, including recommending to the Board University-wide policies regarding internal audit, enterprise risk management, and compliance.
2. Receive regular reports concerning enterprise risk management and compliance activities from the general counsel, the vice president for Compliance and Audit Services, and senior officers.
3. Provide general oversight of the University's adherence to laws, regulations, and policies that pertain to University operations. Review the programs and policies of the University designed by management to assure compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
4. When necessary, meet privately with the general counsel to discuss any matter that the committee or the general counsel believes should be discussed privately.
5. Coordinate with other Board committees as appropriate on legal, risk management, and compliance matters.

F. Other Responsibilities

1. As necessary, monitor the audit finding resolution requirements for special responsibility constituent institutions.
2. Review a summary of the annual financial audit reports of the University’s major associated entities.
3. Review the required elements of a University-associated entity relationship.
4. Provide oversight of the UNC System information governance and security program.
5. Oversee management’s procedures for the prevention and detection of fraud to ensure appropriate antifraud programs and controls are in place to identify potential fraud and to take appropriate action if fraud is detected.
6. Consult with the general counsel to review legal matters that may have a significant impact on a financial statement, overall financial performance, enterprise risk management, or compliance with applicable state, local, or federal laws and regulations. Review and provide advice on systems, practices, policies and standards of ethical conduct. Identify and manage any legal or ethical violations.
7. Take other actions, as necessary, to ensure that risk exposures are identified and properly managed to assure the integrity of the finances, operations, and controls of the University. These actions include reviewing the established governance processes and advising on related policies and procedures that should be in place.

The committee may modify or supplement these duties and responsibilities as needed.

The committee shall have the authority, subject to the restrictions and requirements of state law, to engage independent counsel or other advisors as necessary to carry out its duties in accordance with state rules and regulations. The committee may also request a supplemental review or other audit procedures by internal audit, the State Auditor, or other advisors when the circumstances dictate that further review is required. The UNC System Office shall provide appropriate funding, as determined by the committee, for payment to advisors employed by the committee.

The committee shall annually review and assess the adequacy of the committee charter, with the assistance of staff at the UNC System Office. The committee chair will confirm annually that the relevant responsibilities in this charter have been carried out.

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Mark Holton, Chair

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Date

History: Approved July 23, 2020.



## Statutory and Policy Authority

The legislation and policies relevant to the Committee on Audit, Risk Management, and Compliance's jurisdiction and oversight responsibilities include:

- A. All constituent institutions, affiliated entities, and the University of North Carolina System Office (UNC System Office), are subject to audit by the North Carolina State Auditor under [Article 5A of Chapter 147](#) of the North Carolina General Statutes (G.S.).
- B. Under the authority of [G.S. 116-30.1](#), the Board of Governors may designate a special responsibility constituent institution, by expressly finding that each institution to be so designated has the management staff and internal financial controls that will enable it to administer competently and responsibly all additional management authority and discretion to be delegated to it. The Board, on recommendation of the president, shall adopt rules prescribing management staffing standards and internal financial controls and safeguards.
- C. A special responsibility constituent institution of the University of North Carolina is required by [G.S. 116-30.8](#) to have an annual audit conducted by the North Carolina State Auditor.
- D. The University of North Carolina is required to establish a program of internal auditing pursuant to [G.S. 143-746](#).
- E. [Chapter 600](#) of the UNC Policy Manual establishes financial, reporting, and audit policies, regulations, and guidelines for the University of North Carolina, University-related private foundations, and associated entities.
- F. [Section 1400.2](#) of the UNC Policy Manual assigns the responsibility for oversight of the UNC system Office's information security program to the standing committee with audit responsibility.

## UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM OFFICE

### Internal Audit Charter

#### A. Purpose, Mission and Scope of Work

The University of North Carolina System Office (UNC System Office) is required to establish a program of internal auditing pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-746. The UNC System Office's internal audit function shall be accountable to the Board of Governors through the Committee on Audit, Risk Management, and Compliance (CARMC) and the president.

The purpose of internal audit is to provide independent and objective assurance and consulting services to add value and improve operations of the UNC System Office. The mission of internal audit is to enhance and protect organizational value by providing risk-based and objective assurance, advice, and insight. Internal audit helps the UNC System Office accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, internal control, compliance, and governance processes. It provides a central point for coordinating oversight of activities that promote accountability, integrity, efficiency, and compliance.

#### B. Standards of Internal Auditing

The internal audit function strives to govern itself by adhering to the mandatory elements of The Institute of Internal Auditors' International Professional Practices Framework, which includes the Core Principles for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing, the Code of Ethics, the *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing (Standards)*, and the Definition of Internal Auditing. The chief audit officer reports periodically to senior management and CARMC regarding internal audit's conformance to the Code of Ethics and the *Standards*.

As applicable, the following will also be used to guide internal audit operations: The Institute of Internal Auditors' implementation and supplemental guidance; *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; relevant state and University policies and procedures; and the internal audit function's standard operating procedures manual.

#### C. Authority

The chief audit office will report functionally to CARMC and administratively (i.e., day-to-day operations) to the president or the president's designee. To establish, maintain, and assure that the UNC System Office's internal audit function has sufficient authority to fulfill its duties, CARMC will:

1. Review and approve the internal audit charter, ensuring it accurately reflects the internal audit function's purpose, authority, and responsibility.
2. Review and approve the risk-based internal audit plan.
3. Review internal audit reports and communications with management, as well as management's corrective actions. If necessary, review and resolve any significant difficulties or disagreements on audit related matters.
4. Review periodic summaries regarding the status and/or results of audit activities in relation to the plan, approve any significant deviations to the audit plan, and assure the internal audit function has appropriate budget and resources.

5. Confirm and assure the independence of the internal audit function. The CARMC will make appropriate inquiries of management and the chief audit officer to assure there is no inappropriate scope or resource limitations or restrictions placed on the auditor's work.
6. Monitor the effectiveness of the internal audit function, including the efforts made to comply with The Institute of Internal Auditors' *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing (Standards)*, the code of ethics, and compliance with the internal audit charter. The CARMC will ensure the audit function has a quality assurance and improvement program, review assessment results, and monitor implementation of recommended improvements.

The chief audit officer will have unrestricted access to, and communicate and interact directly with, CARMC on significant matters, including in private meetings without management present.

The Committee on Audit, Risk Management, and Compliance (CARMC) authorizes internal audit to:

1. Have full, free, and unrestricted access to all functions, records, property, and personnel pertinent to carrying out any engagement, subject to compliance with the North Carolina General Statutes and accountability for confidentiality and safeguarding records and information.
2. Allocate resources, set frequencies, select subjects, determine scopes of work, apply the techniques required to accomplish audit objectives, and issue reports.
3. Obtain the necessary assistance of personnel in units of the UNC System Office where audits are performed, as well as other specialized services from within or outside the UNC System Office, in order to complete an engagement.

#### **D. Independence and Objectivity**

The chief audit officer will ensure that the internal audit function remains free from all conditions that threaten the ability of internal auditors to carry out their responsibilities in an unbiased manner, including matters of audit selection, scope, procedures, frequency, timing, and report content. If the chief audit officer determines that independence or objectivity may be impaired in fact or appearance, the details of the impairment will be disclosed to appropriate parties.

Internal audit will exhibit the highest level of professional objectivity in gathering, evaluating, and communicating information about the activity or process being examined. In addition, a balanced assessment will be made of all the relevant facts and circumstances, and the internal audit function will take precautions to avoid being unduly influenced by personal interests or others in forming professional judgments.

Internal auditors will have no direct operational responsibility or authority over any of the activities audited. Accordingly, internal auditors will not implement internal controls, develop procedures, install systems, prepare records, or engage in any other activity that may impair their judgment. Internal auditors will not:

1. Assess specific operations for which they had direct responsibility within the previous year.
2. Perform any operational duties for the UNC System Office or its affiliates.
3. Initiate or approve transactions external to the internal audit function.
4. Direct the activities of any of the UNC System Office's employees not employed by the internal audit function, except to the extent that such employees have been appropriately assigned to auditing teams or to otherwise assist internal auditors.

Where the chief audit officer has or is expected to have roles and/or responsibilities that fall outside of internal auditing, necessary disclosures and/or safeguards will be established to limit impairments to independence and objectivity. Internal auditors will:

1. Disclose any impairment of independence or objectivity, in fact or appearance, to appropriate parties.



2. Disclose any interference and related implications in determining the scope of internal auditing, performing work, and/or communicating results.

The chief audit officer will confirm to CARMC, at least annually, the organizational independence of the internal audit function.

#### **E. Scope of Internal Audit Activities**

The scope of internal audit activities encompasses, but is not limited to, objective examinations of evidence for the purpose of providing independent assessments to CARMC, management, and outside parties on the adequacy and effectiveness of governance, risk management, compliance and control processes for the UNC System Office. Internal audit assessments include evaluating whether:

1. Risks relating to the achievement of the UNC System Office's strategic objectives are appropriately identified and managed.
2. The actions of officers, directors, employees and contractors are in compliance with policies, procedures, and applicable laws, regulations and governance standards.
3. The results of operations or programs are consistent with established goals and objectives.
4. Operations or programs are being carried out effectively and efficiently, and the results are consistent with established goals and objectives.
5. Established processes and systems enable compliance with the policies, procedures, laws, and regulations that could significantly impact the UNC System Office.
6. Information (i.e., financial, managerial, and operational) and the means used to identify, measure, analyze, classify and report such information, are reliable and have integrity.
7. Resources are acquired economically, used efficiently, and adequately protected.
8. Significant legislative or regulatory issues impacting the UNC System Office are recognized and addressed appropriately.

The chief audit officer will report periodically to senior management and CARMC regarding:

1. The internal audit function's purpose, authority, and responsibility.
2. The internal audit function's plan and performance relative to its plan.
3. The internal audit function's conformance with the Institute of Internal Auditors' Code of Ethics and *Standards*, and action plans to address any significant conformance issues.
4. Significant risk exposures and control issues, including fraud risks, governance issues, and other matters requiring the attention of, or requested by, CARMC.
5. Results of audit engagements or other activities.
6. Resource requirements.
7. Any response to risk by management that may be unacceptable to the UNC System Office.

The chief audit officer will strive to coordinate activities, where possible, and consider relying upon the work of other internal and external assurance and consulting service providers to avoid duplication and provide optimal audit services.

The internal audit function may perform advisory and related services to management, the nature and scope of which will be agreed upon, provided the internal audit function does not assume management responsibility. Opportunities for improving the efficiency of governance, risk management, and control processes may be identified and will be communicated to the appropriate level of management.

## F. Responsibility

The chief audit officer has the responsibility to:

1. Develop a flexible annual audit plan using appropriate risk-based methodology and consider information security and any risks or control concerns identified by management. The chief audit officer will submit the plan to the president and CARMC for review and approval.
2. Communicate to senior management and CARMC the impact of resource limitations on the internal audit plan.
3. Review and adjust the plan, as necessary, in response to changes in the UNC System Office's business, risks, operations, programs, systems, and controls. Any significant deviation from the approved audit plan will be communicated to the president and CARMC.
4. Ensure the internal audit plan is executed, including the establishment of objectives and scope, the assignment of appropriate and adequately supervised resources, the documentation of work programs and testing results, and the communication of engagement results with applicable conclusions and recommendations to appropriate parties. When applicable, internal audit will prepare a written report that communicates the engagement's objective, scope, significant results, recommendations and management's responses.
5. When necessary, assist or conduct the investigation of alleged significant noncompliance, control deficiencies, as well as suspected misuse, fraud or abuse within the UNC System Office and share the results with the president, CARMC, and the appropriate levels of management.
6. When necessary, for any internal or external audit recommendations, solicit corrective actions from management that describes planned actions, including an anticipated timetable for completion or an explanation for any recommendations that will not be implemented. After an appropriate period of time, internal audit will follow-up on engagement findings and corrective actions, and report periodically to senior management and CARMC the status of management's corrective actions, including any corrective actions not effectively implemented.
7. Ensure the principles of integrity, objectivity, confidentiality, and competency are applied and upheld.
8. Ensure the internal audit function collectively possesses, obtains, and maintains sufficient knowledge, skills, and other competencies needed to meet the requirements of the internal audit charter.
9. Ensure trends and emerging issues that could impact the UNC System Office are considered and communicated to senior management and CARMC as appropriate.
10. Ensure emerging trends and successful practices in internal auditing are considered.
11. Establish and ensure adherence to policies and procedures designed to guide the internal audit function and compliance with requirements set forth by the North Carolina Council of Internal Auditing.
12. Ensure adherence to the UNC System Office's relevant policies and procedures, unless such policies and procedures conflict with the internal audit charter. Any such conflicts will be resolved or otherwise communicated to senior management and CARMC.
13. Ensure conformance of the internal audit function with the *Standards*, with the following qualifications:
  - If the internal audit function is prohibited by law or regulation from conformance with certain parts of the *Standards*, the chief audit officer will ensure appropriate disclosures and will ensure conformance with all other parts of the *Standards*.
  - If the *Standards* are used in conjunction with requirements issued by other authoritative bodies, the chief audit officer will ensure that the internal audit function conforms with the *Standards*, even if the internal audit function also conforms with the more restricted requirements of the other authoritative bodies.

**G. Quality Assurance and Improvement Program**

The internal audit function will maintain a quality assurance and improvement program that covers all aspects of the internal audit function. The program will include an evaluation of the internal audit function’s conformance with the *Standards* and an evaluation of whether internal auditors apply The IIA’s Code of Ethics. The program will also assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the internal audit function and identify opportunities for improvement.

The chief audit officer will communicate to CARMC and senior management on the internal audit function’s quality assurance and improvement program, including significant results of internal assessments (both ongoing and periodic) and external assessments conducted at least once every five years by a qualified, independent assessor or assessment team from outside the UNC System Office.

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Joyce D. Boni, Chief Audit Officer

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Date

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Mark Holton, Chair of CARMC

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Date

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William L. Roper, Interim President

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Date

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*August 2013 (first date tracked in the history), February 2015, May 2015, April 2016, March 2017, May 2018, July 2020*