UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA

COMMITTEE: Endowment Management

ITEM: Approval to modify the UH System Endowment Fund Statement of Investment Objectives and Policies

DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED: February 15, 2011

SUMMARY:
Approval is requested to modify the UH System Endowment Fund Statement of Investment Objectives and Policies to change the long-term target asset allocation and allowable ranges within asset classes of the endowment fund. The intent of the recommended long-term target changes is to reduce the expected long-term volatility of the total portfolio thereby providing a better risk-adjusted return for the endowment. The table below summarizes the recommended changes. Cambridge Associates will discuss this recommendation in more detail with the Committee.

Asset Class	Current LT Target	Proposed LT Target	Target Change	Current Range	Proposed Range
Domestic Mid to Large Cap Equities	22.5%	17.5%	-5%	15 – 35%	12.5 – 30%
Domestic Small Cap Equities	2.5%	2.5%	0%	0 – 10%	0 – 10%
Non U.S. Equities	20%	15%	-5%	15 – 35%	10 – 30%
Emerging Market Equities	5%	5%	0%	2.5 – 7.5%	2.5 – 7.5%
Hedged Equity	7.5%	12.5%	+5%	5 – 15%	7.5 – 17.5%
Absolute Return	7.5%	12.5%	+5%	5 – 15%	7.5 – 17.5%
Private Equity	10%	10%	0%	0 – 12%	0 – 12%
Real Assets	10%	10%	0%	5 – 15%	5 – 15%
High Quality Bonds	15%	15%	0%	10 – 30%	10 – 30%
Cash	0%	0%	0%	0 %	0 – 10%

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
- Redlined and clean copy of the policy
- Additional information is included in the Cambridge Associates discussion materials book (pages 41-56).

FISCAL NOTE:

RECOMMENDATION/ ACTION REQUESTED: Administration recommends approval of this item.

COMPONENT: University of Houston System

EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR Carl Carlucci **DATE** 1/27/2012

CHANCELLOR Renu Khator **DATE** 1/31/12

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM ENDOWMENT FUND
STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES
Approved by the Board of Regents February ~~16~~15, ~~2011~~2012

PREFACE

The University of Houston System Board of Regents is charged with the fiduciary responsibility for preserving and augmenting the value of the endowment, thereby sustaining its ability to generate support for both current and future generations of students. As part of a commitment to long-range financial equilibrium, the Regents have adopted the broad objective of investing endowment assets so as to preserve both their real value and the long-range purchasing power of endowment income so as to keep pace with inflation and evolving university needs, while generally performing above the average of the markets in which the assets are invested. Pursuant to Board Bylaw, the Endowment Management Committee has been established as a standing committee to assist the Board in fulfilling its fiduciary responsibilities.

To achieve its investment objectives the University of Houston System retains independent investment managers each of whom plays a part in meeting the System's goals over a variety of capital market cycles. The Endowment Management Committee shall:

a) Review and recommend to the Board changes to investment policies;

b) Review and recommend to the Board the university advancement assessment rate;

c) Review and recommend to the Board asset allocation long-term targets and ranges;

d) Review and recommend to the Board external investment consultants;

e) Monitor, evaluate, hire or terminate external investment managers;

f) Establish investment manager guidelines;

g) Monitor and adjust the actual allocation of assets through additions and withdrawals of funds among managers and investment media to conform to the long-term targets insofar as practical; and

h) Oversee the results of the independent managers and report periodically to the Board and the university community.

FORWARD

This policy is intended to be ongoing until the next review is completed. Comprehensive reviews are to be completed every five years.

It is the general practice of the University of Houston System to pool endowment resources. For investment purposes however, the assets are managed in separate endowment fund accounts. The following statement sets out explicit policies for the

pooled endowment but would apply to non-pooled holdings as well. The Regents seek superior investment returns through professional management but not by assuming imprudent risks.

FINANCIAL OBJECTIVES

The primary long-term financial objective for the University endowment is to preserve the real (inflation-adjusted) purchasing power of endowment assets and income after accounting for endowment spending, inflation, and costs of portfolio management. Performance of the overall endowment against this objective is measured over rolling periods of at least ten years, which should encompass several market cycles.

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES

In order to meet the financial objective stated above, the primary long-term investment objective of the endowment is to earn a total rate of return that exceeds the spending rate plus the costs of managing the investment fund, and expressed in real (or inflation adjusted) terms. Given the current System spending rate of 6% (which includes 4% payout, 1.5% university advancement assessment, and 0.5% costs of managing the investment fund), the objective of this fund will be to earn a real (inflation adjusted) return of 6.0% when measured over rolling periods of at least five years. It is also understood that due to market conditions there may be five-year periods where this objective is exceeded and purchasing power is enhanced, as well as five-year periods where the objective is not met and purchasing power is diminished. The medium-term objective for the endowment is to outperform each of the capital markets in which assets are invested, measured over rolling periods of three to five years or complete market cycles, with emphasis on whichever measure is longer. In addition, the performance of the overall endowment is expected to be consistently in at least the second quartile of the university's peer group, as measured by the NACUBO-Commonfund Study of Endowments over rolling five-year time periods, as well as comparison annually to a peer group provided by an outside advisor. Thus, the Endowment Management Committee is responsible for allocating assets to segments of the market and to managers who will provide superior performance when compared with both managers of other educational endowments and with capital markets generally.

Finally, the total return of the University's investment portfolio should be evaluated against the return of a composite index consisting of appropriate benchmarks weighted according to the Endowment Management Committee's asset allocation targets.

INVESTMENT MANAGERS

In accordance with Board policy, hiring of investment consultants requires approval of the Board. Hiring of investment managers requires Endowment Management Committee approval except, when on the recommendation of the committee staff and the investment consultant, the chair of the Endowment Management Committee and the chair of the Finance and Administration Committee jointly determine that time is of the essence and

immediate action in lieu of a called committee meeting is necessary to hire or terminate an investment manager, the recommended change can then be made. The chair of the Endowment Management Committee will have the staff immediately report any such action taken to the members of the Endowment Management Committee and the Chairman of the Board of Regents after such action is taken.

Managers of marketable securities are expected to produce a cumulative annualized total return net of fees and commissions that exceeds an appropriate benchmark index over moving three to five-year periods, and should be above a median for active investment managers using similar investment philosophies over the same time periods. At their discretion, managers may hold cash reserves and fixed income securities up to 25% of portfolio market value with the understanding that their benchmark will not be adjusted to reflect cash holdings. Managers who wish to exceed these limits should secure prior approval from the Treasurer. The Treasurer, in turn, shall seek approval from the Executive Vice Chancellor or designee.

ENDOWMENT PAYOUT POLICY

The Regents of the University of Houston System have established an endowment payout policy which attempts to balance the long-term objective of maintaining the purchasing power of the endowment with the goal of providing a reasonable, predictable, stable, and sustainable level of income to support current needs. Payout is derived from interest, dividends and realized gains, net of portfolio management fees. The historical rate of payout has been 4 to 5 percent. Going forward, the endowment will maintain a payout rate of approximately 4% to 5%, with any change to this range to be approved by the Board. The payout rate will be based as a percentage of the fiscal year end market value average over rolling three year periods. If an endowment has been in existence less than three years, the average will be based on the number of years in existence.

UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT ASSESSMENT

The System will annually assess a reasonable fee against the earnings of specified endowment funds to offset expenses associated with gift acquisition and fundraising at the component universities. The Board shall annually review and approve the fee. The fee will be based as a percentage of the fiscal year end market value averaged over rolling three year periods. If an endowment has been in existence less than three years, the average will be based on the number of years in existence.

ASSET SELECTION AND ALLOCATION

It is understood that ownership assets (or equities) are to be the dominant asset class in the Endowment due to the superior long-term return offered by such assets. As such, equity assets may be thought of as the drivers of long-term Endowment return.

Although the long-term return from equity assets is superior, they have three primary drawbacks that must be addressed. The first is that periods of prolonged economic contraction (deflation) can be catastrophic. Although such periods are rare, the results of

such periods are severe enough to warrant holding a portion of the Endowment in assets (primarily intermediate to long-term high quality, non-callable fixed income securities), which are likely to appreciate in value during such periods. In this context, high quality shall mean a portfolio with an average credit quality of AA or better, although active managers may choose to hold select investment grade securities with lower ratings. The goal of such holdings would be to provide sufficient liquidity to the Endowment to meet payout needs over a three to five-year period without having to sell a significant portion of the equities at "fire-sale" prices. Adherence to this policy will keep equity holdings intact and allow the Endowment to reap the rewards of a return to a more normal economic environment.

The second drawback to a reliance on equity ownership is the effects of an unexpected rise in the rate of inflation. Such rises have traditionally been problematic for most types of equity assets, and given the System's stated goal of preserving purchasing power by achieving an attractive inflation adjusted return, some portion of the Endowment should be invested in assets that will appreciate in value during periods of unexpected inflation.

Lastly, equity assets are subject to greater degrees of risk. Risk takes many forms and is usually thought of in terms of volatility of investment returns. Volatile investment returns translate into a level of support for the System's programs that (even with the smoothing effect of the rolling three-year average market value payout rule) is variable over time. In order to control this variability to a tolerable level, some allocation is warranted to assets that produce attractive returns, but in a more absolute (or less variable) pattern. It is understood that such absolute return assets will invariably return less than equity assets, given rational markets.

After providing for the three broad categories noted above, the remainder of the Endowment should be invested in equity assets, broadly defined and broadly diversified. Broad diversification is required not only to further smooth the pattern of returns, but to protect the endowment from the risks associated with undue concentration in any one type of equity asset. Although other forms of diversification may be considered, it is understood that the Endowment's equity assets will be diversified by style (growth versus value), geography (domestic versus foreign), and market capitalization (large-cap versus small).

Current policy targets and ranges for the Endowment are as follows:

	Long-Term Target	Range
Risk Controlling Assets	~~32~~37.5%	30 to 50%
Deflation Protection (high quality bonds)	15%	10 to 30%
Inflation Protection (real assets)	10%	5 to15%

Assets to be considered for inclusion in this category include: Real Estate/REITs, TIPS (Treasury Inflation Protected Securities), and Energy or Commodities.

Absolute Return	~~7.5~~12.5%	~~5~~ 7.5 to ~~15~~17.5%

Assets to be considered for inclusion in this category would primarily include defensive arbitrage or absolute return funds. Bonds may also be held in some circumstances as absolute return vehicles, and in some circumstances a particular real estate manager may be viewed to qualify as such a holding as well.

Cash	0%	0 to 10%
Drivers of Return	~~67~~62.5%	50 to 70%
Domestic Mid to Large Cap Equities	~~22.5~~17.5%	~~15~~ 12.5 to ~~35~~30%
Domestic Small-cap Equities	2.5%	0 to 10%

Large and mid-cap equities are defined as the 1000 largest companies traded in the United States, while small cap equities are considered to be the next 2000 stocks in terms of size. This characterization is compatible with the constitution of the Russell 1000, Russell 2000 and Russell 3000 Indexes.

Non U.S. Equities (international equity)	~~20~~15%	~~15~~ 10 to ~~35~~30%
Emerging Market Equities	5%	2.5 to 7.5%
Long/Short Equity ~~Managers~~(hedged equity)	~~7.5~~12.5%	~~5~~ 7.5 ~~to15~~to 17.5%
Non Marketable Equity ~~Managers~~ (private equity)	10%	0 to12%

Managers to be considered for inclusion in this category include private equity or venture capital managers, as well as real estate funds with comparable expected returns, and other funds subject to multi-year lock-ups.

Alternative Investment Risks

For the purposes of this section, "alternative investments" refers to investments in long/short equity, absolute return, private equity, private real estate and venture capital, as well as other investments employing leverage, short sales, or illiquid investment vehicles. The investments are made in the Endowment in order to improve diversification, reduce overall volatility, and enhance return, However, the Endowment Management Committee recognizes that these investments also present additional risks beyond those posed by investments in traditional marketable securities such as stocks and bonds. Among these risks are:

1. *Liquidity Risk:* most alternative investments impose restrictions on redemptions or require multi-year locks.

    a. This risk is mitigated by imposing restrictions on the amount of the Endowment that may be allocated to alternative investments as detailed above. In addition, the Endowment Management Committee will review at least annually the level of portfolio liquidity across all asset classes in order to ensure that there is sufficient liquidity to meet all obligations.

2. *Non-regulation risk:* Historically, alternative managers have been exempt from registration with the SEC, which has allowed them to employ strategies (such as short sales and use of leverage) forbidden by most traditional investment managers, as well as to avoid disclosing specific details of their investment practices or portfolio holdings.

    a. With the passage of the Dodd-Frank Act of 2010, almost all alternative investment managers will be required to register with the SEC under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. This Act will require registered managers to file documents with the SEC and for public record describing the nature of the business, fees charged, types of clients, and details on compliance policies. It will also provide to investors a greater level of detail into portfolio strategy and investment.

    b. Venture capital managers will, however, remain exempt from the Investment Advisers Act and will therefore remain unregistered with the SEC.

        i. This risk will be mitigated by performing detailed due diligence on these managers and monitoring them regularly as described below, as well as by diversifying manager risk through multiple direct and fund-of-fund investments.

3. *Transparency Risk:* alternative managers are not required to disclose portfolio holding details to the same extent that traditional marketable managers are, and are often reluctant to do so in order to preserve their perceived advantage over other investors.

    a. This risk will be mitigated somewhat by the Dodd-Frank Act and the increased transparency provided by the requirement to file Form ADV with the SEC. Beyond that, however, the Endowment Management Committee, staff, and any outside advisors shall emphasize those managers who will provide at least the following level of detail into their investment portfolios:

        i. Number of short and long positions

        ii. The use of leverage

iii. Net market exposure

4. *Investment Strategy Risk:* alternatives often employ sophisticated and potentially riskier strategies, and may use leverage.

    a. This risk will be mitigated by intensive due diligence and monitoring of potential alternative managers described below. An emphasis will be placed on those managers who have extensive experience in employing these strategies, a demonstrated ability to consistently employ them effectively, and an established track record of superior performance.

5. *Foreign Currency Risk:* changes in exchange rates could adversely affect fair value of the Endowment Fund.

    a. The Endowment Management Committee recognizes that exposure to foreign currency acts as a hedge against a declining or collapsing dollar. In this way, such investments help to reduce risk in the portfolio. However, the Committee will review the level of exposure to foreign currencies periodically in order to ensure that there are no unintended risks in the portfolio.

The following principles shall guide the selection of alternative investment managers:

- Diversify across managers to mitigate systematic and organizational risk, but avoid over-diversification.
- Diversify by strategy and geography to decrease correlations within the program.
- Emphasize qualitative evaluation of managers, as a manager's quantitative characteristics may change over time and in different market conditions.
- Discourage the use of significant leverage, and emphasize managers with a demonstrated skill in generating returns on assets as opposed to returns on equity.
- Avoid strategies that are trading oriented, highly complex, or quantitatively driven.

In addition, the investment manager due diligence process shall include the following functions, to be performed by some combination of outside consultants/advisors and internal staff:

- Background checks
    - Reference checks
    - News searches
    - Industry consultation
- Review of vendor relationships
    - Prime brokers
    - Auditors
    - Fund administrators
    - Legal counsel
- Operational review
    - On site visits
    - Procedural

- Organizational

Monitoring of the overall program-level and manager-level exposures and investment results shall be administered in accordance with the following schedule by some combination of outside consultants/advisors and internal staff:

Monthly (For Long/Short Equity and Absolute Return Managers)
- Reports of performance and asset allocation.
- Proactive contact with investment managers whose performance falls outside of the expected range.

Quarterly or Semi-Annually
- Calls with investment managers.
- For long/short equity and absolute return managers, detailed performance reports and analysis providing information such as top long positions, net and gross exposures, exposure by strategy and geography, and organizational changes.

Annually
- On site meetings with managers and attendance at annual meetings.

The Endowment Management Committee reviews and recommends to the Board the above asset allocation long-term targets and ranges, and the actual allocation of assets will be adjusted through additions and withdrawals of funds among managers and investment media to conform to these targets insofar as practical.

REBALANCING

The Committee recognizes the importance of periodically rebalancing the Endowment's asset allocation, namely to ensure that variation in returns among assets do not create outsized deviations from target allocations that cause Endowment performance to diverge from expected policy performance. To the extent possible, the Endowment will utilize naturally occurring cash movement opportunities to rebalance the Endowment portfolio. Such naturally occurring opportunities include:

- The sourcing of cash for spending needs (withdrawals)
- The infusion of cash (contributions) into the existing portfolio
- Manager changes (partial or complete subscriptions or redemptions)
- Other cash transactions (i.e., dividends, interest income, return on capital, etc.)

The Treasurer and Investment Consultant (if any) will monitor asset allocation and propose investment rebalancing recommendations (including a recommendation of no action if no rebalancing is needed) no less frequently than twice a year.

In addition to the rebalancing process described above, the Endowment should be rebalanced whenever an exposure is meaningfully overweight or underweight its target range (typically when extreme market circumstances may create significant dislocations

in actual allocation from target ranges). Between meetings of the Committee, should the exposure for any asset class reach a level of 5% or greater beyond the upper or lower limit of the specified range as measured at the end of the month, the Treasurer shall consult with the System's Investment Consultant (if any) and develop a plan to rebalance asset allocation back within target ranges. Such an allocation plan's timing will depend to some extent on the asset classes involved (for instance, rebalancing hedge funds would inherently take more time than rebalancing U.S. equities given vehicle/liquidity constraints). In such instances, the Treasurer and Investment Consultant will then communicate the rebalancing plan to the chair of the Endowment Management Committee and the Executive Vice Chancellor. Subsequent to this communication, the rebalancing plan will be executed as expeditiously as possible relative to market conditions and liquidity considerations. Any rebalancing actions taken by the Treasurer and Investment Consultant shall be communicated to the entire Committee by the Executive Vice Chancellor in a timely matter but in any case, no later than the next Committee meeting.

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

The endowment of the System will be managed primarily by external investment management organizations. Investment managers have discretion to manage the assets in each portfolio to best achieve the investment objectives, within the policies and requirements set forth in this statement, the investment manager agreement with the System including the guidelines for each investment manager, and subject to the usual standards of fiduciary prudence.

Each active investment manager with whom the System has a separate account will be provided with written statements of investment objectives and guidelines as part of the investment management contract that will govern his or her portfolio. These objectives shall describe the role the investment manager is expected to play within the manager structure, the objectives and comparative benchmarks that will be used to evaluate performance, and the allowable securities that can be used to achieve these objectives. Each manager will report performance quarterly, and if applicable monthly, consistent with these objectives and also indicate current annualized income and yield. These statements will be consistent with the Statement of Investment Objectives and Policies for the overall endowment as set forth herein. Investment managers will be provided with a copy of the Statement of Investment Objectives and Policies.

Additionally, each manager will be expected to use best efforts to realize the best execution price when trading securities and the settlement of all transactions (except investment pool funds and mutual funds) shall be done on a delivery versus payment basis.

SECURITIES LENDING

Securities owned by the endowment but held in custody by the endowment custodian may be lent to other parties through a contract between the University of Houston System and the custodian pursuant to a written agreement approved by the Board of Regents. Managers may not enter into securities lending agreements without the consent of the

Board of Regents. The System recognizes, however, that, for those investments placed in commingled vehicles, the Board cannot dictate whether or not the manager will engage in securities lending. Therefore, System and its investment consultant (if any) shall make every effort either to avoid commingled investments, or to otherwise limit investment to those managers who will not engage in securities lending. The limited partnerships of marketable and non-marketable alternative investments are excluded from this limitation.

PROXY VOTING

The University of Houston System has delegated proxy voting responsibility for separately managed accounts to its investment managers. Such separate account managers are to vote proxies in such a way as to maximize the value of related shares and in a manner consistent with the best interests of the University. It is noted in the case of commingled vehicles, voting rights on underlying company shares do not flow through to the System.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The Endowment Management Committee may establish advisory groups to provide general investment advice, as well as advice on special investments, to the Endowment Management Committee and the staff of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance.

REVIEW PROCEDURES

A. Performance Measurement

The Endowment Management Committee intends to review quarterly the performance of the endowment and each investment manager's portfolio relative to the objectives and guidelines described herein. The investment performance review will include comparisons with unmanaged market indices and the Consumer Price Index. A time-weighted return formula (that minimizes the effect of contributions and withdrawals) will be utilized for the overall endowment, although it is understood that individual managers may be evaluated using a dollar-weighted methodology, where appropriate.

B. Review and Modification of Policy

The Endowment Management Committee shall review this Policy at least once a year to determine if modifications are necessary or desirable. If substantive modifications are made, they shall be promptly communicated to responsible parties.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM ENDOWMENT FUND
STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES
Approved by the Board of Regents February 15, 2012

PREFACE

The University of Houston System Board of Regents is charged with the fiduciary responsibility for preserving and augmenting the value of the endowment, thereby sustaining its ability to generate support for both current and future generations of students. As part of a commitment to long-range financial equilibrium, the Regents have adopted the broad objective of investing endowment assets so as to preserve both their real value and the long-range purchasing power of endowment income so as to keep pace with inflation and evolving university needs, while generally performing above the average of the markets in which the assets are invested. Pursuant to Board Bylaw, the Endowment Management Committee has been established as a standing committee to assist the Board in fulfilling its fiduciary responsibilities.

To achieve its investment objectives the University of Houston System retains independent investment managers each of whom plays a part in meeting the System's goals over a variety of capital market cycles. The Endowment Management Committee shall:

a) Review and recommend to the Board changes to investment policies;

b) Review and recommend to the Board the university advancement assessment rate;

c) Review and recommend to the Board asset allocation long-term targets and ranges;

d) Review and recommend to the Board external investment consultants;

e) Monitor, evaluate, hire or terminate external investment managers;

f) Establish investment manager guidelines;

g) Monitor and adjust the actual allocation of assets through additions and withdrawals of funds among managers and investment media to conform to the long-term targets insofar as practical; and

h) Oversee the results of the independent managers and report periodically to the Board and the university community.

FORWARD

This policy is intended to be ongoing until the next review is completed. Comprehensive reviews are to be completed every five years.

It is the general practice of the University of Houston System to pool endowment resources. For investment purposes however, the assets are managed in separate endowment fund accounts. The following statement sets out explicit policies for the

pooled endowment but would apply to non-pooled holdings as well. The Regents seek superior investment returns through professional management but not by assuming imprudent risks.

FINANCIAL OBJECTIVES

The primary long-term financial objective for the University endowment is to preserve the real (inflation-adjusted) purchasing power of endowment assets and income after accounting for endowment spending, inflation, and costs of portfolio management. Performance of the overall endowment against this objective is measured over rolling periods of at least ten years, which should encompass several market cycles.

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES

In order to meet the financial objective stated above, the primary long-term investment objective of the endowment is to earn a total rate of return that exceeds the spending rate plus the costs of managing the investment fund, and expressed in real (or inflation adjusted) terms. Given the current System spending rate of 6% (which includes 4% payout, 1.5% university advancement assessment, and 0.5% costs of managing the investment fund), the objective of this fund will be to earn a real (inflation adjusted) return of 6.0% when measured over rolling periods of at least five years. It is also understood that due to market conditions there may be five-year periods where this objective is exceeded and purchasing power is enhanced, as well as five-year periods where the objective is not met and purchasing power is diminished. The medium-term objective for the endowment is to outperform each of the capital markets in which assets are invested, measured over rolling periods of three to five years or complete market cycles, with emphasis on whichever measure is longer. In addition, the performance of the overall endowment is expected to be consistently in at least the second quartile of the university's peer group, as measured by the NACUBO-Commonfund Study of Endowments over rolling five-year time periods, as well as comparison annually to a peer group provided by an outside advisor. Thus, the Endowment Management Committee is responsible for allocating assets to segments of the market and to managers who will provide superior performance when compared with both managers of other educational endowments and with capital markets generally.

Finally, the total return of the University's investment portfolio should be evaluated against the return of a composite index consisting of appropriate benchmarks weighted according to the Endowment Management Committee's asset allocation targets.

INVESTMENT MANAGERS

In accordance with Board policy, hiring of investment consultants requires approval of the Board. Hiring of investment managers requires Endowment Management Committee approval except, when on the recommendation of the committee staff and the investment consultant, the chair of the Endowment Management Committee and the chair of the Finance and Administration Committee jointly determine that time is of the essence and

immediate action in lieu of a called committee meeting is necessary to hire or terminate an investment manager, the recommended change can then be made. The chair of the Endowment Management Committee will have the staff immediately report any such action taken to the members of the Endowment Management Committee and the Chairman of the Board of Regents after such action is taken.

Managers of marketable securities are expected to produce a cumulative annualized total return net of fees and commissions that exceeds an appropriate benchmark index over moving three to five-year periods, and should be above a median for active investment managers using similar investment philosophies over the same time periods. At their discretion, managers may hold cash reserves and fixed income securities up to 25% of portfolio market value with the understanding that their benchmark will not be adjusted to reflect cash holdings. Managers who wish to exceed these limits should secure prior approval from the Treasurer. The Treasurer, in turn, shall seek approval from the Executive Vice Chancellor or designee.

ENDOWMENT PAYOUT POLICY

The Regents of the University of Houston System have established an endowment payout policy which attempts to balance the long-term objective of maintaining the purchasing power of the endowment with the goal of providing a reasonable, predictable, stable, and sustainable level of income to support current needs. Payout is derived from interest, dividends and realized gains, net of portfolio management fees. The historical rate of payout has been 4 to 5 percent. Going forward, the endowment will maintain a payout rate of approximately 4% to 5%, with any change to this range to be approved by the Board. The payout rate will be based as a percentage of the fiscal year end market value average over rolling three year periods. If an endowment has been in existence less than three years, the average will be based on the number of years in existence.

UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT ASSESSMENT

The System will annually assess a reasonable fee against the earnings of specified endowment funds to offset expenses associated with gift acquisition and fundraising at the component universities. The Board shall annually review and approve the fee. The fee will be based as a percentage of the fiscal year end market value averaged over rolling three year periods. If an endowment has been in existence less than three years, the average will be based on the number of years in existence.

ASSET SELECTION AND ALLOCATION

It is understood that ownership assets (or equities) are to be the dominant asset class in the Endowment due to the superior long-term return offered by such assets. As such, equity assets may be thought of as the drivers of long-term Endowment return.

Although the long-term return from equity assets is superior, they have three primary drawbacks that must be addressed. The first is that periods of prolonged economic contraction (deflation) can be catastrophic. Although such periods are rare, the results of

such periods are severe enough to warrant holding a portion of the Endowment in assets (primarily intermediate to long-term high quality, non-callable fixed income securities), which are likely to appreciate in value during such periods. In this context, high quality shall mean a portfolio with an average credit quality of AA or better, although active managers may choose to hold select investment grade securities with lower ratings. The goal of such holdings would be to provide sufficient liquidity to the Endowment to meet payout needs over a three to five-year period without having to sell a significant portion of the equities at "fire-sale" prices. Adherence to this policy will keep equity holdings intact and allow the Endowment to reap the rewards of a return to a more normal economic environment.

The second drawback to a reliance on equity ownership is the effects of an unexpected rise in the rate of inflation. Such rises have traditionally been problematic for most types of equity assets, and given the System's stated goal of preserving purchasing power by achieving an attractive inflation adjusted return, some portion of the Endowment should be invested in assets that will appreciate in value during periods of unexpected inflation.

Lastly, equity assets are subject to greater degrees of risk. Risk takes many forms and is usually thought of in terms of volatility of investment returns. Volatile investment returns translate into a level of support for the System's programs that (even with the smoothing effect of the rolling three-year average market value payout rule) is variable over time. In order to control this variability to a tolerable level, some allocation is warranted to assets that produce attractive returns, but in a more absolute (or less variable) pattern. It is understood that such absolute return assets will invariably return less than equity assets, given rational markets.

After providing for the three broad categories noted above, the remainder of the Endowment should be invested in equity assets, broadly defined and broadly diversified. Broad diversification is required not only to further smooth the pattern of returns, but to protect the endowment from the risks associated with undue concentration in any one type of equity asset. Although other forms of diversification may be considered, it is understood that the Endowment's equity assets will be diversified by style (growth versus value), geography (domestic versus foreign), and market capitalization (large-cap versus small).

Current policy targets and ranges for the Endowment are as follows:

	Long-Term Target	Range
Risk Controlling Assets	37.5%	30 to 50%
Deflation Protection (high quality bonds)	15%	10 to 30%
Inflation Protection (real assets)	10%	5 to15%

Assets to be considered for inclusion in this category include: Real Estate/REITs, TIPS (Treasury Inflation Protected Securities), and Energy or Commodities.

Absolute Return	12.5%	7.5 to 17.5%

Assets to be considered for inclusion in this category would primarily include defensive arbitrage or absolute return funds. Bonds may also be held in some circumstances as absolute return vehicles, and in some circumstances a particular real estate manager may be viewed to qualify as such a holding as well.

Cash	0%	0 to 10%
Drivers of Return	62.5%	50 to 70%
Domestic Mid to Large Cap Equities	17.5%	12.5 to 30%
Domestic Small-cap Equities	2.5%	0 to 10%

Large and mid-cap equities are defined as the 1000 largest companies traded in the United States, while small cap equities are considered to be the next 2000 stocks in terms of size. This characterization is compatible with the constitution of the Russell 1000, Russell 2000 and Russell 3000 Indexes.

Non U.S. Equities (international equity)	15%	10 to 30%
Emerging Market Equities	5%	2.5 to 7.5%
Long/Short Equity (hedged equity)	12.5%	7.5 to 17.5%
Non Marketable Equity (private equity)	10%	0 to12%

Managers to be considered for inclusion in this category include private equity or venture capital managers, as well as real estate funds with comparable expected returns, and other funds subject to multi-year lock-ups.

Alternative Investment Risks

For the purposes of this section, "alternative investments" refers to investments in long/short equity, absolute return, private equity, private real estate and venture capital, as well as other investments employing leverage, short sales, or illiquid investment vehicles. The investments are made in the Endowment in order to improve diversification, reduce overall volatility, and enhance return, However, the Endowment Management Committee recognizes that these investments also present additional risks beyond those posed by investments in traditional marketable securities such as stocks and bonds. Among these risks are:

1. *Liquidity Risk:* most alternative investments impose restrictions on redemptions or require multi-year locks.

    a. This risk is mitigated by imposing restrictions on the amount of the Endowment that may be allocated to alternative investments as detailed

above. In addition, the Endowment Management Committee will review at least annually the level of portfolio liquidity across all asset classes in order to ensure that there is sufficient liquidity to meet all obligations.

2. *Non-regulation risk:* Historically, alternative managers have been exempt from registration with the SEC, which has allowed them to employ strategies (such as short sales and use of leverage) forbidden by most traditional investment managers, as well as to avoid disclosing specific details of their investment practices or portfolio holdings.

    a. With the passage of the Dodd-Frank Act of 2010, almost all alternative investment managers will be required to register with the SEC under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. This Act will require registered managers to file documents with the SEC and for public record describing the nature of the business, fees charged, types of clients, and details on compliance policies. It will also provide to investors a greater level of detail into portfolio strategy and investment.

    b. Venture capital managers will, however, remain exempt from the Investment Advisers Act and will therefore remain unregistered with the SEC.

        i. This risk will be mitigated by performing detailed due diligence on these managers and monitoring them regularly as described below, as well as by diversifying manager risk through multiple direct and fund-of-fund investments.

3. *Transparency Risk:* alternative managers are not required to disclose portfolio holding details to the same extent that traditional marketable managers are, and are often reluctant to do so in order to preserve their perceived advantage over other investors.

    a. This risk will be mitigated somewhat by the Dodd-Frank Act and the increased transparency provided by the requirement to file Form ADV with the SEC. Beyond that, however, the Endowment Management Committee, staff, and any outside advisors shall emphasize those managers who will provide at least the following level of detail into their investment portfolios:

        i. Number of short and long positions

        ii. The use of leverage

        iii. Net market exposure

4. *Investment Strategy Risk:* alternatives often employ sophisticated and potentially riskier strategies, and may use leverage.

a. This risk will be mitigated by intensive due diligence and monitoring of potential alternative managers described below. An emphasis will be placed on those managers who have extensive experience in employing these strategies, a demonstrated ability to consistently employ them effectively, and an established track record of superior performance.

5. *Foreign Currency Risk:* changes in exchange rates could adversely affect fair value of the Endowment Fund.

   a. The Endowment Management Committee recognizes that exposure to foreign currency acts as a hedge against a declining or collapsing dollar. In this way, such investments help to reduce risk in the portfolio. However, the Committee will review the level of exposure to foreign currencies periodically in order to ensure that there are no unintended risks in the portfolio.

The following principles shall guide the selection of alternative investment managers:

- Diversify across managers to mitigate systematic and organizational risk, but avoid over-diversification.
- Diversify by strategy and geography to decrease correlations within the program.
- Emphasize qualitative evaluation of managers, as a manager's quantitative characteristics may change over time and in different market conditions.
- Discourage the use of significant leverage, and emphasize managers with a demonstrated skill in generating returns on assets as opposed to returns on equity.
- Avoid strategies that are trading oriented, highly complex, or quantitatively driven.

In addition, the investment manager due diligence process shall include the following functions, to be performed by some combination of outside consultants/advisors and internal staff:

- Background checks
  - Reference checks
  - News searches
  - Industry consultation
- Review of vendor relationships
  - Prime brokers
  - Auditors
  - Fund administrators
  - Legal counsel
- Operational review
  - On site visits
  - Procedural
  - Organizational

Monitoring of the overall program-level and manager-level exposures and investment results shall be administered in accordance with the following schedule by some combination of outside consultants/advisors and internal staff:

Monthly (For Long/Short Equity and Absolute Return Managers)

- Reports of performance and asset allocation.
- Proactive contact with investment managers whose performance falls outside of the expected range.

Quarterly or Semi-Annually

- Calls with investment managers.
- For long/short equity and absolute return managers, detailed performance reports and analysis providing information such as top long positions, net and gross exposures, exposure by strategy and geography, and organizational changes.

Annually

- On site meetings with managers and attendance at annual meetings.

The Endowment Management Committee reviews and recommends to the Board the above asset allocation long-term targets and ranges, and the actual allocation of assets will be adjusted through additions and withdrawals of funds among managers and investment media to conform to these targets insofar as practical.

REBALANCING

The Committee recognizes the importance of periodically rebalancing the Endowment's asset allocation, namely to ensure that variation in returns among assets do not create outsized deviations from target allocations that cause Endowment performance to diverge from expected policy performance. To the extent possible, the Endowment will utilize naturally occurring cash movement opportunities to rebalance the Endowment portfolio. Such naturally occurring opportunities include:

- The sourcing of cash for spending needs (withdrawals)
- The infusion of cash (contributions) into the existing portfolio
- Manager changes (partial or complete subscriptions or redemptions)
- Other cash transactions (i.e., dividends, interest income, return on capital, etc.)

The Treasurer and Investment Consultant (if any) will monitor asset allocation and propose investment rebalancing recommendations (including a recommendation of no action if no rebalancing is needed) no less frequently than twice a year.

In addition to the rebalancing process described above, the Endowment should be rebalanced whenever an exposure is meaningfully overweight or underweight its target range (typically when extreme market circumstances may create significant dislocations in actual allocation from target ranges). Between meetings of the Committee, should the exposure for any asset class reach a level of 5% or greater beyond the upper or lower limit of the specified range as measured at the end of the month, the Treasurer shall consult with the System's Investment Consultant (if any) and develop a plan to rebalance asset allocation back within target ranges. Such an allocation plan's timing will depend to some extent on the

asset classes involved (for instance, rebalancing hedge funds would inherently take more time than rebalancing U.S. equities given vehicle/liquidity constraints). In such instances, the Treasurer and Investment Consultant will then communicate the rebalancing plan to the chair of the Endowment Management Committee and the Executive Vice Chancellor. Subsequent to this communication, the rebalancing plan will be executed as expeditiously as possible relative to market conditions and liquidity considerations. Any rebalancing actions taken by the Treasurer and Investment Consultant shall be communicated to the entire Committee by the Executive Vice Chancellor in a timely matter but in any case, no later than the next Committee meeting.

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

The endowment of the System will be managed primarily by external investment management organizations. Investment managers have discretion to manage the assets in each portfolio to best achieve the investment objectives, within the policies and requirements set forth in this statement, the investment manager agreement with the System including the guidelines for each investment manager, and subject to the usual standards of fiduciary prudence.

Each active investment manager with whom the System has a separate account will be provided with written statements of investment objectives and guidelines as part of the investment management contract that will govern his or her portfolio. These objectives shall describe the role the investment manager is expected to play within the manager structure, the objectives and comparative benchmarks that will be used to evaluate performance, and the allowable securities that can be used to achieve these objectives. Each manager will report performance quarterly, and if applicable monthly, consistent with these objectives and also indicate current annualized income and yield. These statements will be consistent with the Statement of Investment Objectives and Policies for the overall endowment as set forth herein. Investment managers will be provided with a copy of the Statement of Investment Objectives and Policies.

Additionally, each manager will be expected to use best efforts to realize the best execution price when trading securities and the settlement of all transactions (except investment pool funds and mutual funds) shall be done on a delivery versus payment basis.

SECURITIES LENDING

Securities owned by the endowment but held in custody by the endowment custodian may be lent to other parties through a contract between the University of Houston System and the custodian pursuant to a written agreement approved by the Board of Regents. Managers may not enter into securities lending agreements without the consent of the Board of Regents. The System recognizes, however, that, for those investments placed in commingled vehicles, the Board cannot dictate whether or not the manager will engage in securities lending. Therefore, System and its investment consultant (if any) shall make every effort either to avoid commingled investments, or to otherwise limit investment to

those managers who will not engage in securities lending. The limited partnerships of marketable and non-marketable alternative investments are excluded from this limitation.

PROXY VOTING

The University of Houston System has delegated proxy voting responsibility for separately managed accounts to its investment managers. Such separate account managers are to vote proxies in such a way as to maximize the value of related shares and in a manner consistent with the best interests of the University. It is noted in the case of commingled vehicles, voting rights on underlying company shares do not flow through to the System.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The Endowment Management Committee may establish advisory groups to provide general investment advice, as well as advice on special investments, to the Endowment Management Committee and the staff of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance.

REVIEW PROCEDURES

A. Performance Measurement

The Endowment Management Committee intends to review quarterly the performance of the endowment and each investment manager's portfolio relative to the objectives and guidelines described herein. The investment performance review will include comparisons with unmanaged market indices and the Consumer Price Index. A time-weighted return formula (that minimizes the effect of contributions and withdrawals) will be utilized for the overall endowment, although it is understood that individual managers may be evaluated using a dollar-weighted methodology, where appropriate.

B. Review and Modification of Policy

The Endowment Management Committee shall review this Policy at least once a year to determine if modifications are necessary or desirable. If substantive modifications are made, they shall be promptly communicated to responsible parties.