

# Master Investment Policy For The California State University

Approved on November 8, 2017  
and revised on March 21, 2023  
By The Board of Trustees of The California State University

**Contents**

- I. Scope and Purpose..... 3
- II. Compliance with Law and Adherence to Policy..... 3
- III. Background and Investment Objectives..... 3
- IV. Investment Portfolios..... 4
- V. Roles and Responsibilities..... 5
  - Board of Trustees..... 5
  - Chancellor’s Office Staff..... 6
  - Investment Advisory Committee..... 7
  - Prudence, Ethics and Conflict of Interest..... 8
  - Document and Acceptance of the Investment Policy Statement..... 8
- VI. Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Framework..... 9
- VII. Adoption of the Investment Policy Statement..... 9

## **I. Scope and Purpose**

This California State University Master Investment Policy (“MIP”) governs the investment of California State University (“CSU”) funds. CSU investments are centrally managed on behalf of the CSU System and its campuses.

The purpose of the MIP, together with investment policies that govern individual Portfolios (as defined in Section IV) and are created pursuant to delegated authority contained herein, is to provide a framework for the investment of CSU funds consistent with the goals of the CSU Board of Trustees (the “Board”) and the educational mission of the CSU.

The MIP sets forth objectives, guidelines, and responsibilities that the Board deems to be appropriate and prudent in consideration of the needs of, and the legal requirements applicable to, the CSU’s investment program. The MIP is also intended to ensure that the Board, and any parties to whom the Board delegates authority, are fulfilling their fiduciary responsibilities in the oversight of CSU investments.

The MIP is a dynamic document and will be reviewed from time to time. The MIP will be modified, if necessary, to reflect the changing nature of the CSU’s assets and investment program, organizational objectives, and economic conditions.

## **II. Compliance with Law and Adherence to Policy**

CSU investments are to be managed in full compliance with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations from various local, state, federal, and international political entities that may impact the CSU’s assets, including but not limited to the provisions of the California Education Code and California Government Code applicable to the investment of CSU funds, and in accordance with the policy objectives, guidelines, and responsibilities expressed herein.

## **III. Background and Investment Objectives**

The investment objectives for the investment of CSU funds have been established in conjunction with a comprehensive review of current and projected financial requirements. The Board desires to provide the Chancellor, the Chancellor’s Staff, and the IAC (as defined in Section V) with the greatest possible flexibility to maximize investment opportunities. However, as agents of the Board, the Chancellor, the Chancellor’s Staff, and the IAC must recognize the fiduciary responsibility of the Board to conserve and protect the assets of the CSU investment program, and, by prudent management, prevent exposure to undue and unnecessary risk.

The following objectives shall govern the investment of CSU funds:

1. Safeguard the principal.
2. Meet the liquidity needs of the CSU.
3. Obtain the best possible return commensurate with the degree of risk the CSU is willing to assume in obtaining such return.

The Board acknowledges that these objectives may be weighted or prioritized differently for individual Portfolios depending upon the purpose of the Portfolio.

#### **IV. Investment Portfolios**

Consistent with its investment objectives, the Board has determined that CSU funds may be invested in three investment portfolios (individually, a “Portfolio” and together, the “Portfolios”) created by the CSU, with oversight by the Chancellor, the Chancellor’s Staff, and the IAC, and each with its own investment policy.

The three Portfolios and general purpose of each Portfolio are as follows:

##### **Liquidity Portfolio (LP)**

The purpose of this Portfolio is to provide sufficient and immediate liquidity to meet the operating needs of the CSU. The investment objectives for this Portfolio shall be safety of principal and liquidity. The Liquidity Portfolio shall be comprised of investments authorized pursuant to California Government Code Sections 16330 or 16430.

##### **Intermediate Duration Portfolio (IDP)**

The purpose of this Portfolio is to provide opportunity for modest, additional risk adjusted returns on CSU funds not needed for immediate liquidity. The investment objectives for this Portfolio shall be safety of principal, liquidity and return. The Intermediate Duration Portfolio shall be comprised of investments authorized pursuant to California Government Code Sections 16330 or 16430.

##### **Total Return Portfolio (TRP)**

The purpose of this Portfolio is to provide opportunity for additional risk adjusted returns on CSU funds over a full market cycle. The investment objectives for this

Portfolio shall be to achieve a prudent total return within a moderate risk level. The Total Return Portfolio shall be comprised of investments authorized pursuant to California Government Code Sections 16330, or 16430 or California Education Code Sections 89724 or 89725.

The acceptable allocations for the Portfolios are as follows:

| <b><u>Portfolio</u></b>                 | <b><u>Min – Target – Max</u></b>  |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Liquidity Portfolio (“LP”)              | <b>5% - 20% - 100%</b>            |
| Intermediate Duration Portfolio (“IDP”) | <b>0% - 23% - 95%</b>             |
| Total Return Portfolio (“TRP”)          | <b>0% - 57% - 65%<sup>1</sup></b> |

In addition, the CSU may invest any amount (from 0% to 100%), in any California State Treasury investment option, available now, or in the future, that the IAC and the Staff deem prudent, including, but not limited to:

- Surplus Money Investment Fund (SMIF)
- Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF)

**V. Roles and Responsibilities**

**Board of Trustees**

The Board assumes fiduciary responsibility to conserve and protect the investment assets of the CSU, and by prudent management, to prevent exposure to undue and unnecessary risk. However, the Board also acknowledges investments are inherently risky with risk of loss and, as such, are viewed with a long-term time horizon.

As a fiduciary, the primary responsibilities of the Board are to:

1. Maintain and approve the MIP.

---

<sup>1</sup> Percentage allocations to the TRP are limited to 65% of CSU investments per state law.

2. Ensure that CSU investments are prudently diversified in order to obtain the best possible return commensurate with the degree of risk that the CSU is willing to assume.
3. Report annually to the California state legislature and the California Department of Finance regarding the investment of CSU funds.

The Board shall have oversight responsibility for investment of the assets and has delegated investment authority to the Chancellor, the Chancellor's Staff, and the IAC.

### **Chancellor and Chancellor's Staff**

As agents of the Board, the Chancellor, the Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer, the Assistant Vice Chancellor responsible for CSU investments, and their designees (the "Chancellor's Staff"), recognize the fiduciary responsibility of the Board to conserve and protect the investment assets of the CSU and, by prudent management, to prevent exposure to undue and unnecessary risk.

The Chancellor and the Chancellor's Staff are hereby authorized to establish policies and procedures to implement the provisions of this MIP, including, but not limited to, the following activities:

1. Overseeing and implementing general administrative and investment operations for the Portfolios.
2. Informing the IAC on the overall investments of the CSU and each of the Portfolios to assist the IAC in fulfilling its duties.
3. Developing and implementing policies that are suitable for achieving the strategic objectives for each Portfolio, including coordination with the IAC in developing and implementing policies for the TRP.
4. Selecting, contracting with, and monitoring third party service providers, including, but not limited to, investment advisors, investment managers, and custodians. For the TRP, such actions will be based on the recommendations of the IAC.
5. Directing the investment of funds, including the ordering of purchase and sale transactions to, from and between the Portfolios to meet investment objectives and strategic asset allocations.

6. Monitoring and reviewing the performance of the Portfolios to their stated objectives.
7. Reporting to the Board regarding the investment of CSU funds as requested, but no less than quarterly.
8. Controlling and accounting for all investment, record keeping, and administrative expenses associated with the Portfolios.
9. Identifying the need for updates, monitoring the Portfolios for legal and policy compliance, and acting on the recommendations of the IAC, as appropriate.
10. All other duties designated or delegated by the Board or the IAC.

### **Investment Advisory Committee**

As required by state law, the CSU has created an Investment Advisory Committee (the "IAC"), to provide investment advice and expertise to the Board, particularly with respect to the management of the TRP.

The IAC shall be an advisory body and shall make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Board for approval or to the Chancellor and the Chancellor's Staff for implementation. The IAC shall be responsible for overseeing all aspects of the TRP and is hereby authorized to recommend policies and procedures for the creation and implementation of the TRP, including, but not limited to, the following activities:

1. Understanding the overall investments of the CSU and each of the Portfolios as informed by the Chancellor's Staff, investment advisors and/or investment managers.
2. Developing and approving an IAC charter to establish guidelines for operations of the IAC.
3. Developing, approving, and overseeing the implementation of an investment policy statement for the TRP.
4. Reviewing and approving target asset allocations and ranges for the TRP.
5. Monitoring and reviewing the performance of the TRP to its stated objectives.
6. Prudently reviewing, selecting, monitoring, and replacing investment management firms engaged to manage the TRP's assets.

7. Monitoring and supervising all service vendors and fees for the TRP.
8. Any other investment or administrative duties deemed necessary to prudently oversee the investment program for the TRP.

### **Prudence, Ethics and Conflict of Interest**

All participants in the investment process shall act responsibly. The standard of prudence applied by the Board, the Chancellor, the Chancellor's Staff, and the IAC, as well as any external service providers, shall be the "prudent investor" rule. The "prudent investor" rule in part, states, "A trustee shall invest and manage trust assets as a prudent investor would, by considering the purposes, terms, distribution requirements, and other circumstances of the trust. In satisfying this standard, the trustee shall exercise reasonable care, skill and caution. A trustee's investment and management decisions respecting individual assets must be evaluated not in isolation but in the context of the trust portfolio as a whole and as part of an overall investment strategy having risk and return objectives reasonably suited to the trust."

Furthermore, all participants in the investment process shall use the same care, skill, prudence, and due diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and fully familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of like activities for like portfolios with like aims and in accordance and compliance and all other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

All investment personnel shall refrain from personal business activity which could create a conflict with proper execution of the investment program, or which could impair the ability to execute impartial investment decisions. All investment personnel shall disclose to the Chancellor's Staff or the IAC any material financial interests in financial institutions which conduct business within the jurisdiction and shall disclose any material financial investment positions which could be related in a conflicting manner to the performance of the Portfolios. All investment personnel shall report any potential conflicts of interest consistent with Government Code Section 87200. Further, the Chancellor shall report to the Board in writing any issues that could reflect any conflict in the performance of the Portfolios.

### **Document Acceptance of the Investment Policy Statement**

The Chancellor's Staff shall provide a copy of this MIP, and the relevant Portfolio investment policy, to each firm retained to provide investment services to the CSU and each such firm shall acknowledge in writing receipt of the document and accept its content.



## **VI. Environmental, Social and Governance Framework**

The Board acknowledges the importance of understanding the potential risks and value that environmental, social, and governance (“ESG”) factors may have on CSU investments. Therefore, the Board expects that the consideration of ESG factors shall be integrated into the investment decision processes of the CSU.

Approved:

The California State University Board of Trustees  
November 8, 2017

Revised:

The California State University Board of Trustees  
March 21, 2023