February 15, 2022

Dr. Eduardo M. Ochoa, President
California State University, Monterey Bay
100 Campus Center, Administration Building
Seaside, CA 93955

Dear Dr. Ochoa:

Subject: Audit Report 21-36, Otter Student Union, California State University, Monterey Bay

We have completed an audit of the Otter Student Union as part of our 2021-2022 Audit Plan, and the final report is attached for your reference. The audit was conducted in accordance with the Institute of Internal Auditors’ International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing.

I have reviewed the management response and have concluded that it appropriately addresses our recommendations. The management response has been incorporated into the final audit report, which will be posted to Audit and Advisory Services’ website. We will follow-up on the implementation of corrective actions outlined in the response and determine whether additional action is required.

Any observations not included in this report were discussed with your staff at the informal exit conference and may be subject to follow-up.

I wish to express my appreciation for the cooperation extended by the campus personnel over the course of this review.

Sincerely,

[Vlad Marinescu]
Vice Chancellor and Chief Audit Officer

[c: Joseph I. Castro, Chancellor
Adam Day, Chair, Committee on Audit
Jane W. Carney, Vice Chair, Committee on Audit]
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OBJECTIVE

The objectives of the audit were to confirm compliance with regulatory requirements for the establishment and governance of auxiliary organizations; ascertain effectiveness of operational, administrative, and financial controls for the activities conducted by the California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Otter Student Union (OSU); evaluate adherence to auxiliary policies and procedures and applicable Integrated California State University Administrative Manual (ICSUAM) policies, or, where appropriate, to an industry-accepted standard; and ensure compliance with relevant governmental regulations, Trustee policy, Office of the Chancellor directives, and campus procedures.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the results of the work performed within the scope of the audit, the operational, administrative, and financial controls for the OSU as of November 10, 2021, were unlikely to provide reasonable assurance that risks were being managed and objectives were met.

During our review, we found that the governance structure, campus fiscal oversight, and several key financial processes needed improvement. Specifically, we found that the operating agreement between the OSU and the campus did not include all of the required elements, including provisions related to leasing campus buildings. Additionally, the board of directors (BOD) did not comply with all of the requirements of the BOD bylaws, such as designating the appropriate members or completing the conflict-of-interest forms annually. Furthermore, there was no evidence that the campus president or designee reviewed the OSU annual budgets or reserve calculations; and the cost allocation plan had not been prepared for the last two years.

We also found that several business and financial controls needed to be strengthened, including administration and documentation for events; timely and accurate completion of personnel new-hire and termination forms; and completion of annual risk assessments. Also, we noted issues in cash receipts and disbursement, as policies and procedures did not include all required elements, cash deposits lacked verification by a second person, cash was not timely deposited, and service agreements were not fully executed.

Specific observations, recommendations, and management responses are detailed in the remainder of this report.
OBSERVATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND RESPONSES

1. OPERATING AGREEMENT

OBSERVATION

The OSU operating agreement did not include all required sections per the California State University (CSU) operating agreement template.

On June 27, 2017, the CSU issued a revised auxiliary operating agreement template; however, due to management oversight, the OSU did not use the revised agreement template. Therefore, the executed operating agreement did not include all of the required elements. In addition, the terms of the current operating agreement between the OSU and the campus were effective as of July 1, 2017, and the agreement was not fully executed by auxiliary, campus, and systemwide CSU personnel until February 2018.

Specifically, we noted that the following sections were not included in the operating agreement:

- Background check policy compliance
- Contracts for campus services
- Financial controls
- All provisions related to leasing campus buildings, including lease of premises; use of premises; consideration; application of student union fees; buildings, signs, fixtures, and equipment; alterations; right of entry; restoration of premises; mortgages; possessory interest; and assignments or sublease

Furthermore, we noted that the OSU used three stateside buildings for operations and student events, including building 12, the Black Box Cabaret, and the new OSU building, during the audit period. However, due to the lack of a lease provisions section in the operating agreement, the OSU was not operating under a lease agreement during the time that they used these buildings.

Documenting the appropriate sections in the operating agreement reduces the risk of misunderstandings and miscommunication regarding rights and responsibilities, as well as potential liability to the campus and auxiliary, and improves accountability and oversight. Executed lease agreements provide greater assurance that roles and responsibilities are well-defined and understood by both parties.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that the campus, in conjunction with the OSU, revise the operating agreement to include the required sections noted above and obtain systemwide approval.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

The campus concurs and will revise the operating agreement to include the required sections noted above and obtain systemwide approval.
2. CAMPUS FISCAL OVERSIGHT

OBSERVATION

Campus fiscal oversight of the OSU related to the budget, reserves, and cost allocation plan (CAP) needed improvement.

Section three of the operating agreement states that auxiliary organizations are required to operate in conformity with CSU and campus policies, which are ultimately overseen by the campus president. Additionally, the campus chief financial officer (CFO) or designee has oversight responsibilities for the operations and activities of the auxiliary as they “shall be integrated with campus operations and policies.”

During our review of campus fiscal oversight of the OSU, we found that:

- There was no evidence that the annual budgets were reviewed and approved by the campus president or president’s designee. Additionally, the estimated revenue amounts noted in the budget were not sufficiently supported.

- There was no evidence that the OSU BOD or campus president reviewed and approved the annual reserves during the audit period. Additionally, we were not provided sufficient documentation to verify that the actual reserve balances matched documented funding levels in accordance with the OSU Reserves Policy.

- Due to the turnover in the OSU executive director role and other OSU and campus leadership transitions, the cost allocation plan had not been prepared for fiscal years (FY) 2019/20 and 2020/21.

Proper and adequate campus oversight, including documentation of the campus president’s annual review and approval of the OSU budget and reserves, as well as the preparation and approval of the annual CAP, helps to ensure that auxiliary programs and planned auxiliary appropriations are consistent with CSU and auxiliary policies.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that the campus, in conjunction with the OSU:

a. Document the campus president or designee’s annual review and approval of the OSU budget and reserves and ensure that the estimated amounts in the budget are sufficiently supported and reserve funding levels are properly recorded.

b. Document the CAP and annually obtain approval for the CAP from the CFO or designee.
MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

The campus concurs and will document the campus president or designee’s annual review and approval of the OSU budget and reserves and ensure that the estimated amounts in the budget are sufficiently supported and reserve funding levels are properly recorded. Additionally, the campus will document the CAP and annually obtain approval for the CAP from the CFO or designee.

Expected completion date: March 15, 2022

3. EVENT ADMINISTRATION

OBSERVATION

The OSU did not have documented policies and procedures for events and did not maintain supporting documentation for student events.

We found that the OSU did not have written policies or procedures for event administration, which would include elements such as event planning and approval, liability and insurance, alcohol and food handling, accessibility, advertising, contracts, and cash handling.

Additionally, we selected 15 pre-COVID events for detailed review, and we found that due to turnover in OSU personnel and the transition into the new OSU building, supporting documentation was not retained for any of the 15 events. This supporting documentation would have included information such as administrative approval of the events, fully executed contracts or agreements, completed liability waivers and risk management documents, recording of accounts receivable related to the event, and any additional documentation to support the event.

Clear and documented policies and procedures and maintenance of student event forms and risk management documents helps to reduce the risk of error, misappropriation of funds, and auxiliary exposure to potential litigation.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that the campus, in conjunction with the OSU:

a. Develop and implement policies and procedures for events to address the elements noted above and communicate these policies to the appropriate OSU and campus personnel.

b. Collect and retain appropriate event forms and required documentation for student events.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

The campus concurs and will develop and implement policies and procedures for events to address the elements noted above and communicate these policies to the appropriate OSU
and campus personnel. Additionally, the campus will collect and retain appropriate event forms and required documentation for student events.

Expected completion date: March 15, 2022

4. PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

OBSERVATION

New-hire and termination documentation was not always completed appropriately and timely.

As part of the new-hire process, the OSU office coordinator completes the Employment Status Form (ESF) for the selected candidate and submits it to the University Corporation (UCorp) human resources (HR) coordinator for processing. The UCorp HR coordinator is responsible for ensuring that the new hire completes the required forms, such as the Notice to Employee and I-9 form, and must ensure that the background check is complete prior to the employee’s start date.

We reviewed the processing of 10 new hires, and we found that:

- For one employee, the background check was completed 13 days after the employee had started work.
- For two employees, the I-9 form was signed 13 days after the employee’s start date. Per federal requirement, the I-9 forms must be signed within three days of the employee’s start date.
- For four new hires, the Notice to Employee form was signed from four to 29 days after the employee’s start date. This form is required per the California Labor Code, and the employer must provide this written notice to each employee at the time of hiring.
- For three employees, the ESF was signed from one to seven days after the employee’s start date. This form is an internal document with related new-hire information that is signed by the supervisor, general accounting, and HR.

When an OSU employee is terminated, voluntarily or involuntarily, the OSU office coordinator is responsible for completing the separation form and submitting it to the UCorp HR coordinator for processing. The UCorp then sends an email to several campus departments, such as information technology and parking services, to ensure that the employee’s access to campus systems and buildings is removed.

We reviewed the processing of 10 employee terminations, and we found that:

- For three employees, the UCorp HR coordinator did not process the separation form timely. Specifically, the separation forms were processed between 144 to 175 days after the employee’s last day of work.
• For three employees, evidence showing that the employee’s physical and security access had been removed was not provided.

• For two employees, the separation form was not filled out completely. Specifically, critical information such as the reason for separation and various separation process/checklist signoffs were not completed.

An effective process to ensure timely completion and verification of all required forms for the hiring and termination of employees, as well as the timely removal of physical and security access, helps to ensure compliance with legal requirements, protects auxiliary information and assets, and reduces the risk of errors.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that the campus, in conjunction with the OSU and UCorp:

a. Provide training and guidance to key personnel involved in the hiring and termination of employees to ensure that employment forms, background checks, and separation forms are completed and processed timely.

b. Verify that terminated employees’ physical and security access is removed timely.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

The campus concurs and will provide training and guidance to key personnel involved in the hiring and termination of employees to ensure that employment forms, background checks, and separation forms are completed and processed timely. Additionally, the campus will verify that terminated employees’ physical and security access is removed timely.

Expected completion date: March 15, 2022

5. BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADMINISTRATION

OBSERVATION

The OSU did not have the composition of BOD members required by its bylaws, and annual conflict-of-interest (COI) forms for BOD members were not always obtained.

Section 4.3 of the OSU bylaws, Board of Directors Composition, Terms, and Duties; Liaisons, notes the titles of those required to serve on the BOD, including appointed and designated directors, as well as liaisons of the board.

We reviewed the BOD members listing for the audit period, and we noted that the BOD did not include a community representative appointed by the campus president for FY 2019/20 or FY 2020/21.
Additionally, we requested the COI forms for all 31 BOD members during the audit period, and we found that:

- For FY 2019/20, COI forms were not completed by 13 BOD members.
- For FY 2020/21, COI forms were not completed, or were not fully completed, by five BOD members.
- For FY 2021/22, COI forms were not completed by 10 BOD members.

Proper composition of BOD membership helps to ensure that all views are adequately represented and helps to ensure compliance with bylaws. Timely completion and retention of COI forms from all BOD members helps reduce the risk of non-compliance with CSU and auxiliary policies and the Political Reform Act of 1974.

**RECOMMENDATION**

We recommend that the campus, in conjunction with the OSU:

a. Appoint and designate BOD members to comply with the bylaws, or review and update the bylaws as needed to address the issue noted above.

b. Implement a follow-up process to help ensure that BOD members complete and submit COI forms annually.

**MANAGEMENT RESPONSE**

The campus concurs and will appoint and designate BOD members to comply with the bylaws, or review and update the bylaws as needed to address the issue noted above. Additionally, the campus will implement a follow-up process to help ensure that BOD members complete and submit COI forms annually.

Expected completion date: May 13, 2022

6. **CASH DISBURSEMENTS**

**OBSERVATION**

Cash disbursement procedures and the disbursement process needed improvement.

We noted that the disbursement procedures, *University Corporation at Monterey Bay, Foundation of CSUMB, and OSU General Cash Disbursements Narrative*, did not address all required elements, specifically, the safeguarding of the vendor master file and blank check and signing matching controls.

OSU management and staff are responsible for executing service agreements; completing check request forms, travel request and expense claim forms, and hospitality forms; and
approving procurement card (P-card) monthly reconciliations. The UCorp is responsible for providing accounting and administrative support services for the OSU, including disbursement of funds, and for recording expenses in the general ledger.

In addition, we reviewed 50 expenditures, and found that evidence of a fully executed service agreement was not provided for five expenditures.

Complete documented policies and procedures, compliance with policies and procedures, and adequate administration and documentation of disbursement decreases the risk of errors, misappropriations of funds, and auxiliary exposure to potential litigation.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that the campus, in conjunction with the OSU and UCorp:

a. Review and update cash disbursement procedures to include the elements noted above and communicate the updated procedures to the appropriate OSU and UCorp personnel.

b. Reiterate disbursement procedures and provide training to key personnel involved in the disbursements process to ensure that service agreements are fully executed.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

The campus concurs and will update cash disbursement procedures to include the appropriate elements and communicate the updated procedures to the appropriate OSU and UCorp personnel. In addition, the campus will reiterate disbursement procedures and provide training to key personnel involved in the disbursements process to ensure that service agreements are fully executed.

Expected completion date: April 30, 2022

7. CASH HANDLING

OBSERVATION

Administration of cash deposits needed improvement.

We noted that the OSU Cash Receipts Narrative/Procedure did not specifically address the following elements: opening and close-out procedures; monitoring of overages and shortages; safe access records; reconciliations; time frame of deposits; and returned checks, credit card chargebacks, and ACH returns.

The OSU has limited cash receipt transactions, mostly related to fees collected for audio and visual support provided for other campus departments. The OSU office coordinator is responsible for receiving and depositing cash and cash equivalents into the OSU bank account, and the UCorp accounting staff is responsible for recording cash deposits in the general ledger.
We reviewed 15 cash deposits, and we found that:

- For nine deposits, evidence that the deposit was verified by a second person was not provided.
- Two deposits were made more than 30 days after the receipt date.

Adequate administration of cash handling and documentation of cash-receipt procedures provides greater assurance that the campus and auxiliary will not be exposed to loss, theft, or misappropriation of funds.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that the campus, in conjunction with the OSU and UCorp:

a. Review and update the current procedures to include the elements noted above and communicate and distribute the procedures to the appropriate OSU and UCorp administrators and staff.

b. Provide training to key personnel involved in the cash receipts process to ensure that deposits are verified by a second person and are deposited timely.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

The campus concurs and will review and update the current procedures to include the elements noted above and communicate and distribute the procedures to the appropriate OSU and UCorp administrators and staff. Additionally, the campus will provide training to key personnel involved in the cash receipts process to ensure that deposits are verified by a second person and deposited timely.

Expected completion date: April 30, 2022

8. RISK ASSESSMENT

OBSERVATION

Campus risk assessment procedures needed improvement.

The campus risk manager, in conjunction with campus and auxiliary management, is responsible for identifying risks on campus on a regular basis. A risk register was created to identify key risks related to specific risk categories, such as business continuity, contract management, event management/facility use, and youth protection, as well as risk treatments for each category. However, the register did not specify risks at the department or auxiliary level; therefore, we could not verify that the risks related to the OSU were included in the risk register. Furthermore, a campuswide risk assessment was not formally documented during the audit period.
A documented risk assessment helps to ensure that the campus considers risks related to campus objectives and complies with relevant laws, regulations, and systemwide requirements.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that the campus, in conjunction with the OSU, complete and document a risk assessment annually for risks related to the OSU.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

The campus concurs and will complete and document a risk assessment annually for risks related to the OSU.

Expected completion date: May 13, 2022

9. THIRD-PARTY AGREEMENTS

OBSERVATION

Tri-entity third-party service agreements did not always include all language required by CSU systemwide guidance.

The OSU entered into tri-entity service agreements between the campus, UCorp, and third-party service providers. We reviewed 30 tri-entity service agreements and found that none of them included a right-to-audit clause, which would provide the OSU, campus, and UCorp the ability to review the third-party providers’ compliance with their contractual obligations.

Proper inclusion of required terms and provisions in service agreements helps to ensure compliance with systemwide requirements, reduces the risk of misunderstandings and miscommunication of responsibilities, and decreases the risk of potential liabilities.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that the campus, in conjunction with the OSU and UCorp, revise the current tri-entity service agreements to include a right-to-audit clause.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

The campus concurs and will revise the current tri-entity service agreements to include a right-to-audit clause.

Expected completion date: April 30, 2022

10. BANK RECONCILIATION

OBSERVATION

Bank reconciliation preparation and approval dates were not documented.
The monthly bank reconciliations for the OSU are prepared and reviewed by UCorp accounting personnel. We reviewed bank reconciliations for February 2020, July 2020, May 2021, and June 2021, and we found that the preparation and approval dates were not recorded on any of the reconciliations; therefore, although the reconciliations were completed, we could not determine whether they were performed timely.

Timely preparation and documentation of bank reconciliations reduces the risk of financial loss and helps to ensure accountability of funds and accurate financial reporting.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that the campus, in conjunction with the UCorp, document the preparation and approval dates on bank reconciliations.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

The campus concurs and will document the preparation and approval dates on bank reconciliations.

Expected completion date: April 30, 2022
GENERAL INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

Auxiliary organizations are separate business and legal entities that perform activities essential to the educational program of a campus that cannot be legally or effectively administered using state funding. California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 5, §42401, states that auxiliary organizations provide the fiscal means and the management procedures that allow the campus to carry on activities providing those instructional and service aids not normally furnished by the state budget.

Education Code §89900 states, in part, that the operation of auxiliary organizations shall be conducted in conformity with regulations established by the Trustees, and 5 CCR §42402, confirms the campus president’s authority and responsibility for auxiliary organization operations. Campus management is responsible for establishing and maintaining an adequate system of internal compliance/internal controls and assuring that each of its auxiliary organizations similarly establishes such a system.

Education Code §89904 states, in part, that the Trustees of the CSU and the governing boards of the various auxiliary organizations shall:

- Institute a standard systemwide accounting and reporting system for businesslike management of the operation of auxiliary organizations.
- Implement financial standards that will assure the fiscal viability of auxiliary organizations. Such standards shall include proper provision for professional management, adequate working capital, adequate reserve funds for current operations and capital replacements, and adequate provisions for new business requirements.
- Institute procedures to assure that transactions of auxiliary organizations are within the educational mission of the state colleges.
- Develop policies for the appropriation of funds derived from indirect cost payments.

Executive Order (EO) 1059, Utilization of Campus Auxiliary Organizations, dated June 6, 2011, represents Trustee policy addressing appropriate use of CSU auxiliary organizations. This EO requires CSU auxiliary organizations to operate within the regulations and oversight of the campus. The EO reiterates that the campus president is responsible for ensuring the fiscal viability of auxiliary organizations and their compliance with applicable CSU policies, and it further designates the campus CFO as the individual responsible for administrative compliance and fiscal oversight of auxiliary organizations.

CSUMB has three separate auxiliary organizations, each of which provides a function that contributes to the educational mission of the university. The OSU was established in 2017 as a nonprofit corporation and manages student-centered spaces that work to expand students’ college experience through various programs, services, events, and involvement opportunities. The OSU contracts with the UCorp for accounting and personnel services under an administrative support services agreement. During the audit period, the OSU also managed the Otter Cross Cultural Center (OC3), which was committed to advancing the university’s
vision of diversity, cross-culturalism, and social justice by hosting events on campus and in the community. In 2021, the OC3 was restructured, and it is now managed by the Division of Student Life. As such, the OSU is primarily responsible for managing its facilities and space for meetings and events, as well as providing audio/visual technological support services to the campus community. The OSU BOD is composed of elected and appointed representatives from the student body, university administration, and alumni who establish annual goals and priorities for the OSU. During the audit period, the OSU had significant management turnover and reduction in staffing due to COVID-19, which may have contributed to some of the observations noted above.

SCOPE

Due to temporary operating procedures and limitations resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency, we performed fieldwork remotely from September 20, 2021, through November 10, 2021. Our audit and evaluation included the audit tests we considered necessary in determining whether operational, administrative, and financial controls are in place and operative. The audit focused on procedures in effect from July 1, 2019, to November 10, 2021.

Specifically, we reviewed and tested:

- Corporate governance, including compliance with education, government, and corporation codes.
- Timely and proper execution of agreements, contracts, and memoranda of understanding.
- Fiscal, operational, and program compliance, such as reserve provisions, budget, cost allocation, conflicts of interest, and risk management practices.
- Internal controls and segregation of duties over fiscal administration of areas such as cash receipts, accounts receivables, procurement, disbursements, and personnel and payroll.
- Auxiliary enterprise unit administration, including, but not limited to, events, facility operations, and space rentals.

As a result of changing conditions and the degree of compliance with procedures, the effectiveness of controls changes over time. Specific limitations that may hinder the effectiveness of an otherwise adequate system of controls include, but are not limited to, resource constraints, faulty judgments, unintentional errors, circumvention by collusion, and management overrides. Establishing controls that would prevent all these limitations would not be cost-effective; moreover, an audit may not always detect these limitations.

Our testing and methodology, which was designed to provide a review of key operational, administrative, and financial controls, included interviews, walkthroughs, and detailed testing on certain aspects of the OSU operations. Our review was limited to gaining reasonable assurance that essential elements of the Otter Student Union operations were in place and did not examine all aspects of the program.
CRITERIA

Our audit was based upon standards as set forth in federal and state regulations and guidance, Trustee policy, Office of the Chancellor directives, and campus and auxiliary procedures, as well as sound administrative practices and consideration of the potential impact of significant risks. This audit was conducted in conformance with the Institute of Internal Auditors’ *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing*.

This review emphasized, but was not limited to, compliance with:

- Government Code §12586 (e)
- Code of Civil Procedures §1510 and §1511
- Education Code §89720
- Education Code §89756
- Education Code §89900
- Education Code §89904
- Corporation Code §5215
- 5 CCR §42401, *Declaration of Policy*
- 5 CCR §42402, *Authority of Campus President*
- 5 CCR §42500, *Functions of Auxiliary Organizations*
- RFIN 7-81-4
- EO 731, *Designation of Chief Financial Officer*
- EO 1000, *Delegation of Fiscal Authority and Responsibility*
- EO 1041, *California State University Student Travel*
- EO 1051, *California State University Use of Approved Waiver of Liability*
- EO 1059, *Utilization of Campus Auxiliary Organizations*
- EO 1069, *Risk Management and Public Safety*
- CSU Auxiliary Organizations Compliance Guide
- CSU Auxiliary Organizations Sound Business Practices Guidelines
- CSU *Conflict of Interest Handbook*
- ICSUAM §1301.00, *Hospitality*
- ICSUAM §13680.00, *Placement and Control of Receipts for Campus Activities and Programs*
- Technical Letter Risk Management 2012-01, *CSU Insurance Requirements*
- OSU *Board of Directors Bylaws*
- OSU Cash Receipts Narrative
- OSU *Conflict of Interest Policy*
- OSU Procurement Policy
- OSU *Hospitality Policy*
- University Corporation, Foundation, and OSU General Cash Disbursement Narrative
- University Corporation Travel Policy
- University Corporation Employee Handbook

AUDIT TEAM

Audit Manager: Christina Chen
Senior Auditor: Chris Fennell