

# *North Carolina Supplemental Retirement Plans*

## **STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT POLICY FOR THE NC 401(k) AND NC 457(b)**

**EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 2, MAY 2017**

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# **I. PURPOSE**

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## **A. PURPOSE OF THE PLANS**

The State of North Carolina has established the North Carolina Supplemental Retirement Plans with the primary purpose of providing state government and local government employers (the “Employer”) with savings plans for employees to help them financially prepare for retirement. This Statement of Investment Policy covers only the North Carolina Public Employee Deferred Compensation Plan (NC 457 Plan) and the North Carolina Supplemental Retirement Income Plan (NC 401(k) Plan). Throughout this document, the NC 457 Plan and the NC 401(k) Plan will be referred to as the “Plans.” The Plans are designed to provide participants with a range of ~~separately managed or pooled~~ investment options that may be offered for investment under the Plans. The Plans are structured such that an investment option may be provided through the use of (1) individual mutual funds, collective trusts, or other commingled funds (“Commingled Funds”); and/or (3) through the use of separate accounts that utilize one or more outside investment managers to manage the assets directed to that option (“Separate Accounts”).

The Plans are governed and overseen by the Department of State Treasurer (the “Department”) and the North Carolina Supplemental Retirement Board of Trustees (the “Board”). The over-riding objective of the Plans is to provide suitable retirement vehicles for the employees of the Employer. ~~The Plans are intended primarily to provide retirement savings for the employees.~~ The Employer Board recognizes the diverse nature of ~~its~~ employees’ savings requirements, return objectives and risk tolerances, and therefore intends to provide a suitable range of investment options through in the Plans which will meet the needs of employees in numerous various life ~~cycle~~ stages and with different retirement savings requirements.

The ~~Supplemental Retirement~~ Plans are managed with the intent~~recognition~~ that they each ~~underlying Plan is intended to~~ (1) meet the applicable requirements of ~~Sections 401(a), 401(k), 457, and 501(a) of~~ the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (“Code”); and (2) to qualify as a participant-directed account under the fiduciary safe harbor in Section 404(c) of the Employee Retirement Income and Security Act of 1974, as amended (“ERISA”), as if the Plans are governed by that provision. Under Section 404(c) of ERISA, plan sponsors and other fiduciaries are relieved of fiduciary responsibility for investment decisions made by participants and beneficiaries if the plan offers individual accounts that permit participants and beneficiaries to exercise control over assets. In general, to qualify for Section 404(c) relief, the plan must offer at least three diversified investment options with at least quarterly liquidity.

~~The Plans provide meaningful and independent participant control. Under the concept of participant control, if participants exercise control over their assets in the Plans, no program fiduciary shall be liable for any loss to the participant’s account that may result from their exercise of that control.~~

## **B. PURPOSE OF THE STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT POLICY**

This Statement of Investment Policy is intended to assist the Board in effectively structuring an appropriate investment menu, including establishing a prudent process for selecting, monitoring

## I. PURPOSE

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and, as necessary, replacing investment options and managers. The purpose of this Statement of Investment Policy is to document the investment objectives and guidelines of the Plans.

These objectives and guidelines have been formulated in response to:

- ~~The desire of the Employer to provide its employees with a supplemental retirement and savings vehicle;~~
- The need to provide a set of policies and guidelines for each investment option to ensure that the Plans' assets are managed in a competent and professional manner
- The need to satisfy the fiduciary obligations of the ~~Supplemental Retirement Board of Trustees ("Board")~~ and, the Department ~~of State Treasurer ("DST")~~ and of the Employer; and
- The need to provide a set of standards for performance evaluation of each investment option.

This Statement of Investment Policy shall be reviewed at least annually by the Department's Investment Management Division ("IMD"), with any recommended modifications made to the Board's Investment Subcommittee and to the full Board. The Board may amend this policy to reflect changes in the capital markets, participants' objectives or demographics, legislative or regulatory changes, or other factors relevant to the Plans.

## II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTICIPANTS

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The Plans are voluntary and ~~or~~ participant-directed. As such, participants bear responsibility for (1) deciding the amount of current compensation to defer into the Plan(s); (2) developing a strategy for the investment of deferrals and Employer contributions, if applicable, in the investment options offered in the Plans; and (3) directing the investment of all funds in their accounts. The appropriate asset mix for a participant is a function of multiple factors, including age, income, length of time before funds are needed, tolerance for volatility risk, accumulation objectives, retirement income replacement objectives and other assets owned. The participant is best positioned to make the individual decision on how to allocate assets among the investment options available.

The specific responsibilities of the Plans' participants ~~include~~ are as the followings:

- Determining an amount to contribute to the Plan(s) within guidelines and Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") limitations.
- Allocating existing account balances, rollover contributions and future contributions (including contributions made on behalf of the participant by the Employer) to the available investment options based on individual circumstances, goals and objectives and risk tolerances.
- Rebalancing account balances to the desired allocation, when necessary, due to market movements and/or account activity or selecting a Fund Allocation Model with automatic rebalancing.
- Reallocating account balances and directing future contributions as personal circumstances, goals and objectives change.

It is the responsibility of the Plans' participants to determine the combination of contribution level and asset allocation that will meet their individual retirement needs. ~~The Employer expects~~ Participants are responsible for ~~to~~ seeking advice from personal advisors, as each participant deems necessary.

Participants may elect the GoalMaker asset allocation service through Prudential as recordkeeper at no additional cost. GoalMaker provides a model portfolio and asset allocation utilizing the investment options available in the Plans based on a participant's years to retirement and risk-tolerance level.

### III. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

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The fiduciaries of the Plan(s) will act in the sole interest of the Plans' participants and beneficiaries, and for the exclusive purpose of providing benefits to participants and beneficiaries and ~~for~~ defraying the reasonable expenses of administering the Plans. Those fiduciaries exercising investment authority will act as prudent investors as defined by the North Carolina Uniform Prudent Investor Act. Fiduciaries must comply with the provisions of this Statement of Investment Policy.

The specific responsibilities of the parties are detailed below.

#### A. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board has the final responsibility for approving this Statement of Investment Policy and monitoring the execution of the procedures, standards, goals and guidelines set forth in this policy. Specific responsibilities of the Board include:

##### 1. Planning

- Approve the types of investment options offered within the Plans so as to provide a broad range of options along the risk/return spectrum;
- Approve the appointment and removal of investment managers, including any delegated glidepath providers;
- Approve the appointment and removal of an investment consultant(s), as necessary or appropriate, (1) to render advice on the investment program, the selection of investment funds and managers, the evaluation of investment performance, funds and managers; and (2) to perform other duties, as appropriate;
- Approve investment performance objectives for each investment option and manager;
- Monitor, or cause to be monitored, the investment performance of the Plans' investment options and managers;
- Approve the appropriate investment structure for each option, taking into consideration the performance, risk and cost of each potential structure; and
- Approve a glidepath.

##### 2. Operations

- Approve the appointment and removal of the recordkeeper, custodian or other major service providers.
- Delegate responsibilities to the Department of State Treasurer, as appropriate;
- Delegate administrative duties, as appropriate, to the recordkeeper, custodian or other service providers;
- Approve and monitor participant communications plans and strategies, e.g., the general investment characteristics of each investment option to participants, including risk considerations. The Employer and the selected plan providers will supply information regarding the investment options and basic principles of investing to participants to help address the factors affecting asset allocation. However, the dissemination of information

### III. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

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and the provision of investment options by the Plans do not constitute investment advice to participants.

#### 3. Control

- Review and evaluate results of the investment options against established performance standards;
- Review and evaluate the results of individual investment managers against established performance standards or other established guidelines;
- Take whatever corrective action is deemed prudent and appropriate when an investment option or investment manager fails to perform against established policy objectives, guidelines and standards. The Board will also monitor the soundness of the investment managers which are retained by the Plans and their investment processes and will take corrective action, if necessary;
- Monitor the Plans' costs and the effectiveness of operations.

#### B. INVESTMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

With respect to management of the investments of the Plans, the oversight responsibility of the Board may be delegated to an Investment Subcommittee of the Board. The Investment Subcommittee does not have final discretion to approve relevant items. The Investment Subcommittee is expected to make recommendations for the Board's approval. Following final approval, the Investment Subcommittee may be given the authority to implement all matters relevant to the Board's decision. The Investment Subcommittee must be comprised of Board of Trustees members nominated by the Board Chair and ratified by the Board. The responsibilities of the Investment Subcommittee may include the following:

- Make recommendations regarding investment options and the selection of qualified investment managers which fulfill the criteria of the identified asset class;
- Monitor investment results of each investment option and manager in the Plans by means of regular review and analyses to determine whether those responsible for investment results are meeting guidelines and criteria;
- Recommend appropriate action to the Board if objectives are not being met or if policies and guidelines are not being followed;
- Review this Statement of Investment Policy and recommend modifications to it, as needed;
- Recommend a rebalancing policy to the Board for approval; and
- Recommend a glidepath.

#### C. INVESTMENT MANAGER

The Board will hire, or cause to be hired, individual investment managers (or sub-advisors) to execute the various investment mandates described in this document. The investment managers have responsibility for implementing and monitoring the procedures, standards, goals, and

### III. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

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guidelines prescribed to them by the Board through this document and the agreement between the investor and investment manager, commonly referred to as the investment management agreement (IMA). Specific responsibilities of the investment managers include:

- Accept investment discretion for the Plans' assets as directed by the Board or its designee, and invest according to the stated investment philosophy and strategy as dictated in: A) the Commingled Fund's mutual fund prospectus or other guidelines; or B) the investment guidelines agreed upon with each manager of individual assets;
- Issue prospectuses, quarterly and annual reports and other pertinent information regarding the Plans' assets under their management on a timely basis to the Board and/or its designees;
- Meet as required with the Board and/or its designees to review portfolio and investment results;
- Notify the Board and/or its designees in advance of potential material changes in fund, strategy and firm operation under consideration or about to be implemented. This includes organizational, personnel or strategy changes that may impact asset management;
- Provide the Board and/or its designees with a monthly or quarterly accounting of assets as requested by the Board or designee;
- Monitor compliance with laws, regulations, and contractual terms, including investment guidelines, and promptly report any violations thereof and proposed resolution plans to designated representatives of the Department and Investment Consultant; and
- Issue detailed quarterly reporting to the Board and/or its designees (including the investment consultant), which includes the following information:
  - The market value of account assets as of the last business day of each quarter;
  - Time-weighted rates of return measured net of investment management fees and all expenses or gross of fees (as appropriate) for the current quarter, year-to-date and historical time periods, including returns since inception, compared to appropriate benchmarks;
  - ~~Average account characteristics and number of holdings as of the last business day of each quarter;~~
  - ~~Expenses;~~
  - Current investment strategy;
  - Changes implemented over the prior quarter;
  - Personnel changes and other material organizational events;
  - Other items that may be requested from time-to-time by the Board and/or its designees.

### D. RECORDKEEPER



### III. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

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The recordkeeper has been delegated by the Board the responsibility for maintaining participant accounts and facilitating participant actions. In addition, the recordkeeper has the following responsibilities:

- Enroll participants;
- Execute the Plans' participant communication activities;
- Allocate and transfer the Plans' assets among permitted investment options as directed by the Board or the participants of the underlying Plan(s) through the Plan's custodian;
- Make payments from the Plans to such participants or beneficiaries of the Plans as directed and as permitted by the Plans' documents;
- Provide a written accounting of all investments and all receipts, disbursements, income, expenses, and other transactions of the Plans at month end; and
- Reconcile account balances with custodian.

#### E. CUSTODIAN

The duties of the custodian include the following:

- Provide custody and safekeeping of the Plans' assets;
- Allocate and transfer the Plans' assets among permitted investment options as directed by the Board, Departmental staff or the participants of the underlying Plans;
- Allocate and transfer assets among investment managers within the Plans' investment options as directed by the Board or its designee;
- Provide a monthly report detailing the allocation of all of the Plans' assets among the investment options and investment managers;
- Provide a written accounting of all investments and all receipts, disbursements, income, expenses, and other transactions of the Plans at month end;
- Reconcile asset account balances with the recordkeeper;
- Reconcile asset account positions with investment managers;
- Produce manager compliance reports for Departmental staff;
- Provide calculation of an accurate and timely daily NAV; and
- Provide calculation and timely provision of accurate performance data.

#### F. INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT DIVISION STAFF ~~AND INVESTMENT CONSULTANT~~

The duties of the Investment Management Division ("IMD") staff, working with the assistance of an Investment Consultant, include:

- Regularly monitor the adherence of investment options and investment managers to stated investment policies, objectives and guidelines; identify any material deviations from

### III. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

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- stated investment policies, objectives and/or guidelines; coordinate the resolution of compliance issues with investment managers and the Investment Consultant, if necessary;
- Provide recommendations to the Board on hiring, terminating, or placing on watch an investment manager~~replacements~~, either as requested by the Board or on their own initiative;
  - Review the rebalancing of investment managers within fund options as needed;
  - Provide recommendations to the Board on the structure or number of investment options;
  - Review investment managers' guidelines and recommend changes as necessary;
  - ~~▪ Issue a quarterly report to the Board and/or its designees which includes the following information:~~
    - ~~▪ The market value of Plan assets as of the last business day of the most recent calendar quarter;~~
    - ~~▪ The portion of Plan assets allocated to each investment option as of the last business day of the most recent calendar quarter;~~
    - ~~▪ Time-weighted rates of return and risk for all options measured net of investment management fees and all expenses or gross (as appropriate) relative to a peer group universe and a market benchmark for the most recent calendar quarter, year-to-date and historical time periods since inception;~~
    - ~~▪ Time-weighted rates of return and risk for all Investment Managers in pooled investment options measured gross of investment management fees relative to a peer group universe and a market benchmark for the most recent calendar quarter, year-to-date and historical time periods including since inception returns;~~
    - ~~▪ Portfolio characteristics (such as sector allocation, market capitalization, valuation ratios, credit quality, etc.) as appropriate for each Investment Option and Investment Manager relative to the appropriate benchmark as of the last business day of the most recent calendar quarter;~~
    - ~~▪ A summary of the economic and market environment;~~
  - Meet periodically with the Board and/or its designees to review performance of the investment options within the context of this Statement of Investment Policy;
  - Review at least annually this Statement of Investment Policy and recommend modifications to the Board and/or its designees as appropriate;
  - Notify the Board and/or its designees of any organizational or strategy changes to the investment funds and investment managers and the underlying reasons;
  - Keep the Board and/or its designees informed about current investment trends and issues;
  - Perform due diligence on investment managers and contribute to the negotiation of investment management agreements;
  - Provide backup management and oversight of the custodian;
  - Recommend a glidepath to the Board and review the glidepath and oversee rebalancing as necessary;

### III. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

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- Review the derivatives holdings in each Separate Account on a quarterly basis and provide a written report to the Board, the Investment Subcommittee, and/or its designees regarding the derivatives holdings and their potential impact on the Plans given a worst case scenario; and
- Oversee and manage the Investment Consultant relationship in order to ensure the duties assigned through this Statement of Investment Policy are performed cost-effectively and consistent with industry standards.

#### G. INVESTMENT CONSULTANT

The duties of the investment consultant include:

- Provide recommendations to the Board on hiring, terminating, or placing on watch an investment manager, either as requested by the Board or on its own initiative;
- Provide recommendations to the Board on the structure or number of investment options;
- Review investment managers' guidelines and recommend changes as necessary;
- Perform due diligence on investment managers;
- Review the rebalancing of investment managers within fund options as needed;
- Notify the Board and/or its designees of any organizational or strategy changes to the investment funds and investment managers and the underlying reasons;
- Keep the Board and/or its designees informed about current investment trends and issues; and
- Issue a quarterly report to the Board, the Investment Subcommittee, and/or its designees that includes the following information:
  - The market value of the Plans' assets as of the last business day of the most recent calendar quarter;
  - The portion of Plans' assets allocated to each investment option as of the last business day of the most recent calendar quarter;
  - Time-weighted rates of return and risk for all options measured net of investment management fees and all expenses or gross (as appropriate) relative to a peer group universe and a market benchmark for the most recent calendar quarter, year-to-date and historical time periods since inception;
  - Time-weighted rates of return and risk for all investment managers in pooled investment options measured gross of investment management fees relative to a peer group universe and a market benchmark for the most recent calendar quarter, year-to-date and historical time periods including since inception returns;
  - Portfolio characteristics (such as sector allocation, market capitalization, valuation ratios, credit quality) as appropriate for each investment option and investment manager relative to the appropriate benchmark as of the last business day of the most recent calendar quarter;

### **III. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES**

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- A summary of the economic and market environment;

#### **H. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS DIVISION STAFF**

The duties of the Department's Retirement Systems Division staff include:

- Coordinate presentations of IMD staff and the Investment Consultant to the Board and Investment Subcommittee;
- Coordinate activities of the IMD staff in the fulfillment of duties as assigned by the Board;
- Contribute to the drafting and review of contracts and Investment Management Agreements;
- Execute contracts at the Board's direction;
- Oversee the day-to-day activities of the recordkeeper and custodian;
- Liaise with the Department's Financial Operations Division for purposes of financial reporting and audits; and
- Facilitate the presentation of information to the Board.

## IV. PLAN STRUCTURE

The Plans will ~~consist of~~offer an array of investment options, each with different risk and return characteristics, which will enable a participant to construct a portfolio that, in the aggregate, should meet his/her own individually desired risk and return characteristics and investment goals through separate, diversified investment options.

The following investment options, having the general investment characteristics outlined below, are authorized to be offered within the Plan:

Asset Class	Fund	Objective
Principal Preservation	Stable Value Fund	preservation of principal and stable income
Fixed Income	NC Fixed Income Index Fund	track the performance of the Bloomberg Barclays Capital US Aggregate Bond Index
	NC Fixed Income Fund	moderate principal growth with low risk of principal loss through investment in a diversified portfolio of bonds
Inflation Sensitive	NC Inflation Responsive Fund	provide participants of the Plan with an actively managed option focused on providing exposure to various asset classes which show a correlation or sensitivity to inflation over various market environments
Large Cap US Equity	NC Large Cap Index Fund	track the performance of the Standard & Poor's 500 Index
	NC Large Cap <del>Value</del> <u>Core</u> Fund	<u>long-term capital appreciation of larger capitalization stocks while pursuing both value and growth investment styles long-term growth of capital utilizing a diversified portfolio of large companies which are deemed to have prices that do not reflect the company's asset values or current earnings ability and are thus undervalued</u>
	<del>Large Cap Growth</del> Fund	<u>long-term growth of capital utilizing a diversified portfolio of large companies with significant earnings growth potential</u>
Small/Mid Cap US Equity	NC Small/Mid Cap Index Fund	track the performance of the Russell 2500 Index of smaller capitalization stocks
	NC Small/Mid Cap <del>Core</del> <u>Value</u> Fund	<u>long-term capital appreciation of smaller capitalization stocks while pursuing both value and growth investment styles long-term growth of capital utilizing a diversified portfolio of mid- and small capitalization companies which are deemed to have prices that do not reflect</u>

## IV. PLAN STRUCTURE

		<del>the company's asset value or current earnings ability and are thus undervalued</del>
	<del>Small/Mid-Cap Growth Fund</del>	<del>long-term growth of capital utilizing a diversified portfolio of mid- and small-capitalization companies with above average earnings growth potential</del>
International Equity	NC International Index Fund	track the performance of the MSCI ACWI ex-US Index
	NC International Fund	long-term growth of capital utilizing a diversified portfolio of companies located outside the United States
Global Equity	NC Global Equity Fund	growth of capital through investments in listed equities of companies, without geographic limitation

Additionally, the Plans are authorized to provide at least three Model Allocation options that reasonably span the risk/return spectrum. These investment options are more fully described in Section VII and are provided for participants that desire a professionally constructed asset/fund allocation. The Board will periodically review the investment needs of the participants of the Plan(s) to determine if these options should be modified, some options eliminated, or additional options added to the Plans.

### Default Investment Option

The Plans provides for a Default Investment Option when a plan participant has not made an affirmative investment election. The Board has chosen the Moderate Allocation Model with an assumed target retirement age of ~~62~~5 as the default investment option. The Board shall monitor the investment option in accordance with the investment guidelines and criteria section of this policy.

### Investment Manager Selection

The Board will approve investment managers for the Plans' assets consistent with the requirements of the mandate for the applicable option described in Section V. The Board will take into consideration:

- Firm Stability
- Investment Team and Process
- Realized and Prospective Performance
- Fees and Expenses

#### **IV. PLAN STRUCTURE**

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Investment options may be implemented through either a single investment manager or through multiple investment managers. This arrangement permits the creation of an investment program that provides diversification across multiple best-in-class investment managers where appropriate.

Each investment option will have a target allocation to each underlying investment manager within that option and an allowable range around that target allocation. These targets and ranges are specified for each option in Appendix B to this document. The allocation of assets between multiple investment managers in each option will be monitored by the custodian. Periodic cash flows into or out of an option may be utilized to move the allocation between investment managers back toward the target for that option. On a quarterly basis the allocation between investment managers will be reviewed and rebalanced if necessary.

## V. INVESTMENT OPTION OBJECTIVES

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### NC Stable Value Fund

The NC Stable Value Fund is intended to be the lowest risk investment option offered in the Plans. It will be invested primarily in investment contracts with insurance companies and other financial institutions that are backed by fixed income securities. These investment contracts will credit investor's principal accounts with a stable rate of interest.

#### Investment Objective

The primary objective of the NC Stable Value Fund is the preservation of principal. In addition, the stable value fund seeks to provide a credited rate of interest while providing book value liquidity for participant directed transactions.

#### Investment Management

The option's assets will be invested primarily in fixed income securities wrapped by investment contracts to provide book value liquidity.

#### Performance Objectives

The performance of the portfolio is expected to outperform the 3-Year Constant Maturity Treasury (CMT) yield over a full interest/market cycle on a net of fee basis. Performance will be further evaluated against ~~be competitive with~~ the 91-Day Treasury Bill Index plus 1.50% on a net of fee basis over an interest rate cycle, over rolling three year periods and outperform over rolling 5 year periods. Performance should be competitive with the median of a universe of stable value funds over three-year periods and outperform over five-year periods.

### NC Fixed Income Fund

The NC Fixed Income Fund was established to provide participants of the Plan with an actively managed fixed income option that is intended to provide exposure to the broad domestic fixed income market.

#### Investment Objective

The primary investment objective of the NC Fixed Income Fund is to provide investment growth through interest income with the potential for low to moderate capital appreciation and low volatility. The option will be actively managed to enhance returns.

#### Investment Management

The Board recognizes that no investment manager is able to provide consistently superior returns in all time periods. Therefore, the Board has determined that multiple investment managers will be retained to manage portions of the option's assets. This will provide diversification for the option by investment organization. A table of the current investment managers for this option, their target allocations and the allocation range for each manager is shown in Appendix B.

#### Performance Objectives

The fund seeks to:



## V. INVESTMENT OPTION OBJECTIVES

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- Provide a rate of return that exceeds that generated by the Bloomberg Barclays Capital Aggregate Index over rolling five-year periods. The option's returns should remain competitive with the Bloomberg Barclays Capital Aggregate Index returns over rolling three-year periods.
- Provide a rate of return that places above the median manager in a universe of U.S. core bond or core plus (as appropriate) fixed income managers over rolling five-year periods. The option's returns should remain competitive with the universe over shorter, rolling three-year periods.
- Maintain a risk level, as measured by the standard deviation of quarterly returns, which does not exceed 150% of the risk of the Bloomberg Barclays Capital Aggregate Index over rolling five-year periods.

### **NC Fixed Income Index Fund**

The NC Fixed Income Index Fund is intended to provide passive exposure to the broad domestic fixed income market.

#### **Investment Objective**

The primary investment objective of the Fixed Income Index Fund is to provide a low cost passive bond investment option that will provide exposure to the income and capital appreciation of the US bond market.

#### **Investment Management**

The Board has determined that this option will be managed by a single investment manager.

#### **Performance Objectives**

The option should provide a return that closely tracks that of the Bloomberg Barclays Capital US Aggregate Bond Index. The tracking error to this objective should be less than 0.25% annually gross of fees.

### **NC Inflation Responsive Fund**

The NC Inflation Responsive Fund was established to provide participants of the Plan with an actively managed option focused on providing exposure to various asset classes which show a correlation or sensitivity to inflation over various market environments.

#### **Investment Objective**

This fund seeks to provide participants with protection from rising inflation by investing in several asset classes that are expected to be positively correlated to the Consumer Price Index ("CPI"), especially during periods when the CPI is increasing. Since the Consumer Price Index is not an investible index the strategy will not keep up with inflation in all markets and may expose investors to negative returns. Based on the belief that no single asset class provides the highest correlation with CPI during all market conditions, the management team will allocate assets among several asset classes based on their evaluation of market conditions including expected

## V. INVESTMENT OPTION OBJECTIVES

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sources of inflation. The asset classes in which the fund will invest include but are not limited to TIPS and other inflation-sensitive bonds, emerging market currencies, real estate investment trusts, commodities, and gold.

### Investment Management

One manager has been selected for the management of this fund. The manager selected is responsible for the asset allocation of the fund across multiple asset classes as well as the management decisions within the underlying asset classes. A table of the current investment manager for this option, their target allocations and the allocation range for each manager is shown in Appendix B. This strategy may utilize sophisticated investment techniques, including the use of derivatives, short sales, and forward settling security transactions to adjust the portfolio's positioning.

### Performance Objectives

The fund seeks to:

- Provide a rate of return that exceeds that generated by the PIMCO Inflation Response Index\* and track CPI over rolling five-year periods. The option's returns should remain competitive with the Inflation Response Index returns over rolling three-year periods.
- Maintain a risk level, as measured by the standard deviation of monthly returns, which does not exceed 150% of the risk of the Inflation Response Index over rolling five-year periods.

*\* The PIMCO Inflation Response Index is a composite index of five real return asset classes: TIPS, represented by Bloomberg Barclays Capital U.S. TIPS Index; Commodities, represented by DJ-UBS Commodity TR Index; REITs, represented by Dow Jones U.S. Select REIT Index; Emerging Market Currencies, represented by JPM Emerging Local Market ELMI Plus Index; and Gold, represented by DJ-UBS Gold TR Index. The five asset classes have the following weights, to which the index rebalances at the beginning of every month: TIPS - 45%, Commodities - 20%, REITs - 10%, Emerging Market Currencies - 15% and Gold - 10%. The index was designed by PIMCO to represent a diversified basket of asset classes that they have judged to serve either as an explicit or as an implicit inflation hedge.*

### ~~Large Cap Value Fund~~

~~The Large Cap Value Fund was established to provide participants of the Plan with an actively managed equity option targeted at the large cap sector of the U.S. equity market and managed in a value style.~~

### ~~Investment Objective~~

~~The primary objective of the Large Cap Value Fund is long term growth of capital utilizing a diversified portfolio of large company stocks which are deemed to have stock prices that do not reflect the company's asset value or current earnings ability and are thus undervalued.~~

## V. INVESTMENT OPTION OBJECTIVES

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### **Investment Management**

The Board recognizes that no investment manager is able to provide consistently superior returns in all time periods. Therefore, the Board has determined that multiple investment managers will be retained to manage portions of the option's assets. This will provide diversification for the Option by investment organization. A table of the current investment managers for this Option, their target allocations and the allocation range for each manager is shown in Appendix B.

## V. INVESTMENT OPTION OBJECTIVES

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### **Performance Objectives**

~~Provide a rate of return that exceeds that generated by the Russell 1000 Value Index over rolling five-year periods. The Option's returns should remain competitive with the Russell 1000 Value Index returns over rolling three-year periods.~~

~~———— Provide a rate of return that places above the median manager in a universe of U.S. large cap value equity managers over rolling five-year periods. The Option's returns should remain competitive with the universe over shorter, rolling three-year periods.~~

~~Maintain a risk level, as measured by the standard deviation of monthly returns, which does not exceed 150% of the risk of the Russell 1000 Value Index over rolling five-year periods.~~

### **NC Large Cap Core Fund**

The NC Large Cap Core Fund was established to provide participants with a primarily active managed equity option targeted at the large cap sector of the U.S. equity market managed in both value and growth styles.

### **Investment Objective**

———— The primary investment objective of the NC Large Cap Core Fund is long-term capital appreciation while pursuing both value and growth investment styles. The value portion of the fund will invest in equity securities of large-cap companies that are selling at discounts to their long-term intrinsic values. The growth portion of the fund will invest in large cap companies that offer the potential for above average earnings growth.

### **Investment Management**

The Board recognizes that no investment manager is able to provide consistently superior returns in all time periods. Therefore, the Board has determined that multiple investment managers will be retained to manage portions of the option's assets. This will provide diversification for the option by investment organization. A table of the current investment managers for this option, their target allocations and the allocation range for each manager is shown in Appendix B.

### **Performance Objectives**

The fund seeks to:

- Provide a rate of return that exceeds that generated by the Russell 1000 Index over rolling five-year periods. The portfolio's returns should remain competitive with the Russell 1000 Index returns over rolling three-year periods.
- Provide a rate of return that places above the median manager in a universe of U.S. Large Cap Core Equity manager over rolling five-year periods. The portfolio's returns should remain competitive with the universe over shorter, rolling three-year periods.
- Maintain a risk level, as measured by the standard deviation of quarterly returns, which does not exceed 150% of the risk of the Russell 1000 Index over rolling five-year periods.

## V. INVESTMENT OPTION OBJECTIVES

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### **Large Cap Growth Fund**

~~———— The Large Cap Growth Fund was established to provide participants of the Plan with an actively managed equity option targeted at the large cap sector of the U.S. equity market and managed in a growth style.~~

#### **Investment Objective**

~~———— The primary objective of the Large Cap Growth Fund is long term growth of capital utilizing a diversified portfolio invested in stocks of large companies with significant earnings growth potential.~~

#### **Investment Management**

~~———— The Board recognizes that no investment manager is able to provide consistently superior returns in all time periods. Therefore, the Board has determined that multiple investment managers will be retained to manage portions of the Option's assets. This will provide diversification for the Option by investment organization. A table of the current sub-advisors for this Option, their target allocations and the allocation range for each manager is shown in Appendix B.~~

#### **Performance Objectives**

~~———— Provide a rate of return that exceeds that generated by the Russell 1000 Growth Index over rolling five year periods. The portfolio's returns should remain competitive with the Russell 1000 Growth Index returns over rolling three year periods.~~

~~———— Provide a rate of return that places above the median manager in a universe of U.S. large cap growth equity managers over rolling five year periods. The portfolio's returns should remain competitive with the universe over shorter, rolling three year periods.~~

~~———— Maintain a risk level, as measured by the standard deviation of quarterly returns, which does not exceed 150% of the risk of the Russell 1000 Growth Index over rolling five year periods.~~

## V. INVESTMENT OPTION OBJECTIVES

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### NC Large Cap Index Fund

The objective of the NC Large Cap Index Fund is to provide an equity option that will match the return of U.S. large cap stocks. The option will be invested in large cap stocks contained in the S&P 500 Index. This option's goal is long term capital growth through a combination of reinvested dividend income and capital appreciation.

#### Investment Management

The Board has determined that this option will be managed by a single investment manager.

#### Performance Standards

The option should provide a rate of return that equals (gross of fees) the S&P 500 Index over rolling one-, three- and five-year periods. The tracking error of the option should not exceed 20 basis points on an annual basis.

### ~~Small/Mid Cap Value Fund~~

~~The Small/Mid Cap Value Option was established to provide participants of the Plans with an actively managed equity option targeted at the mid and small cap sectors of the U.S. equity market. The option is intended to have a value bias of investment management.~~

#### ~~Investment Objective~~

~~The primary objective of the Small/Mid Cap Value Fund is long term growth of capital through investment in a portfolio of small to mid-sized companies which are deemed to have stock prices that do not reflect the company's asset value or current earnings ability and are thus undervalued.~~

#### ~~Investment Management~~

~~The Board recognizes that no investment manager is able to provide consistently superior returns in all time periods. Therefore, the Board has determined that multiple investment managers will be retained to manage portions of the option's assets. This will provide diversification for the option by investment organization. A table of the current sub-advisors for this option, their target allocations and the allocation range for each sub-advisor is shown in Appendix B.~~

#### ~~Performance Objectives~~

~~Provide a rate of return that exceeds that of the Russell 2500 Value Index over rolling five year periods. The Option's returns should remain competitive with the index returns over rolling three year periods.~~

~~Provide a rate of return that exceeds the median in a mid / small cap U.S. equity peer group universe over rolling five year periods. The Option's returns should remain competitive with the universe over rolling three year periods.~~

~~Maintain a risk level, as measured by the standard deviation of quarterly returns, which does not exceed 150% of the risk of the Russell 2500 Value Index over rolling five year periods.~~

## V. INVESTMENT OPTION OBJECTIVES

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### ~~Small/Mid Cap Growth Fund~~

~~The Small/Mid Cap Growth Fund was established to provide participants of the Plans with an actively managed equity option targeted at the mid and small cap sectors of the U.S. equity market. The Option is intended to have a growth bias of investment management.~~

#### ~~Investment Objective~~

~~The primary objective of the Small/Mid Cap Growth Fund is long term growth of capital utilizing a diversified portfolio invested in stocks of mid and small capitalization companies with above average earnings growth potential.~~

#### ~~Investment Management~~

~~The Board recognizes that no investment manager is able to provide consistently superior returns in all time periods. Therefore, the Board has determined that multiple sub advisors will be retained to manage portions of the Option's assets. This will provide diversification for the Option by investment organization. A table of the current sub advisors for this Option, their target allocations and the allocation range for each manager is shown in Appendix B.~~

#### ~~Performance Objectives~~

~~Provide a rate of return that exceeds that of the Russell 2500 Growth Index over rolling five year periods. The Option's returns should remain competitive with the index returns over rolling three year periods.~~

~~Provide a rate of return that exceeds the median in a mid / small cap U.S. equity peer group universe over rolling five year periods. The Option's returns should remain competitive with the universe over rolling three year periods.~~

~~Maintain a risk level, as measured by the standard deviation of quarterly returns, which does not exceed 150% of the risk of the Russell 2500 Growth Index over rolling five year periods.~~

### NC Small/Mid Cap Core Fund

The NC Small / Mid Cap Core Fund was established to provide participants with a primarily active managed equity option targeted at the Small / Mid Cap sector of the U.S. equity market managed in both value and growth styles.

#### Investment Objective

The primary investment objective of the NC Small / Mid Cap Core Fund is long-term capital appreciation while pursuing both value and growth investment styles. The value portion of the fund will invest in equity securities of small / mid cap companies that are selling at discounts to their long-term intrinsic values. The growth portion of the fund will invest in small / mid cap companies that offer the potential for above average earnings growth.

#### Investment Management

The Board recognizes that no investment manager is able to provide consistently superior returns in all time periods. Therefore, the Board has determined that multiple investment managers will

## V. INVESTMENT OPTION OBJECTIVES

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be retained to manage portions of the option's assets. This will provide diversification for the option by investment organization. A table of the current investment managers for this option, their target allocations and the allocation range for each manager is shown in Appendix B.

### **Performance Objectives**

The fund seeks to:

- Provide a rate of return that exceeds that generated by the Russel 2500 Index over rolling five-year periods. The portfolio's returns should remain competitive with the Russell 2500 Index returns over rolling three-year periods.
- Provide a rate of return that places above the median manager in a universe of U.S. Small / Mid Cap Core Equity managers over rolling five-year periods. The portfolio's returns should remain competitive with the universe over shorter, rolling three-year periods.
- Maintain a risk level, as measured by the standard deviation of quarterly returns, which does not exceed 150% of the risk of the Russell 2500 Index over rolling five-year periods.

### **NC Small/Mid Cap Index Fund**

The objective of the NC Small / Mid Cap Index Fund is to provide an equity option that will match the return of the small and middle capitalization portions of the U.S. stock market. The option will be invested in mid- and small-cap stocks contained in the Russell 2500 Index. This option's goal is long-term capital growth through a combination of dividend income and capital appreciation.

#### **Investment Management**

The Board has determined that this option will be managed by a single investment manager.

#### **Performance Standards**

The option should provide a rate of return that equals (gross of fees) the Russell 2500 Index over rolling one-, three- and five-year periods. The tracking error of the option should not exceed 20 basis points on an annual basis.

### **NC International Fund**

The NC International Fund was established to provide participants of the Plans with an actively managed equity option that will invest in non-U.S. equity markets.

#### **Investment Objective**

The primary objective of the International Fund is long-term growth of capital utilizing a diversified portfolio invested in stocks of companies located outside the United States.

#### **Permissible Non-Equity Investments**



## **V. INVESTMENT OPTION OBJECTIVES**

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The option's investment managers may utilize hedging instruments, such as forward currency contracts or options, to reduce the exposure of their non-U.S. investments to fluctuations in the currency markets.

### **Investment Management**

The Board recognizes that no investment manager is able to provide consistently superior returns in all time periods. Therefore, the Board has determined that multiple investment managers will be retained to manage portions of the option's assets. This will provide diversification for the option by investment organization. A table of the current investment managers for this option, their target allocations and the allocation range for each manager is shown in Appendix B.

### **Performance Objectives**

Provide a rate of return that exceeds the MSCI All Country World (ACWI) ex U.S. Index over rolling five-year periods. The option's returns should remain competitive with the index returns over rolling three-year periods.

Provide a rate of return that places above the median of a non-U.S. equity peer group universe over rolling five-year periods. The option's returns should remain competitive with the universe median returns over rolling three-year periods.

Maintain a risk level, as measured by the standard deviation of quarterly returns, which does not exceed 125% of the risk of the ACWI ex U.S. over rolling five-year periods.

### **NC International Index Fund**

The objective of the NC International Index Fund is to provide an equity option that will match the return of the international stock market. The option will be invested in the stocks contained in the MSCI All Country World ex U.S. Index. This option's goal is long-term capital growth through a combination of dividend income and capital appreciation.

### **Investment Management**

The Board has determined that this option will be managed by a single investment manager.

### **Performance Standards**

The option should provide a rate of return that equals (gross of fees) the MSCI ACWI ex U.S. Index over rolling one-, three- and five-year periods. The tracking error of the option should not exceed 30 basis points on an annual basis.

### **NC Global Equity Fund**

The NC Global Equity Fund was established to provide participants of the Plans with an active equity investment option that invests in stocks of companies without any geographic limitation. The option will invest in both US and non-U.S. equity markets. The manager is expected to seek to outperform the broad global equity market through stock selection as well as sector and country/region selection

## **V. INVESTMENT OPTION OBJECTIVES**

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### **Investment Objective**

The primary objective of the option is to outperform global equity markets over the long term on a risk adjusted basis through a diversified portfolio of global equity securities.

### **Investment Management**

The Board recognizes that no investment manager is able to provide consistently superior returns in all time periods. Therefore, the Board has determined that multiple investment managers will be retained to manage portions of the option's assets. This will provide diversification for the option by investment organization. A table of the current investment managers for this option, their target allocations and the allocation range for each manager is shown in Appendix B.

### **Performance Objectives**

Provide a rate of return that exceeds the MSCI All Country World Index (ACWI) over rolling five-year periods. Performance over rolling three-year periods should remain competitive versus the MSCI ACWI.

Provide a rate of return that places above the median of a global equity peer group universe over rolling five-year periods. The option's returns should remain competitive with the universe median returns over rolling three-year periods.

Maintain a risk level, as measured by the standard deviation of quarterly returns, which does not exceed 125% of the risk of the MSCI ACWI over rolling five-year periods.

## VI. GENERAL INVESTMENT MANAGER GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA

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### A. Introduction

~~The North Carolina Supplemental Retirement Plans were established to provide a savings vehicle to assist employees as they prepare for retirement. The Plans pool their assets for investment purposes in the Supplemental Retirement Plans Group Trust (the "Trust"). Within the Trust, m~~Multiple investment managers are utilized to manage portions of the Plans' assets. Each investment manager is retained with a specific mandate for the assets under its management. This section of the Statement of Investment Policy outlines the investment objectives and associated guidelines and criteria that are applicable to all investment managers employed by the Board.

### B. Overall Objectives and Structure

All assets will be managed for the sole benefit of the participants and their beneficiaries and for the exclusive purpose of providing benefits to participants and beneficiaries and defraying the reasonable expenses of administering the Plans.

### C. Objectives and Guidelines for All Plan Investment Managers

- 1) Investment Objective. Specific investment objectives and guidelines are outlined in each investment manager's legal contract. Each investment manager has been retained to manage a portfolio with a specific investment mandate. Therefore, it is imperative that each investment manager restricts its investment activities to its assigned mandate. Investment managers are expected to remain fully invested consistent with their assigned mandates at all times.
- 2) Liquidity. Investment managers are expected to maintain liquid investment profiles. The Board or its designee may have need from time to time to draw on a portion of any investment manager's portfolio assets to meet participants' disbursement requests. When such situations arise, the investment manager will be notified, prior to the withdrawal of funds from the portfolio, of the amount and timing of the withdrawal.
- 3) General Account Diversification. All investment accounts managed for the Plans must maintain sufficient diversification among security issuers and market sectors such that the performance of one security or sector will not have an excessive impact on the manager's portfolio.
- 4) Performance Guidelines. The performance of each portfolio will be reviewed quarterly by the Board. Each mandate will be assigned specific target benchmarks and/or peer group universes against which the performance of individual portfolios will be measured. The following are the general performance objectives that each portfolio should meet:
  - (a) *Outperformance of Assigned Benchmark:* Investment managers will be assigned a specific benchmark by mandate against which the performance of their portfolio(s) will be measured. Performance will be compared to the assigned benchmark over rolling three- and five-year periods. Outperformance,

## VI. GENERAL INVESTMENT MANAGER GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA

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after deduction of investment management fees, of the assigned benchmark over a full market cycle is expected.

- (b) *Peer Group Universe Comparison:* Investment managers will be informed of the peer group universe against which their performance will be compared. Investment managers are expected to place above the median of their assigned peer group over rolling three- and five-year periods.
- (c) In assessing an investment manager's performance relative to the assigned benchmark and peer group universe, the Board will consider risk adjusted performance as well as absolute and relative returns.

### 5) Asset Restrictions/Exclusions

The Board requires that all investment managers of Separate Accounts comply with the following limitations and restrictions on their investment activities and holdings, unless specifically negotiated otherwise. ~~In addition, these guidelines apply to separately managed accounts. Departmental staff will review the guidelines of Mutual funds and Commingled Funds; however, but ultimately dictate the guidelines for Commingled Funds those investments will control over the provisions of this section.~~

- (a) Securities issued by, or obligations of, the investment manager or any affiliate shall not be held in the account of any investment manager.

(b) Leverage, short sales, and margin purchases are prohibited except where specifically permitted in this Statement of Investment Policy or by the Board.

(c) Derivative securities are prohibited except where specifically permitted in each mandate. Specific mandates may be permitted to make use of derivatives consistent with the overall investment guidelines and objectives of that mandate. Where derivative securities are permitted, they may not be used for speculation or to establish a leveraged account without explicit permission from the Board.

~~(b)~~(d) Investments in commercial paper or other similar securities intended as cash equivalents shall be made only if such paper is rated at least A1/P1 by Standard and Poor's, Moody's or Fitch, respectively, and has a maturity of less than one year or a commingled money market fund offered by the custodian bank is used which meets these standards. Commercial paper rated below A1/P1 by any of the three rating agencies is not permitted.

~~(e)~~(e) Investment managers may utilize exchange traded funds ("ETF's") representing their primary assigned benchmark in lieu of cash. Any ETF holdings will be considered part of the manager's allocation to cash and be subject to the cash allocation limits.

### D. Trade Execution

Investment managers shall effect all purchases and sales of securities for the trust account(s) managed for the Plans in a manner consistent with the principals of best execution, taking into account net price (including commissions), execution

## VI. GENERAL INVESTMENT MANAGER GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA

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capability and other services which the broker or dealer may provide. In this regard, the investment manager may effect transactions which cause the account to pay a commission or price in excess of a commission or price which another broker or dealer would have charged, provided, however, that the investment manager shall have first determined that such commission or cost is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage, research, performance measurement service and other services performed by that broker for the account(s).

Investment managers are prohibited from purchasing securities from affiliates of the investment manager in an initial offering, unless granted permission by the Board and/or its designee.

### E. Proxy Voting

All proxies for securities held in Separate Accounts shall be voted by the Department in accordance with the proxy policy approved by the Board.

### F. Reporting

- 1) Each investment manager is required to submit a written report to the Board and/or its designees of any personnel changes that might impact the management of the Plans' assets. This report should be submitted as soon as the change is known or could be expected.
- 2) Each investment manager is directed to perform monthly reconciliations of their account holdings and values with the Plans' custodian. The investment manager is directed to provide a written report to the Board and/or its designees of any significant unresolved discrepancies.
- ~~3) Each Investment Manager is directed to provide, within 30 days of the end of each calendar quarter, a written report to the Board and/or its designees detailing any derivative security holding and their potential impact on the portfolio given a worst case scenario.~~
- ~~4)3)~~ Each investment manager is required to submit to the Board and/or its designees ~~annually~~ quarterly a written report detailing ~~any~~ the firm's soft dollar activity in which the manager engages. This report should be submitted within 30 days of the end of each calendar year. The report should list the types of services the firm buys, from whom the services are purchased, total soft dollars generated by the firm, and the percentage of the firm's total soft dollars that are generated by the Plan's portfolio.
- ~~5)4)~~ Each investment manager should reconcile the performance of its portfolio with the calculations of the custodian on a quarterly basis. Any material discrepancies should be reported to the Board or its designee.
- ~~6)5)~~ Each investment manager shall promptly (a) report any breach of these account guidelines to the Board and/or its designee; (b) work in conjunction with the Board and/or designee to assess and develop a risk mitigation plan to address

## VI. GENERAL INVESTMENT MANAGER GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA

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the breach in a timely manner; and (c) then report to the Board and/or its designee the final resolution of the breach.

### G. Reviews

The investment performance results of each investment manager will be reviewed quarterly by the Board and the Investment Subcommittee. The Board or the Investment Subcommittee may, at its discretion, require the appearance of the investment manager at its meetings ~~or at a meeting of the Investment Subcommittee~~. ~~This r~~Review by the Board or the Investment Subcommittee will focus on the following:

- 1) Adherence to the guidelines stated in this Statement of Investment Policy;
- 2) Adherence to the investment manager's stated investment style and philosophy; and
- 3) Comparison of performance results to the benchmarks and peer groups outlined in this Statement of Investment Policy , as well as risk and other characteristics of the investment manager's performance;

The quarterly review may also focus on any aspect of the quarter's performance or on any occurrences during the quarter. The Board ~~and of~~ the Investment Subcommittee ~~may will~~ also review any required reporting that was submitted during the quarter.

### H. Securities Lending

The Board has adopted a policy that it will not engage directly in securities lending in its ~~S~~separately managed ~~a~~Accounts where securities are custodied with the Plan's' custodian. The Board will seek to avoid securities lending in its fund investments. The Board has determined that investments in ~~e~~Commingled ~~or mutual~~ ~~F~~unds that engage in securities lending may be permitted in certain circumstances, but each such instance will be evaluated individually, balancing the benefits of the fund (e.g., fees, flexibility) with the additional risks of securities lending. In cases where the Plans invest in Commingled ~~F~~unds that engage in securities lending, the collateral investment policies of these funds will be evaluated by the investment consultant and IMD staff to gauge their level of investment risk. Significant collateral investment risk will not be permitted in any of the Plan's' investments.

### I. Investment Manager Monitoring, Watch List and Termination Guidelines

The Board may approve placing an investment manager on a watch list or terminating an investment manager for any reason, including but not limited to the following:

- 1) Failure to meet the performance standards, investment restrictions, or other provisions of this Statement of Investment Policy;
- ~~1)2)~~ 2) A change in portfolio management personnel or senior executives of the investment manager or change in the ownership of the firm;
- ~~2)3)~~ 3) A change in investment process or style drift;
- ~~3)4)~~ 4) A violation of the rules or regulations of a governmental entity or self-regulatory organization;

## VI. GENERAL INVESTMENT MANAGER GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA

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- ~~4)5)~~ Any other circumstance regarding the investment ~~manager~~~~option~~ that the Board determines is in conflict with this Statement of Investment Policy or the best interests of the Plans;
- ~~5)6)~~ A violation of the terms of a contract; and/or
- ~~6)7)~~ The restructuring of an investment option.

In addition, the Board may consider other factors such as general economic and financial market conditions and trends or the structure of investment options in evaluating a particular portfolio's viability within the Plan. Should an investment manager fail to satisfy its performance criteria, or should the Board have some other concern about the investment manager or portfolio, the Board may approve any or all of the following actions:

- 1) Establish a probationary period during which any area of concern will be assessed and, if necessary, corrected;
- 2) Replace the investment manager with another investment manager for the mandate;
- 3) Terminate the investment manager;

Failure by an investment manager to achieve the performance objectives established by the Board over four (4) quarterly three-year periods shall cause that manager to be placed on a "watch list." An investment manager may also be placed on watch within a lesser period if the investment manager's strategy has deviated from the objective of the mandate. The watch period will be established for the next three quarters (four quarters in total), but may be lengthened or shortened. It is anticipated that the typical watch period will not exceed one year. If performance does not improve within a specific time period relative to the benchmark and/or peer group universe, that investment manager's mandate will be reviewed by the Investment Consultant and IMD staff with a bias toward termination.

### J. ~~Commingled~~~~Mutual~~ Funds

The Board may choose to use a ~~mutual or e~~Commingled ~~F~~fund as the sole vehicle for an ~~investment Option in the Plan~~ or as part of an investment option. The qualitative guidelines presented for each investment Option are intended to represent the general characteristics of the portfolio. In general, deviations from these guidelines should be considered on a case by case basis within the framework of the overall portfolio. The Board recognizes that the guidelines presented here are superseded by the ~~mutual-Commingled F~~fund's prospectus or other guidelines. Nevertheless, ~~should-if a~~ mutualCommingled ~~F~~fund violates these standards in this Statement of Investment Policy to a degree deemed significant by the Board, consideration should be given to the fund's continued suitability to the investment option's objective.

## **VII. FUND ALLOCATION MODELS**

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Asset allocation is the most important determinant of long term investment results. In order to assist participants in making effective asset allocation decisions, the Board has elected to offer participants a set of predetermined fund allocations that have been created by investment experts which utilize the options offered in the Plans. Participants can elect to have their entire plan balance allocated in accordance with one of the models offered.

### **Model Allocation Determination**

The Board has authorized a set of asset allocation models to be offered. These models were designed to be sensitive to the two primary drivers of optimal asset allocation: Risk Tolerance and Investment Horizon. Accordingly, the models are arrayed on these two dimensions.

### **Risk Tolerance**

Participants are able to select their risk tolerance from one of three levels, Conservative, Moderate and Aggressive. Each model is designed to provide the highest expected long term return possible at that risk tolerance level.

### **Participant Investment Horizon**

A participant's investment horizon is also a determinant of the level of risk that may be appropriate. Participants with longer investment horizons have more time to recover from short term losses and thus are able to accept more variability in their interim account values and potentially earn a higher long term return. For each of the three levels of general risk tolerance, four investment horizon models have been selected. These investment horizon models become more conservative, with higher allocations to bonds and stable value investments, as the horizon becomes shorter. These models were designed to be consistent with the participants' retirement date.

### **Model Allocation Investments**

The Model Allocations are able to utilize all of the investment options offered by the Plans. However, the models are not required to make use of all of the options if it is determined that a particular option is not appropriate for a given risk tolerance and investment time horizon.

### **Model Allocation Implementation**

These asset allocation models will be implemented by the Plans' recordkeeper. The recordkeeper will automatically allocate any contributions and distributions across the investment options in the model, in order to maintain the targeted model allocation. The recordkeeper will generally rebalance the allocation across the investment options back to the target allocation on a quarterly basis.

### **Model Revisions**

The Board will review these target allocations periodically. If any new investment options are added to the Plans, the model allocations will be reviewed to ascertain whether the new options should be included and in what allocation.



## VII. FUND ALLOCATION MODELS

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The current Model Allocations are shown below.

### Conservative

The objective of the Conservative Model Allocation is to achieve long term growth in excess of inflation with a minimal risk of capital loss over a full market cycle.

Conservative	C01	C02	C03	C04
	0-5 Yrs	6-10 Yrs	11-15 Yrs	16+ Yrs
<del>Large Cap Value</del>	<del>1%</del>	<del>2%</del>	<del>3%</del>	<del>3%</del>
NC Large Cap Index Fund	4%	4%	7%	8%
<del>NC Large Cap Core Fund</del>	<del>2%</del>	<del>4%</del>	<del>6%</del>	<del>6%</del>
<del>Large Cap Growth</del>	<del>1%</del>	<del>2%</del>	<del>3%</del>	<del>3%</del>
<del>Small / Mid Cap Value</del>	<del>2%</del>	<del>3%</del>	<del>5%</del>	<del>7%</del>
NC Small / Mid Cap Index Fund	0%	0%	0%	0%
<del>NC Small / Mid Cap Core Fund</del>	<del>4%</del>	<del>6%</del>	<del>10%</del>	<del>14%</del>
<del>Small / Mid Cap Growth</del>	<del>2%</del>	<del>3%</del>	<del>5%</del>	<del>7%</del>
NC Global Fund	6%	10%	15%	23%
NC International Fund	3%	5%	7%	11%
NC International Index Fund	0%	0%	0%	0%
NC Fixed Income Fund	16%	14%	12%	10%
NC Fixed Income Index Fund	17%	14%	13%	10%
NC Stable Value Fund	40%	35%	22%	10%
NC Inflation Sensitive Fund	8%	8%	8%	8%

### Moderate

The objective of the Moderate Model Allocation is moderate growth of principal with limited downside risk over a market cycle.

## VII. FUND ALLOCATION MODELS

<b>Moderate</b>	M01	M02	M03	M04
	0-5 Yrs	6-10 Yrs	11-15 Yrs	16+ Yrs
<del>Large Cap Value</del>	<del>2%</del>	<del>3%</del>	<del>4%</del>	<del>5%</del>
NC Large Cap Index Fund	5%	7%	7%	10%
<del>NC Large Cap Core Fund</del>	<del>4%</del>	<del>6%</del>	<del>8%</del>	<del>10%</del>
<del>Large Cap Growth</del>	<del>2%</del>	<del>3%</del>	<del>4%</del>	<del>5%</del>
<del>Small / Mid Cap Value</del>	<del>4%</del>	<del>5%</del>	<del>7%</del>	<del>10%</del>
NC Small / Mid Cap Index Fund	0%	0%	0%	0%
<del>NC Small / Mid Cap Core Fund</del>	<del>8%</del>	<del>10%</del>	<del>14%</del>	<del>20%</del>
<del>Small / Mid Cap Growth</del>	<del>4%</del>	<del>5%</del>	<del>7%</del>	<del>10%</del>
NC Global Fund	11%	15%	19%	25%
NC International Fund	6%	7%	9%	12%
NC International Index Fund	0%	0%	0%	0%
NC Fixed Income Fund	13%	12%	10%	4%
NC Fixed Income Index Fund	13%	13%	10%	5%
NC Stable Value Fund	31%	21%	14%	5%
NC Inflation Sensitive Fund	9%	9%	9%	9%

### Aggressive

The primary investment objective of the Aggressive Model Allocation is to maximize growth of principal over the long term with a reasonable level of overall volatility.

<b>Aggressive</b>	A01	A02	A03	A04
	0-5 Yrs	6-10 Yrs	11-15 Yrs	16+ Yrs
<del>Large Cap Value</del>	<del>3%</del>	<del>4%</del>	<del>5%</del>	<del>6%</del>
NC Large Cap Index Fund	7%	7%	8%	11%
<del>NC Large Cap Core Fund</del>	<del>6%</del>	<del>8%</del>	<del>10%</del>	<del>12%</del>
<del>Large Cap Growth</del>	<del>3%</del>	<del>4%</del>	<del>5%</del>	<del>6%</del>
<del>Small / Mid Cap Value</del>	<del>6%</del>	<del>7%</del>	<del>9%</del>	<del>11%</del>
NC Small / Mid Cap Index Fund	0%	0%	0%	0%
<del>NC Small / Mid Cap Core Fund</del>	<del>12%</del>	<del>14%</del>	<del>18%</del>	<del>22%</del>
<del>Small / Mid Cap Growth</del>	<del>6%</del>	<del>7%</del>	<del>9%</del>	<del>11%</del>
NC Global Fund	16%	19%	24%	30%
NC International Fund	8%	9%	12%	15%
NC International Index Fund	0%	0%	0%	0%
NC Fixed Income Fund	12%	10%	5%	0%
NC Fixed Income Index Fund	12%	10%	6%	0%
NC Stable Value Fund	17%	13%	7%	0%
NC Inflation Sensitive Fund	10%	10%	10%	10%

## VIII. REVIEW PROCEDURES

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To fulfill its ongoing fiduciary responsibility, the Board will, on a periodic basis and not less than annually, review the actual results achieved by the investment options to verify that each option is being managed in compliance with the investment guidelines and to evaluate the investment return produced in comparison to the performance objectives stated herein. The Investment Consultant will assist the Board in the review and evaluation.

~~On a periodic basis, the Board will review this Statement of Investment Policy to determine whether any changes should be made.~~

Adopted by the Board Chair:

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## DEFINITIONS

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### Code References

~~Section 401(a)~~ — Section 401(a) of the Code provides the general provisions for any tax-qualified plan or trust.

~~Section 401(k)~~ — Section 401(k) of the Code provides the legislation for a defined contribution plan established by an employer in which employees can make pretax contributions.

~~Section 501(a)~~ — Section 501(a) of the Code provides the legislation for the tax advantaged status of most Section 401 plans.

~~Section 404(c)~~ — Section 404(c) of ERISA provides a safe haven for plan sponsors regarding participant investment elections. Specifically, the fiduciaries of a plan that meets the requirements of Section 404(c) are relieved of fiduciary obligations related to investment decisions made by participants. The requirements for compliance with Section 404(c) include:

- ~~Plan must offer at least three diversified core Options;~~
- ~~Participants must be able to switch investments as frequently as appropriate given market conditions;~~
- ~~Each of the three core Options must permit transfers at least quarterly;~~
- ~~Participants must be given certain information on each of the investment alternatives “so as to permit informed investment decisions”; and~~
- ~~If employer stock is offered as an investment alternative, special rules apply.~~

~~Section 457~~ — Section 457 of the Code provides regulation for Plans where payment of compensation is deferred.

### Definitions

Investment option (or option): A specific investment fund offered to a participant. May be composed of one or more Commingled Funds and/or Separate Accounts.

Pooled investment: A pooled investment option or fund is a structure where multiple investment managers are responsible for managing a portion of the option's or fund's assets.

Mandate: A set of objectives and guidelines that describe a type of portfolio. Mandates are assigned to individual portfolio managers.

APPENDIX A

INVESTMENT FUND MANAGER MANDATES AND BENCHMARKS

**APPENDIX A**

Asset Class	Investment Manager	Benchmark	Universe
Stable Value	Galliard	<del>3-Year Constant Maturity Yield ML-91 Day T-Bill +1%</del>	Stable Value
Fixed Income	Prudential Global Investment Management	Bloomberg Barclays Capital Aggregate	Core Plus Bond
	<del>TCW</del> J.P. Morgan	Bloomberg Barclays Capital Aggregate	Core <del>Plus</del> Bond
Fixed Income Index	BlackRock	Bloomberg Barclays Capital Aggregate	Core Bond
Inflation Sensitive Fund	PIMCO	Custom <sup>1</sup>	None
Large Cap Index	BlackRock	S & P 500	Large Cap Core Index
Large Cap <del>ValueCore</del> Large Cap Growth	<del>Rebecco</del>	<del>Russell 1000 Value</del>	<del>Large Cap Value Equity</del>
	Hotchkis & Wiley	Russell 1000 Value	Large Cap Value Equity
	<del>Delaware</del> Macquarie	Russell 1000 Value	Large Cap Value Equity
	Sands Capital	Russell 1000 Growth	Large Cap Growth Equity
	<del>Wellington</del>	<del>Russell 1000 Growth</del>	<del>Large Cap Growth Equity</del>
	Loomis Sayles & Company	Russell 1000 Growth	Large Cap Growth Equity
	<del>BlackRock</del>	<del>Russell 1000</del>	<del>Large Cap Core Index</del>
Small / Mid Cap Index	BlackRock	Russell 2500	SMID Cap Core Index
Small / Mid Cap <del>ValueCore</del>	Hotchkis & Wiley	Russell 2500 Value	SMID Cap Value Equity
	Earnest Partners	Russell 2500 Value	SMID Cap Value Equity

<sup>1</sup> Inflation Sensitive Index: 45% Bloomberg Barclays Capital U.S. TIPS Index; 20% DJ-UBS Commodity TR Index; 10% Dow Jones U.S. Select REIT Index; 10% JPM Emerging Local Market ELMI Plus Index; 10% DJ-UBS Gold TR Index.

**APPENDIX A****INVESTMENT FUND MANAGER MANDATES AND BENCHMARKS**

	Wedge Capital Management	Russell 2500 Value	SMID Cap Value Equity
	<u>TimesSquare Capital</u>	<u>Russell 2500 Growth</u>	<u>SMID Cap Growth Equity</u>
	<u>Brown Advisory</u>	<u>Russell 2500 Growth</u>	<u>SMID Cap Growth Equity</u>
	<u>BlackRock</u>	<u>Russell 2500</u>	<u>SMID Cap Core Index</u>

APPENDIX A

INVESTMENT FUND MANAGER MANDATES AND BENCHMARKS

Small / Mid Cap Growth	TimeSquare Capital	Russell 2500 Growth	SMID-Cap-Growth Equity
	Brown Advisory	Russell 2500 Growth	SMID-Cap-Growth Equity
International Equity Index	BlackRock	MSCI ACWI ex US	Non-US Equity
International Equity	Baillie Gifford	MSCI ACWI ex US	Non-US Equity
	Mondrian	MSCI ACWI ex US	
Global Equity	Arrowstreet	MSCI ACWI	Global Equity
	Wellington	MSCI ACWI	Global Equity

## APPENDIX B

### INVESTMENT FUND MANAGER MANDATES AND BENCHMARKS

## Appendix B

The following tables list the current investment managers utilized in each fund. Each investment manager is assigned a target allocation of the fund and a range around that target which describes the minimum and maximum allocation to that investment manager. The Board has charged the Custodian with maintaining each investment manager's allocation of the individual funds' assets within these ranges. The Board designates Departmental staff with the authority to move assets between the investment managers in order to bring the allocations more closely in line with these target allocations.

### NC Large Cap Index Fund

Investment Manager	Target Allocation
BlackRock	100.0%

### NC Large Cap CoreValue Fund

Investment Manager	Target Allocation	Allocation Range
Hotchkis & Wiley	<del>18.75</del> 33.3%	+/- 3%
<u>Macquarie</u> <del>Delaware</del>	<del>18.75</del> 33.3%	+/- 3%
<del>Rebeo</del>	<del>33.3%</del>	<del>+/- 3%</del>
<u>Sands Capital</u>	<del>18.75</del>	<del>+/- 3%</del>
<u>Loomis Sayles</u>	<del>18.75</del>	<del>+/- 3%</del>
<u>BlackRock Russell 1000 Index</u>	<del>25.0%</del>	<del>+/- 3%</del>

### Large Cap Growth Fund

Investment Manager	Target Allocation	Allocation Range
<del>Sands Capital</del>	<del>33.3%</del>	<del>+/- 3%</del>
<del>Wellington</del>	<del>33.3%</del>	<del>+/- 3%</del>
<del>Loomis Sayles</del>	<del>33.3%</del>	<del>+/- 3%</del>

### NC Small/Mid Cap Index Fund

Investment Manager	Target Allocation
BlackRock	100.0%

### NC Small/Mid Cap CoreValue Fund

Investment Manager	Target Allocation	Allocation Range
Earnest Partners	<del>15.83</del> 33.3%	+/- 3%
Hotchkis & Wiley	<del>15.83</del> 33.3%	+/- 3%
Wedge Capital Management	<del>15.83</del> 33.3%	+/- 3%
<u>TimesSquare Capital</u>	<del>23.75%</del>	<del>+/- 3%</del>
<u>Brown Advisory</u>	<del>23.75%</del>	<del>+/- 3%</del>
<u>BlackRock Russell 2500 Index</u>	<del>5.0%</del>	<del>+/- 1%</del>



## APPENDIX B

### INVESTMENT FUND MANAGER MANDATES AND BENCHMARKS

#### Small/Mid Cap Growth Fund

Investment Manager	Target Allocation	Allocation Range
TimeSquare Capital	50.0%	+/- 3%
Brown Advisory	50.0%	+/- 3%

#### NC International Equity Index Fund

Investment Manager	Target Allocation
BlackRock	100.0%

#### NC International Equity Fund

Investment Manager	Target Allocation	Allocation Range
Baillie Gifford	50.0%	+/- 3%
Mondrian	50.0%	+/- 3%

#### NC Global Equity Fund

Investment Manager	Target Allocation	Allocation Range
Arrowstreet	50.0%	+/- 3%
Wellington	50.0%	+/- 3%

#### NC Inflation Sensitive Fund

Investment Manager	Target Allocation
PIMCO	100%

#### Fixed Income Fund

Investment Manager	Target Allocation	Allocation Range
<del>JP Morgan</del> TCW	50.0%	+/- 3%
Prudential Global Investment Management	50.0%	+/- 3%

#### NC Fixed Income Index Fund

Investment Manager	Target Allocation
BlackRock	100%

**Appendix C**  
**Service Providers**  
*Effective on or about January 1, 2016*

<b>Recordkeeper:</b>	Prudential Retirement
<b>Custodian:</b>	Bank of New York Mellon
<b>Investment Consultant:</b>	Mercer Investment Consulting
<b>Investment Advisor:</b>	Galliard Capital Management

## Appendix D Investment Array

Tier I Target Date	Tier II - A Passive Core	Tier II - B Active Core	Tier III Specialty
GoalMaker		NC Stable Value Fund Galliard Stable Value	
	NC Fixed Income Fund BlackRock Debt Index	NC Fixed Income Fund <del>JP Morgan</del> TCW Core <del>Plus</del> Bond <del>PIM</del> rudential Core Plus Bond	
		Inflation Responsive Fund PIMCO IRMAF	
	NC Large Cap Index Fund BlackRock Equity Index	NC Large Cap <del>Value</del> <u>Core</u> Fund Hotchkis & Wiley Large Cap Value <del>Delaware</del> <del>Macquarie</del> Large Cap Value <del>Robeco BP Large Cap Value</del> <del>Sands Capital Large Cap Growth</del> <del>Loomis Large Cap Growth</del> <del>BlackRock Russell 1000 Index</del>	
		<del>Large Cap Growth Fund</del> <del>Sands Capital Large Cap Growth</del> <del>Wellington Opportunistic Growth</del> <del>Loomis Large Cap Growth</del>	
	NC Small/Mid Cap Index Fund BlackRock Russell 2500 Index	NC Small/Mid Cap <u>Core</u> <u>Value</u> Fund Hotchkis & Wiley SMID <u>Cap</u> Value Earnest Partners SMID Cap Value Wedge SMID Cap Value <del>TimesSquare SMID Cap Growth</del> <del>Brown Advisory SMID Cap Growth</del> <del>BlackRock Russell 2500 Index</del>	



**GUIDELINE EXCEPTIONS GRANTED BY THE BOARD**

Manager	Date	Guideline	Explanation
PIMCO – Inflation Strategy	Sept 2013	Prohibition against leverage	PIMCO utilized forward settling bond purchases in order to adjust their yield curve positioning. PIMCO will remain with the overall duration guidelines of the fund.

### IPS Revision History

Version	Approved	Summary of Changes
1.4	Dec 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change Stable Value guidelines to refer to “manager” generically and not Galliard specifically</li> </ul>
1.5	June 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change consultant reporting to quarterly</li> <li>Change global equity from “Opportunistic” to just Global Equity Fund, updated guidelines to traditional long equity</li> <li>Add Max 10% security limit to all equity funds</li> <li>Add new managers and update fund target allocations:</li> <li>Neuberger, Robeco, Wedge, Arrowstreet</li> </ul>
1.6	June 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move Global Equity country max limit to 60% from 50% (Approved Nov 2012)</li> <li>Add Inflation Fund</li> <li>Add revision history</li> </ul>
1.7	September 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarify language around use of leverage in general; leverage prohibited except where permission granted by the Board.</li> <li>Add prohibition against purchasing initial offerings from affiliated entities of the investment manager</li> <li>Add Exceptions Granted table</li> <li>Modify global equity fund guidelines to allow smaller cap companies and frontier market countries</li> </ul>
1.8	December 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibited from purchasing securities from affiliates of the Manager in an initial offering, unless granted permission by the Board</li> </ul>
2.0	December 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removed detailed investment guidelines for each of the funds</li> </ul>
2.1	May 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Separate and revise duties of investment consultant and IMD</li> <li>Revise duties of RSD</li> <li>Add delegated glidepath provider to definition of investment manager</li> </ul>
3.0	September 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eliminate NC Large Cap Growth, NC Large Cap Value, NC Small/Mid Cap Growth, and NC Small/Mid Cap Value Funds</li> <li>Add NC Large Cap Core and NC Small/Mid Cap Core Funds</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Separate and revise duties of investment consultant and IMD</li> <li>▪ Add glidepath review, recommendation, and approval</li> <li>▪ Make other revisions and clarification</li> </ul>
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