

**AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES**

SSU Foundation Audit Committee Meeting  
September 11, 2024  
3:30-4:30pm  
Location: Salazar 2043B or via Zoom

*Members Present:* Randy Pennington (Chair), Anita Christmas,  
Mike Sullivan, Brigitte Lahme, Josh Goff (all via zoom)

*Committee Staff:* Amanda Visser, Ian Hannah, Monir Ahmed,  
Mario Perez (z), Alicia Hodenfield, Kristin Hillman

*Guest(s):* Andy Maffia – Aldrich (z)

**I. OPENING COMMENTS**

The meeting began at 3:31pm with quorum having been met.

Mario Perez opened the meeting mentioning the Board had a great retreat this summer. During student move-in the University hosted 300 people at the Parent and Family reception. Perez mentioned that while SSU is making progress at stopping the loss of enrollment, we still face budget challenges. The university has been taking steps to address the budget, including the recently completed Academic Reorganization and taking the 6 schools and moving them into 3 colleges. Dr. Jerlena Griffin-Desta has decided to retire from her role of Chief of Staff/Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and Diversity. The great work of Dr. Griffin-Desta will continue and her portfolio has been divided between three divisions: Title IX has moved to Academic Affairs, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion has moved to Student Affairs and University Advancement has received Strategic Communications.

Randy Pennington, Audit Committee Chair, thanked and acknowledged Ian Hannah, Amanda Visser and Kristin Hillman for their efforts in stewarding SSUF's finances in his opening comments.

## II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – 5/9/24

Pennington asked the committee if there were any changes needed to the May 9, 2024 minutes. They were approved unanimously.

## III. 23/24 AUDIT REPORT – ALDRICH

Andy Maffia, Aldrich also acknowledged the SSU team as they have done a tremendous job and have been a pleasure to work with.

A Draft copy of the Audit Report had been provided to the Committee in advance of the meeting. Maffia reviewed the Audit report and noted that there were no material weaknesses found and all internal controls are in place. The SSU Foundation is receiving an unmodified opinion, which is a clean opinion and best that can be received.

Pennington asked clarifying questions and noted a few changes to be made on the final report.

## IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

All staff left the conference room and zoom, at 4:25pm while the committee members spoke candidly with Maffia. At 4:35pm, staff was invited to return.

Pennington said they had a nice session with Maffia.

Mike Sullivan left the meeting.

## V. ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Pennington asked for the acceptance of the financial statements as had been presented. All remaining committee members accepted and they will be submitted to the Board at the September 27, 2024 meeting.

## VI. OPEN ITEMS

Ian Hannah reminded the committee that many members of the committee will be reaching the end of their terms in the next year or two. The committee will need to fill the Chair position as well as committee membership. Please let Hannah or Alicia Hodenfield know of any prospective Board/Committee members.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39pm.

Signature redacted



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*Minutes Approved by:*  
Ian Hannah  
*Chief Operating Officer & Secretary,*  
*SSUF*

Signature redacted



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*Minutes Prepared by:*  
Alicia Hodenfield  
*Administrative Manager for*  
*Advancement and Foundation*  
*Operations, SSU*