

Long Story Short

PENSIONS HAVE PURPOSE



Missouri State Employees' Retirement System
A Pension Trust Fund of the State of Missouri

Annual Comprehensive Financial Report
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

MOSERS

We recently asked members of our Retiree Connection group to write six-word stories describing their thoughts on being a MOSERS retiree, a member of the Retiree Connection group and/or retirement in general. What is a six-word story? It's just that—a story written in six words or less. According to legend, Ernest Hemingway popularized the six-word story while at lunch with a table full of fellow writers.

Rising to the challenge, our Retiree Connection group told some great stories and we are happy to share a few with you here. All of the six-word stories can be found on our website.

Six words. One story. What's yours?

Long Story Short

PENSIONS HAVE PURPOSE

Ronda Stegmann
Executive Director

Lori Woratzeck
Deputy Executive Director
Chief Financial Officer

Missouri State Employees' Retirement System
A Pension Trust Fund of the State of Missouri

Annual Comprehensive Financial Report
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

*Report prepared by
the staff of the
Missouri State Employees'
Retirement System*

MOSERS

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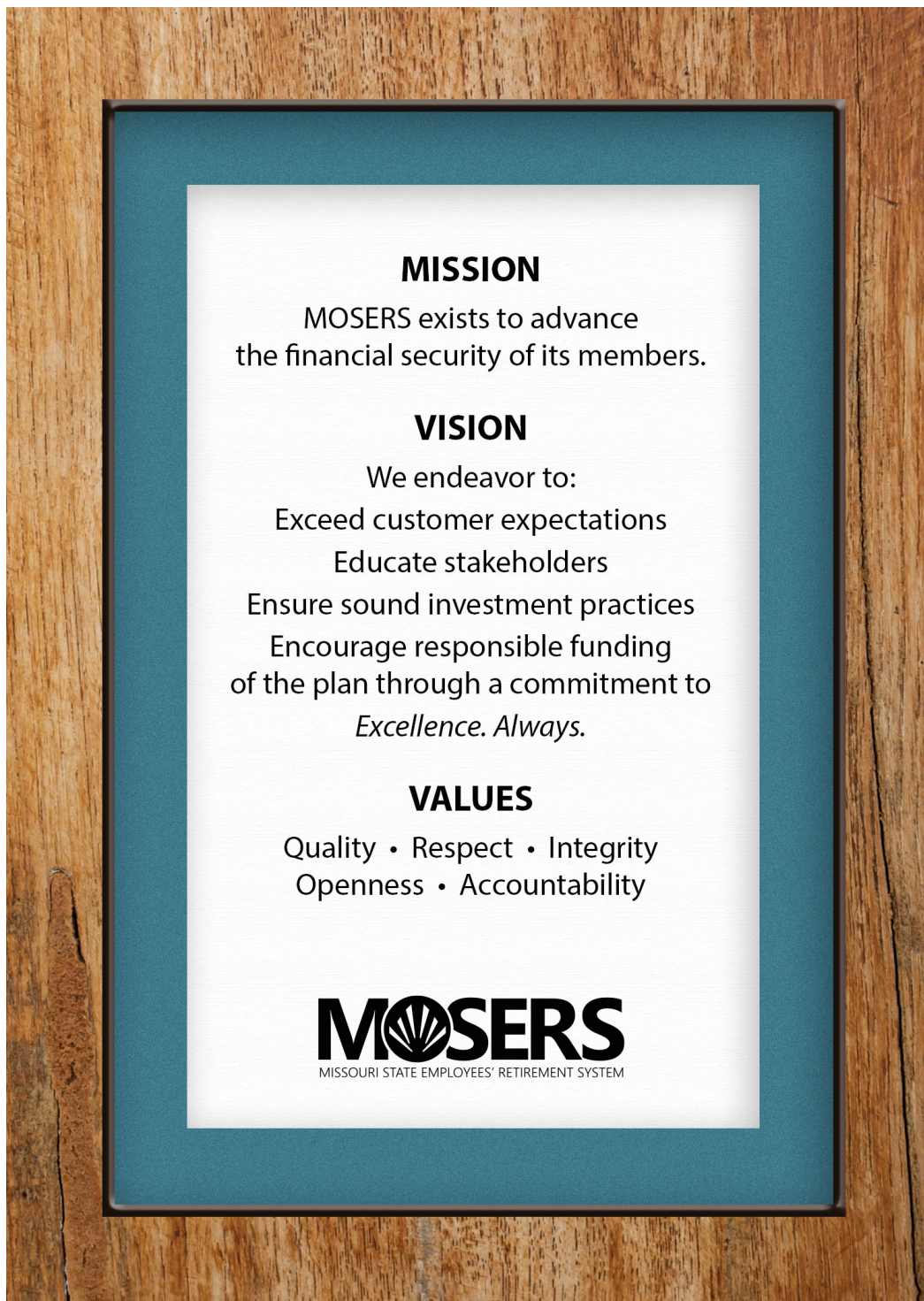
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Introductory Section



Retirement A Gateway to New Beginnings

Ms. Jacqueline Horton

Retiree From Mental Health

St. Louis, MO

Years of Service: 31 Years 7 Months

Year Retired: 2011

Professional Awards



Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

MOSERS' *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report* for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). This was the 32nd consecutive year that MOSERS has received this prestigious award. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting. To be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized financial report. This financial report has been recently renamed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, and is now known as an Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). The ACFR must satisfy generally accepted accounting principles, applicable legal requirements, and GFOA reporting standards.



Public Pension Standards Award

MOSERS received the Public Pension Standards Award from the Public Pension Coordinating Council (PPCC) in 2020, in recognition of meeting professional standards for plan design and administration as set forth in the Public Pension Standards. This award is presented by the PPCC, a confederation of the National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA), the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS), and the National Council on Teacher Retirement (NCTR).

Letter of Transmittal



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mosers@mosers.org (email)
Visit us at 907 Wildwood Drive or www.mosers.org

October 29, 2021

The Board of Trustees
Missouri State Employees' Retirement System
907 Wildwood Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65109

To the Board of Trustees and Members of MOSERS:

We are pleased to submit the *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)* of the Missouri State Employees' Retirement System (MOSERS) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. During fiscal year 2021, the Board and staff worked extensively and collaboratively on solutions to ensure the fiscal sustainability of MOSERS for current and future members. I would like to thank our trustees for their dedication and commitment.

This ACFR is designed to provide an overview of the financial condition of MOSERS while also satisfying the reporting requirements of state law as stipulated in Sections 104.480, 104.1006, and 105.661 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri (RSMo), as amended. In addition to the *Introductory Section*, the MOSERS ACFR also contains a *Financial Section*, *Investment Section*, *Actuarial Section* and *Statistical Section*. This report is available on our website at www.mosers.org.

Profile of MOSERS

MOSERS is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that was established in 1957 by state law for the purpose of providing retirement benefits to most state employees. MOSERS is governed by an 11-member Board of Trustees (the Board). As of June 30, 2021, MOSERS serves 43,247 active employees and pays 52,830 benefit recipients.

In addition to retirement benefits, MOSERS administers term life and long-term disability insurance for most state employees. MOSERS provides these benefits through insured plans with The Standard Insurance Company (The Standard). We maintain membership information on those eligible and manage a custodial fund to track premiums collected from employers and payments made to The Standard.

MOSERS oversees the State of Missouri Deferred Compensation Plan (MO Deferred Comp). We administer this plan through a contractual relationship with MissionSquare Retirement (formerly known as ICMA-RC), as the third-party record keeper. The plan provides various investment options to participants who retain responsibility for the investment of their individual accounts. MO Deferred Comp activity and administrative costs are reported via separate audited financial statements.

Additionally, MOSERS oversees the Colleges and Universities Retirement Plan (CURP), a mandatory 401(a) defined contribution plan for education employees hired after June 30, 2002 by the regional universities that participate in MOSERS. The employer contribution rate is set at a flat 6% of pay with a 2% of pay employee contribution for employees hired after July 1, 2018. TIAA is responsible for third-party administration and for providing investment products to plan members.

Financial Statements

The financial statements in this report were prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. Management is responsible for the preparation of this report and the fairness and integrity of the information presented herein. Some amounts included in the financial statements and elsewhere may be based on estimates and judgments. Management is responsible for maintaining a system of adequate internal controls designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets are properly safeguarded and that the financial statements are fairly stated. We believe that the internal controls currently in place support this purpose and that the financial statements and accompanying schedules are fairly presented in all material respects.

Eide Bailly, LLP, our independent external auditors, conducted an audit of the *Basic Financial Statements* in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards. This audit and the financial statements and related notes are presented in the *Financial Section* of this report.

Management's Discussion and Analysis in the *Financial Section* serves as an introduction to, and overview of, the financial statements. Additional financial information can be found in the financial statements and schedules included in the *Financial Section* of this report.

MOSERS retirement funds are pension trust funds of the state of Missouri for financial reporting purposes and, as such, the financial statements in this report are also included in the *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report* of the *State of Missouri*.

Investments

The MOSERS investment portfolio generated a time-weighted return of 26.4%, net of fees, for fiscal year 2021. The total fund returned 1.2% more than would have been expected through passive investing in the benchmarks.

The MOSERS' Board of Trustees has adopted investment objectives, investment philosophies, and a strategic asset allocation to guide all investment related decisions. Investment objectives strive to maintain stable and reasonable contribution rates over long periods of time, while maximizing investment return by exposing assets to a prudent level of risk. Additional detailed information regarding MOSERS' investments, including policies and strategies, can be found in the *Investment Section* of this report.

Actuarial Information

The Board contracts with Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting, LLC to perform an actuarial valuation of each plan every year. The valuations use economic and demographic assumptions adopted by the Board based upon experience studies conducted at least every five years. The most recent full experience study was adopted effective June 30, 2021.

To allow for more predictable and stable contribution rates, MOSERS' funding is based upon the actuarial value of assets, which smooths asset gains and losses over a five-year period. As of June 30, 2021, the MSEP was 59.0% pre-funded and the Judicial Plan was 31.1% pre-funded on an actuarial basis. The MSEP experienced a decrease from the June 30, 2020 funded status of 61.10%. The Judicial Plan reflected an increase from the June 30, 2020 funded status of 28.9%.

The required certification letter from the Board's retained actuary is included at the beginning of the *Actuarial Section*. Additional information regarding the financial condition of the pension trust funds can be found in the *Actuarial Section* of this report.

Legislative Changes

- **House Bill 5** – The General Assembly authorized the appropriation of \$505 million to MOSERS for fiscal year 2022, which will fully fund the Board certified employer contribution rates. This dollar amount was generated from the contribution rates calculated in the annual actuarial valuations performed by MOSERS' retained actuarial professionals and certified by the MOSERS Board of Trustees at its September 2020 meeting. On June 30, 2021, Governor Parson signed the fiscal year 2022 budget bills passed by the General Assembly, including the MOSERS appropriation contained in House Bill 5.

Administrative Initiatives

MOSERS' staff was engaged in several administrative initiatives during the year. The more notable items are listed below.

- **Project Phoenix** – MOSERS' dedicated project team continues to work on the replacement of our pension administration system. MOSERS remains engaged with ICON Integration & Design for data profiling, analysis, and conditioning services, along with Linea Solutions for project oversight and change management services. Tegrit, utilizing their Arrivos platform, is proving to offer many opportunities for operational efficiency and further systems integration. We were approximately 60% complete at year end. Current projections indicate an early 2023 deployment.
- **Transition of New Portfolio** – Staff completed the transition from the "Old" portfolio allocation to the "New" portfolio allocation at the end of February 2021 in 26 months, 10 months ahead of schedule. The Old portfolio represented approximately 42% of the total fund at the beginning of the fiscal year. We utilized six one-month advancements of the transition, as permitted by policy, in order to complete the transition in February.
- **Implementation of MOSERS Strategic Plan** – The MOSERS Board of Trustees approved an organizational-wide strategic plan for a three-year cycle beginning July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022. The end of fiscal year 2021 marks the completion of the second year of MOSERS' strategic plan. During the second year, staff completed three additional initiatives and seven additional initiatives are in progress and are expected to be completed by the end of the strategic planning cycle.
- **Review and rewrite of the MOSERS Board Rules** – A review of *MOSERS Board Rules* began in fiscal year 2020. The Strategic Planning and Governance Committee, along with staff, worked together to review the current Board Rules and discussed changes to the current rules as well as the necessity of new rules. At the November 2020 Board meeting, the full Board adopted the comprehensive set of revised MOSERS Board Rules.
- **MOSERS Month** – In April 2021, we hosted the first annual MOSERS Month. Throughout the month, we invited active employees to explore the value of their benefits and start planning their retirement journey. Each week, we sent an email to all active employees and created social media posts encouraging them to participate in fun and informative activities. We developed a MOSERS Month web page dedicated specifically to this event where employees could watch a video about the event, choose to participate in any of a dozen activities or download the entire 12-page MOSERS Month Activity Guide. To kick off the event, we challenged members to test their knowledge with a benefits quiz designed specifically for their career stage. More than 900 members participated in the career stage vocabulary quiz.

Awards

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to MOSERS for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. This was the 32nd consecutive year that MOSERS has received this prestigious award. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. The report must satisfy generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements. A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. We believe that our current Annual Comprehensive Financial Report continues to meet the Certificate of Achievement Program's requirements and we are submitting it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another certificate.

MOSERS received the Public Pension Coordinating Council (PPCC), Public Pension Standards Award, in recognition of meeting the professional standards for plan design and administration as set forth in the Public Pension Standards. This award is presented by the PPCC, a confederation of the National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA), the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS), and the National Council on Teacher Retirement (NCTR).

MOSERS received three awards from the National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC). These awards include the Award of Excellence in two categories: *Electronic Publications* and *Internal Communications* for *A Moment with MOSERS*. We also received First-Place honors in *Internal Communications* for “Meet Bob,” the MOSERS COVID-19 staff safety video and poster campaign. The Blue Pencil & Gold Screen Competition is an annual international awards program that recognizes superior government communication products and those who produce them at all levels of government.

The State of Missouri Deferred Compensation Plan received a Communicator Award for their *Active Choice Splash Screen Campaign for Interactive Marketing Effectiveness*. The Communicator Awards is the leading international awards program honoring creative excellence for marketing and communications professionals. The Communicator Awards is an annual competition honoring the best digital, mobile, audio, video, and social content the industry has to offer and is widely recognized as one of the largest awards of its kind in the world.

The National Association of Government Defined Contribution Administrators, Inc. (NAGDCA) awarded the State of Missouri Deferred Compensation Plan the 2020 Leadership Recognition Award for the plan's enhancement of participant outreach by implementing Web 1-on-1s and Webinars, an effort that began prior to the global pandemic. The Leadership Awards recognize defined contribution plans for their outstanding achievements in *Technology and Social Media*.

These prestigious awards recognize MOSERS for financial and professional standards of excellence and reflect the dedication and competence of the MOSERS staff.

Conclusion

This report is a product of the combined efforts of the MOSERS staff and advisors functioning under the Board's leadership. It is intended to provide complete and reliable information that facilitates the management decision making process, serves as a means for determining compliance with legal requirements, and allows for the evaluation of responsible guardianship of System funds.

Digital copies of this report are provided to the Governor, State Auditor, and the Joint Committee on Public Employee Retirement of the General Assembly. Their support contributes to the success of MOSERS.

The theme of this year's ACFR is “Long Story Short...Pensions Have Purpose”. This message highlights important aspects of the System. We know public pensions, like MOSERS, are long-term entities that invest over long time horizons and span many generations of membership. Some of our retired membership are highlighted in this report through the sharing of their “six-word stories”. These “stories” describe their thoughts on being a MOSERS retiree, a member of the Retiree Connection group and/or retirement in general. This theme also speaks to MOSERS mission statement “to advance the financial security of its members” as the hallmark of all we do. We know our members rely on their benefits now and far into the future. The MOSERS staff will continue to “roll up our sleeves” and work hard for our members, the Board, and all our stakeholders as we move into fiscal year 2022. It is our honor to work for this great state and its citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Stegmann
Executive Director

Lori Woratzeck, CPA
Deputy Executive Director/Chief Financial Officer

Letter from the Board Chairwoman



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Visit us at 907 Wildwood Drive or www.mosers.org

October 29, 2021

Dear Members:

On behalf of the MOSERS Board of Trustees, I am pleased to present the *MOSERS Annual Comprehensive Financial Report* for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. This report is one of MOSERS' finest examples of collaboration and an organization-wide team effort.

During the year ended June 30, 2021, the Board of Trustees continued its work on behalf of the MOSERS membership. While the global pandemic required MOSERS to modify the way we conduct business, our Board and staff members continued to work on key initiatives over the last fiscal year, some of which included:

- comprehensive review and adoption of *MOSERS' Board Rules*;
- completing the transition of the Board-adopted investment portfolio while generating a return of 26.4%, net of fees; and
- maintaining robust communication with our membership during the ever-changing landscape of fiscal year 2021.

MOSERS was very fortunate to have Board continuity, with minimal turnover, during fiscal year 2021. The MOSERS Board received two new Senate-appointed members when both Senate-appointed members of the Board left the legislature due to term limits. I would like to thank Senator Wallingford and Senator Walsh for their dedicated service as a MOSERS Board Trustee. We welcomed Senator Rizzo and Senator Wieland to the MOSERS Board in 2021. Their participation and perspectives have already added to the Board's robust discussions and decision-making process.

During my tenure as Board chairwoman, I have witnessed the substantial amount of time and service our trustees have dedicated to MOSERS. I am proud to lead this fine group of fiduciaries in acting in the best interest of our members. As a state employee elected to the MOSERS Board by our active membership, I understand the value of a future MOSERS pension benefit and the role this benefit has in the employers' recruitment and retention efforts. Total compensation is more than just the dollars received in a paycheck. The ongoing monthly contributions from the MOSERS-covered employers represent a significant financial commitment to our members, their families, their communities, and ultimately the citizens we serve. As we look to fiscal year 2022, the Board in conjunction with staff, will continue to further our core mission of advancing the financial security of our members.

I wish to express my appreciation to you, our members, for your commitment and service to this great state and its citizens. I am honored to serve as one of your representatives on the MOSERS Board.

If you ever have any questions, please contact us at MOSERS, P.O. Box 209, Jefferson City, MO 65102, call us at (800) 827-1063, or visit our website at www.mosers.org.

Sincerely,

Crystal Wessing, Chairwoman
Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees



Crystal Wessing – Chairwoman
Elected Active Member



Gary Metzger – Vice Chairman
Governor Appointed Member

Representative Rusty Black
House Appointed Member

Gary Findlay
Elected Retired Member

Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick
Ex-Officio Member



Jenny Jacobs, CPA
Elected Active Member



Joe Keifer
Governor Appointed Member



Senator John Rizzo
Senate Appointed Member

Commissioner Sarah Steelman
Office of Administration
Ex-Officio Member

Senator Paul Wieland
Senate Appointed Member

Representative John Wiemann
House Appointed Member



Administrative Organization



Ronda Stegmann

Executive Director

- Cindy Rehmeier, CFP
Manager, Defined Contribution Plans
- Nicki Russell, CPA, CIA, MPA
Chief Auditor
- Candy Smith, MPA
Communications Manager & Public Information Officer
- Abby Spieler, JD
General Counsel
- Lisa Verslues, PHR, SHRM-CP
Human Resources Officer



Lori Woratzeck, CPA

Deputy Executive Director – Operations/Chief Financial Officer

- Andrea Binkley, CGBA
Chief Benefits Officer
- Stacy Gillmore
Chief Technology Officer
- Carson Lepper, PMP
Project Manager
- Jeremy Pond, CPA, CFE, CGFM
Controller



Shannon Davidson

Deputy Executive Director – Investments/Chief Investment Officer

- Scott Hankins, CFA
Managing Director – Investment Risk & Operations
- Tyson Rehfeld, CFA
Managing Director – Markets & Strategy

About MOSERS



Purpose

MOSERS was established September 1, 1957, and is governed by laws of the State of Missouri.

MOSERS administers retirement, survivor, life insurance, and long-term disability benefits, as well as deferred compensation plan management to its members.

MOSERS administers benefits for most state employees, including general state employees, employees of 10 regional colleges and universities, members of the Missouri General Assembly, statewide elected officials, judges, administrative judges, and legal advisors. MOSERS is responsible for administering benefits as set forth in state law and bears a fiduciary obligation to the state employees who are its members.

Administration

State law provides that responsibility for the administration of MOSERS is vested in an 11-member Board of Trustees. The Board is comprised of the following:

- two members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate;
- two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- two members appointed by the Governor;
- the State Treasurer;
- the Commissioner of Administration; and
- three System members: two active members elected by the active and inactive-vested members, and one retiree elected by the retired members.

Introductory Section

The day-to-day management of MOSERS is delegated to the executive director who is appointed by the Board. The executive director acts as advisor to the Board on all matters pertaining to the System, and employs the remaining staff needed to manage the System.

Organization

The executive director, deputy executive director, and chief investment officer are responsible for planning, organizing, and administering the operations of the System under the broad policy guidance and direction of the Board.

Executive

The executive staff provide administrative support by assisting the executive director and deputy executive director in the major legal, financial, operational, and oversight functions. Human resources, which includes oversight of general building maintenance, is also represented in this section. Responsible for business continuity preparation and planning, this section also coordinates activities and processes for the organization that facilitate strategic thinking, planning, and implementation.

Accounting

The staff in this section are responsible for all financial records of the programs administered by MOSERS, including the preparation of financial and statistical reports and purchasing functions for MOSERS. This team works with the investment custodian, internal investment managers, Office of Administration accounting team, state of Missouri, actuaries, banks, and the IRS.

Benefits Administration and Education

Staff in the benefits administration and education section are responsible for all member data, benefit verifications and inception, as well as contact with members regarding the benefit programs administered by MOSERS (retirement, life insurance, and long-term disability insurance). This team also conducts educational seminars in 16-plus cities around the state each year and hosts webinars to inform members about their MOSERS benefits.

Communications

Communications staff are responsible for presenting information in clear and concise ways to facilitate effective, well-informed decision-making, planning, and action. They produce materials for members regarding the benefits administered by MOSERS including publications such as newsletters, handbooks, forms, and brochures. Additionally, this team works in conjunction with information technology staff on electronic materials and tools such as the public, Board, secure member and internal websites, social media, and member emails.

Employer Services

Staff in the employer services section facilitate the collection of member and employer contributions, maintain member benefit eligibility records, and provide technical assistance and general education to employer representatives regarding the timely and accurate submission of payroll and benefit eligibility data.

Information Technology

Staff in this section provides computer and technical design support for MOSERS' administrative activities. This team is responsible for developing and maintaining the automated systems used to administer benefits. They are also responsible for the document imaging system, network and data security, unified communication system, and personal computers.

Investments

The investments staff provides investment management and consulting services to the System. Primary functions include managing assets internally, selecting external managers for portions of the portfolio, researching and implementing portfolio allocation shifts and rebalancing, providing technical advice, serving as a liaison to the investment community, and informing and advising the Board and executive director on financial, economic, and political developments which may affect the System. This team works closely with external investment consultants, legal counsel, and the executive director.

Project Management

This team is responsible for implementing a new pension administration system to replace MOSERS' legacy system. This includes business process mapping and analysis to identify efficiencies and mitigate risk, as well as working closely with multiple external vendors focused on data preparation and system design.

Outside Professional Services

Actuary

- Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting, LLC

Auditor

- Eide Bailly, LLP

Governmental Consultant

- Gamble & Schlemeier, Ltd.

Legal Counsel

- Ice Miller, LLP
- Thompson Coburn, LLP

Information Technology Consultants

- Avtex
- Huber & Associates
- Norlem Technology Consulting

Pension System Administration Consultants

- ICON Integration and Design, Inc.
- Linea Solutions
- Tegrity

Risk Management Consultant

- Charlesworth & Associates, LLC

Third-Party Administrators

- MissionSquare Retirement (formerly ICMA-RC)
Deferred Compensation Plan
- The Standard Insurance Company
Life Insurance & Long-Term Disability Insurance
- TIAA
Colleges & Universities Retirement Plan

Investment Management Consultants

- Blackstone Alternative Asset Management, LP
Specialty Consultant - Hedge Funds
- Meketa Investment Group
Specialty Consultant - Public Markets
- NEPC, LLC
Specialty Consultant - Private Markets
- Verus Advisory, Inc.
Board Investment Consultant

Master Custodian

- Bank of New York Mellon

Business Bank

- Central Bank

The Schedule of Fees and Commissions can be found on page 71. Investment management, custodial and consulting fees can be found in the Schedule of Investment Expenses on page 58-59. Additional information on investment managers can also be found in the Investment Section of this report.