



BENEFITS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

IPERS Board Room

7401 Register Drive, Des Moines, Iowa

August 26, 2024

The following people attended the IPERS Benefits Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting held on Monday, August 26, 2024.

Members of the Benefits Advisory Committee - Present

Lowell Dauenbaugh, Chair

Matt Carver, Vice Chair

Len Cockman

John Hieronymus

Richard Hoffman

Steve Hoffman

Connie Kuennen

Brian McDonough

Erin Mullenix

Melissa Peterson

Adam Steen

Members of the Benefits Advisory Committee - Absent

Susanna Cave

Todd Copley

Andrew Hennessey

IPERS Administration and Staff

Greg Samorajski, Chief Executive Officer

David Martin, Chief Benefits Officer

Melinda McElroy, Executive Assistant

Elizabeth Hennessey, General Counsel

Sriram Lakshminarayanan, Chief Investment Officer

Shawna Lode, Chief Strategy Officer

Tara Hagan, Chief Financial Officer

Rick Hindman, Deputy Executive Director

Jan Hawkins, Deputy Chief Benefits Officer

Call to Order

Len Cockman, chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Election of Officers

Len Cockman nominated Lowell Dauenbaugh as chair of the Benefits Advisory Committee and Matt Carver as vice chair. Matt Carver seconded the nomination. The nominations carried by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of July 31, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Len Cockman moved to approve the meeting minutes from the March 25, 2024, and July 8, 2024, BAC meetings. Brian McDonough seconded; the motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

CEM Performance Measurement Presentation – Christopher Doll

Christopher Doll of CEM Benchmarking presented IPERS' Pension Administration Benchmarking results for FY2023.

CEO Report – Greg Samorajski

Greg Samorajski addressed the results of the CEM pension administration benchmarking study. He noted that CEM changed their methodology significantly in favor of member services, including electronic access, automation, and modernized processes. IPERS' FY2026 budget and policy proposals prioritize improvement in these areas, including increasing digital communication/tools and improve service delivery. The contract for IPERS' current pension administration software expires in 2026. The vendor will no longer support the current on-premises software. IPERS expects to spend approximately \$60 million over 10 years to acquire new cloud-based software.

FED / SAAM Programs – Greg Samorajski

Len Cockman moved that the BAC support IPERS' FY2026 policy proposal to eliminate the FED / SAAM programs and to expand the November Dividend program to include members who retired before July 1, 2005. Matt Carver seconded; the motion carried by roll call vote.

Ayes: Lowell Dauenbaugh, Matt Carver, Len Cockman, Richard Hoffman, Brian McDonough, Melissa Peterson

Nays: Erin Mullenix

Absent: Todd Copley, Adam Steen

MOTION PASSED

Actuarial Cost Study Results – Cavanaugh Macdonald

Bryan Hoge of Cavanaugh Macdonald presented the cost study results for benefit enhancements for non-retired Protection Occupation members and non-retired Regular members. The study for non-retired Protection Occupation members included increasing the benefit multiplier, adding a permanent and automatic cost-of-living adjustment, adding the option to retire at age 50 with 22 years of service, and changing the member and employer contribution rate to a 50% equal split. The study for non-retired Regular members included increasing the benefit multiplier and adding a permanent and automatic cost-of-living adjustment.

BAC's FY2025 Budget – Tara Hagan

Tara Hagan reviewed the results of the BAC's FY2024 budget and their projected FY2025 budget. Len Cockman moved to approve the budget. Matt Carver seconded; motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Staff Reports

Benefits Update – David Martin reported that IPERS again exhibited at the Iowa State Fair and many IPERS members visited the booth. The staff's goal was to acquire or update member email addresses in advance of IPERS' transition to digital delivery of most documents.

Investment Update – Sriram Lakshminaryanan gave a brief investment market update and reported IPERS' Trust Fund balance at \$44.89 billion.

Appeals Update – Elizabeth Hennessey reviewed the Appeals Status report as of August 2024.

Other Business

None

Public Comments

None

Future Meeting Dates

The next BAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 28, 2024. With no further business to come before the committee, Matt Carver moved to adjourn. Len Cockman seconded; the motion carried by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 2:51 p.m.