

NOTE: These minutes from the August 30, 2017 Benefits Committee meeting were approved at the November 7, 2017 Committee meeting.

**Benefits Committee
Board of Trustees
August 30, 2017**

Public Minutes

**New Hampshire Retirement System
54 Regional Drive
Concord, NH 03301**

Committee Members: George Walker, *Chair*, Germano Martins, David McCrillis. John Beardmore, *via telephone*. Don Roy, *absent*.

Staff: George Lagos, *Executive Director*; Tim Crutchfield, Esq., *Chief Legal Counsel*; Mark Cavanaugh, Esq., *Associate Counsel and Compliance Officer*; Nancy Miller, *Director of Member Services*; and Carolyn Johnson, Esq., *Hearings Officer*; Margie Astles, *Executive Assistant*; Shannan Hudgins, *Administrative Coordinator*.

Committee Chair Walker called the Benefits Committee meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. and requested a motion for approval of the July 5, 2017 meeting minutes. On a motion by Trustee McCrillis, seconded by Trustee Martins, the Committee voted to approve the public and non-public minutes of the July 5, 2017, Benefits Committee meeting, as presented. Trustee Beardmore abstained from the vote.

Mark Cavanaugh, Esq., *Associate Counsel and Compliance Officer*, presented a Gainful Occupation report and update. He discussed recommendations from the Internal Auditor that included mechanisms to enhance efficiency, clarification, and provide additional detail for the annual GO process.

The Committee next addressed the Board of Trustees' request that the Committee consider Jonathan Sistare's appeal of the reduction of his state annuity benefit under the Gainful Occupation (GO) process. Discussion included the definition of earnable compensation and its application for pension calculation or GO limitations.

On a motion by Trustee Beardmore, seconded by Trustee McCrillis, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the full Board that it accept the factual findings of the Hearings Examiner's recommendation but, contrary to the determination of the Hearings Examiner, find on the legal

issue that the retiree's 2016 bonus should be considered "annual compensation currently earnable" and therefore included for purposes of determining the Gainful Occupation offset.

Executive Director George Lagos presented an update of Staff's evaluation and recommendation for payment of benefits owed a beneficiary. He stated that after considerable deliberation, the determination had been made that NHRS would pay the amount owed plus statutory interest to the beneficiary in question.

In compliance with the NHRS Governance Manual, the Committee reviewed its charter. Staff had no suggested revisions. Following a brief discussion, no changes were made.

Chief Legal Counsel Tim Crutchfield presented the *curriculum vitae* of five Independent Medical Examiners (IME) regularly consulted for disability retirement applications pursuant to the IME Review Policy. He stated their professional documentation would be included in the September Board materials for the Board's information.

There being no other business, on a motion by Trustee Martins, seconded by Trustee McCrillis, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannan Hudgins