

# The Board of Trustees of the West Virginia College and Jumpstart Savings Programs

## Investment Committee Meeting Minutes

315 70th Street, SE – 2nd Floor Conference Room  
Microsoft TEAMS Optional

April 16, 2024  
1:00 p.m.

The Investment Committee Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the West Virginia College and Jumpstart Savings Programs was called to order on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 1:01 p.m. A silent roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. The following members were present: Mr. Chris Heller, Chair and Mr. Patrick Smith. There is one vacancy on the committee.

The following consultants were present: Mr. Chris Morvant representing Hartford Funds; Christian Jaeger and Ethan Wren representing Dimensional Fund Advisors (DFA); and Mr. Tim Fitzgerald representing NEPC, LLC.

The following WVSTO staff members attended: Mr. Steve Bohman; Ms. Amy Willard; Ms. Sarah Canterbury; Ms. Lindsay Marchio; Ms. Amy Hamilton; Mr. Greg Curry; Mr. Karl Shanholtzer; Mr. Jared Hunt; and Ms. Elizabeth Liston.

The agenda consisted of the following:

### Call to Order – Silent Roll Call

- I. Consideration of the March 20, 2024 Investment Committee Meeting Minutes
- II. NEPC Recommendation Letter regarding SMART529 Select Investment Proposal Change
- III. Consideration of Committee’s Recommendation to the Full Board regarding the SMART529 Select Investment Proposal Change
- IV. Other Business

Adjournment

### Agenda Item I.

The Chair indicated the first order of business on the agenda was the approval of the minutes from the Investment Committee meeting on March 20, 2024. The minutes were previously circulated with the Board packet. Chair, Chris Heller, moved to accept the minutes as presented and the motion was seconded by the Patrick Smith. There being no discussion, the members were polled, and the motion carried.

### Agenda Item II.

The Chair indicated the next order of business on the agenda was the NEPC Recommendation Letter regarding the SMART529 Select Investment Proposal Change. The letter was previously circulated with the Board Packet.

The Chair recognized Tim Fitzgerald from NEPC to give his remarks.

Mr. Fitzgerald noted that after a careful review of both products with DFA, NEPC is comfortable with the recommendation to make the one -for-one swap from Emerging Markets Core Equity Portfolio, which includes China, to Emerging Markets ex China Core Equity Portfolio. He added by moving to Emerging Markets ex-China it would result in a more diversified portfolio and greater exposure to other countries.

Mr. Fitzgerald noted the construction methodologies are the same for both portfolios. He further noted that the Emerging Markets ex China Core Equity portfolio performed slightly better in a simulated performance over a 30-year period. He also noted that fees will increase slightly since the new portfolio expense ratio is 43 basis points vs 40 basis points but given the small percentage of allocation to the SMART529 Select Plan as whole, the increase in fees will be approximately \$16,000 annually, or about .03%. Mr. Fitzgerald concluded by indicating he was comfortable with the recommendation to move forward with the proposal.

The Chair asked if there were any questions for Mr. Fitzgerald. None were heard.

### **Agenda Item III.**

The Chair indicated the next order of business on the agenda was the consideration of the Committee's Recommendation to the Full Board regarding the SMART529 Select Investment Proposal Change.

The Chair paused to ask if there were any questions for Dimensional Funds or STO staff regarding the proposed changes. None were heard.

The Chair made a motion to recommend the Full Board approve the SMART529 Select Investment Proposal Change. Patrick Smith seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, the Chair polled the members and the motion carried.

### **Agenda Item IV.**

The Chair advised the next meeting of the Investment Committee will be scheduled as needed and announced in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. Tentatively, one will be held on June 5, 2024 at 9:00 am to coincide with the full Board meeting at 10:00 am that day. The Chair asked if there was any further business to be brought before the committee. Hearing none, the Chair made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Patrick Smith. Hearing no discussion, the Chair polled the members and the motion carried. The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

Prepared by Elizabeth Liston  
Committee Approval Date: 6/5/24

Submitted by:



Chris Heller, Chair  
Investment Committee