

### **Investment Advisory Committee (IAC) Meeting**

VRS Boardroom
Bank of America
Pavilion Building, 3rd Floor

Wednesday, 4/12/2023 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM ET

### 1. Approval of Minutes (November 30, 2022)

IAC Meeting Minutes 11302022 - Final - Page 2

### 2. CIO Report

04-12-23 Chief Investment Officer Report - Page 6
Asset Allocation December 2022 - Page 13
Asset Allocation February 2023 - Page 14
Daily Asset Allocation Report 4-6-2023 - Page 15
Performance Summary 12-31-2022 - Page 16
Performance Summary 2-28-2023 - Page 17
Total Fund Tracking Error Report, 12-31-22 - Page 18
New Investments and Terminations 04-12-2023 - Page 19

### 3. Public Markets Program Review

04-12-23 Public Markets Overview Presentation - Page 21 04-12-23 Public Equity Program Review, Presentation Version - Page 26 04-12-23 Fixed Income Program Review, Presentation Version - Page 53 04-12-23 Public Equity Program Review, Reading Version - Page 70 04-12-23 Fixed Income Program Review, Reading Version - Page 118

### 4. Discussion on Portfolio Diversification

04-12-23 Risk Profile Enhancement Presentation - Page 139

### 5. Capital Markets Assumptions Review

04-12-23 Forward Returns, Scenario Analysis Presentation - Page 160

### 6. Benchmarks Review

04-12-23 Benchmarks Review Presentation - Page 189



# Investment Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes November 30, 2022 9:00 a.m. Page 1 of 4

## **Minutes**

A meeting of the Investment Advisory Committee of the Virginia Retirement System was held on November 30, 2022 with the following members present:

Larry Kochard, Chairperson Hance West Michael Beasley Theodore Economou Palmer Garson Tom Gayner Nancy Leake Bryan Lewis Rod Smyth

The following Board members were present:

A. Scott Andrews
Joseph Montgomery
Brandon Bell
John Bennett
Michael Disharoon
William Garrett

The following staff members were in attendance:

Trish Bishop, Ron Schmitz, Jennifer Schreck, Andrew Junkin, John Alouf, Rory Badura, Daniel Ball, Parham Behrooz, Erica Billingslea, Kevin Bliss, Jeanne Chenault, Tom Coleman, Michael Cooper, Perry Corsello, Sara Denson, Barry Faison, Laurie Fennell, Josh Fox, Katherine Grawe, JT Grier, Dane Honrado, K.C. Howell, De'Von Jones, Ross Kasarda, Kristina Koutrakos, Matt Lacy, Chung Ma, Jennifer MacKnight, Tom Mulvin, Walker Noland, Greg Oliff, Steven Peterson, Steven Ramirez, Jummai Sarki-Hurd, Daniel Schlussler, Jenny Schoeller, Kristy Scott, Michael Scott, Viet Tran, Lisa Turner, Leslie Weldon, Daniel Whitlock, Cindy Wilkinson, and Steve Woodall.

Also in attendance was Lauren Albanese of Financial Investment News; Jamie Bitz with Joint Audit & Review Commission; John Kevin Balaod of With Intelligence; Andrea Cinkovic and Alex Meyer of Goldman Sachs; Brian Deveney and Gary Gammon of the Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts; Madeline Katz of Mandate Wire; Mitchell King and Brigid



# Investment Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes November 30, 2022 9:00 a.m. Page 2 of 4

Schutsky of BlackRock; Laura Kreutzer with Wall Street Journal; Brian McCleave with Empower; and Bessi Tozluku of Pretium.

Mr. Kochard called the meeting to order at 8:57 a.m.

Mr. Kochard welcomed new Committee member Palmer Garson, replacing Deborah Allen-Hewitt as she retires from the Committee. Mr. Kochard also thanked Mr. Schmitz for his service to VRS as CIO, as this was Mr. Schmitz's last Committee meeting prior to retirement.

**Minutes** 

A motion was made by Mr. Gayner and seconded by Mr. Lewis to approve the minutes for the August 18, 2022 Committee meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

**CIO Report** 

Mr. Schmitz opened his CIO report commenting on market conditions for the second half of the year. Then Mr. Schmitz presented the Asset Allocation Report, Performance Summary, and Total Fund Tracking Error Report as of September 30, 2022. Last, Mr. Schmitz reviewed the New Investments and Terminations Report.

Private Markets Team Program Reviews Mr. Howell began by thanking Mr. Schmitz for his service to VRS. Then Mr. Howell moved into providing a general overview of the Private Markets Teams and introduced each program to be covered in the review.

Each Program Director presented their respective reports in two parts: a review of key points for each portfolio and then a discussion of respective program's key dynamics.

Mr. Noland provided a review of the Real Assets program. Review topics included an overview of program objectives, the team, markets, exposures, results, top 10 investment managers, Diverse Investment Management Engagement managers, commitments, and FY2024 plans and priorities.

Mr. Alouf provided a review of the Private Equity program. Review topics included an overview of the team, exposures, markets, results, Diverse Investment Management Engagement managers, and FY2024 plans and priorities.

Mr. Woodall provided a review of the Credit Strategies program. Review topics included an overview of the team, markets, exposures, results, top 10 investment managers, and FY2024 plans and priorities.



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Mr. Woodall provided a review of the Private Investment Partnership program. Review topics included an overview of the team, results, and FY2024 plans and priorities.

The Committee members engaged in general discussion throughout the reviews provided.

## Discuss Proposed Benchmark Changes

Next, Mr. Schmitz led a discussion on a proposed benchmark change for Real Assets and Risk-Based Investments (RBI). Specifically, Mr. Schmitz recommended eliminating the global REITS from the Real Estate portfolio, as well as from the Total Real Estate Benchmark, and the risk parity from the Risk-Based Investments benchmark. Removing REITS and Risk Parity better aligns Real Assets and Risk-Based Investments, respectively, with each program's main objective of providing meaningful diversification to the Plan. The recommended benchmarks are:

Real Assets: The market value weighted blend of the NCREIF Private Real Estate Benchmark (ODCE Index (net) lagged by three months) and the Other Real Assets Custom Benchmark (the CPI-U Index plus 400 basis points per annum lagged by three months).

Risk-Based Investments: The Bloomberg Barclays US Treasury Bellwethers: 3 month plus 250 basis points per annum.

After some discussion, the committee indicated its agreement with both proposed benchmark changes.

# Asset Liability Management Kick-off

Mr. Junkin and Dr. Peterson provided an overview of the Asset Liability Management process and the supporting components including financial condition, cash flow, risk assessment, asset allocation, liquidity, diversification, forward returns, correlation convergence and active management. A timeline of the process leading up to a vote by the Board in June was also provided.

### Adjournment

Mr. Beasley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gayner seconded the motion. Mr. Kochard asked for the Committee members to vote on the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

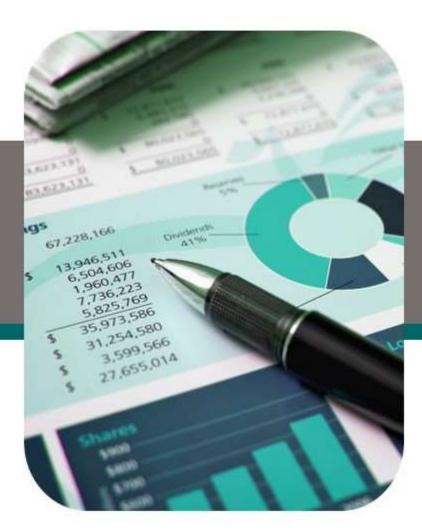


## Investment Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes November 30, 2022 9:00 a.m. Page 4 of 4

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.	
Larry Kochard, Chairperson	



**Chief Investment Officer Report Andrew Junkin** 



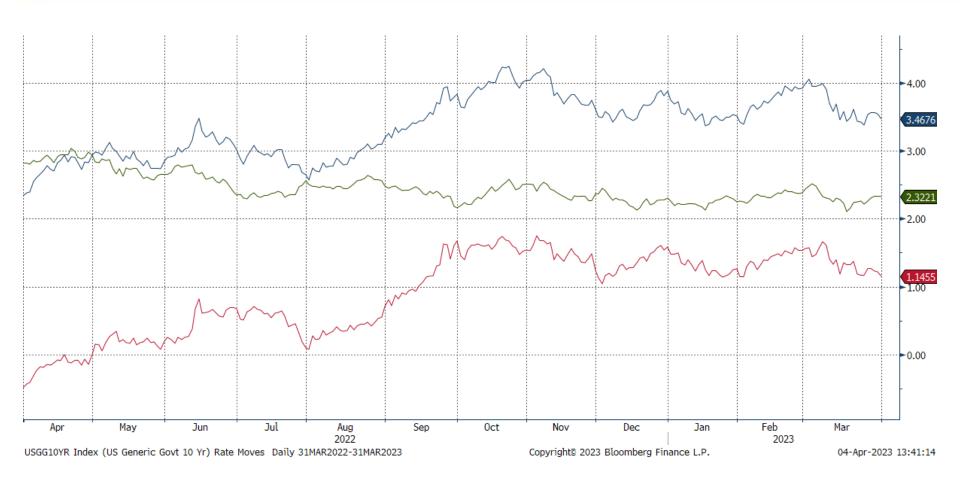
# **Any Signs of Inflation Slowing?**





# Rate Moves (10Y Nominal, Real & BEI)

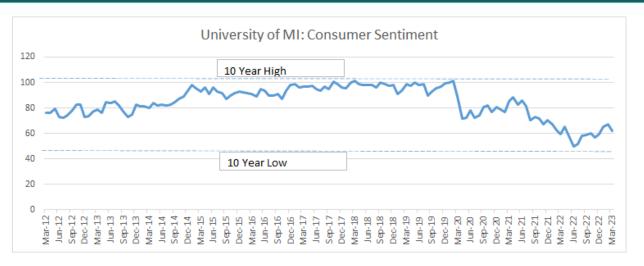


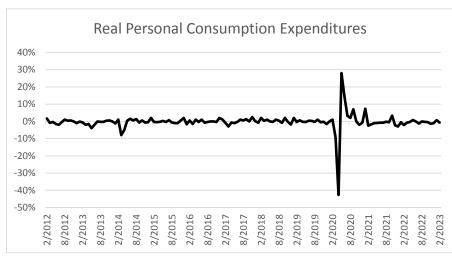


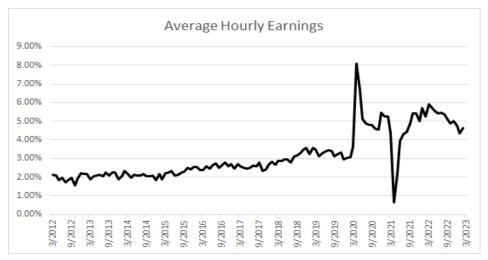
Data Source: Bloomberg

# **Consumer Activity**





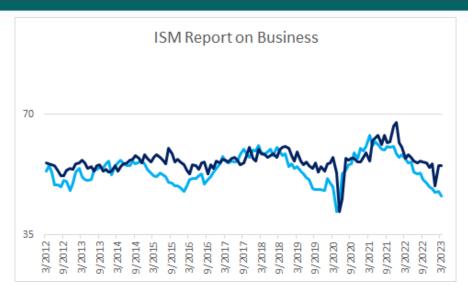




Data Source: Bloomberg

# **Business Activity**



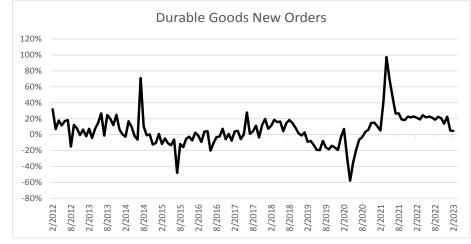


ISM Report (Manufacturing/Services)

Dark Blue – Services

Light Blue - Manufacturing



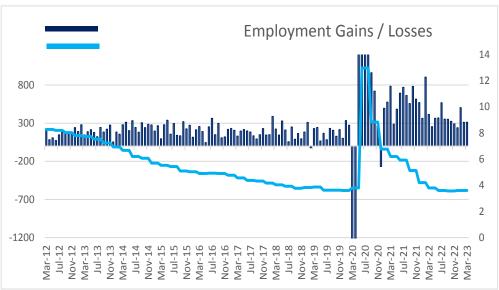


Data Source: Bloomberg

# **Inflation and Employment**

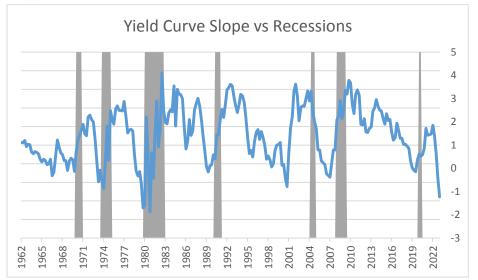


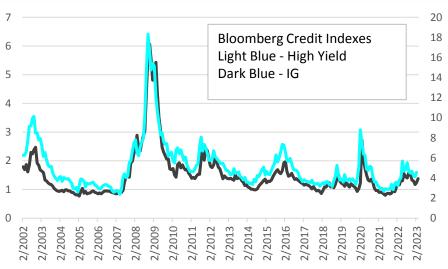


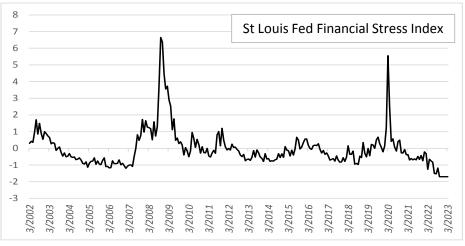


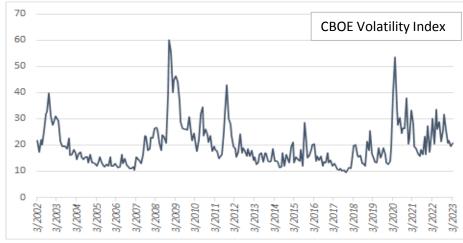
# **Risk Monitor**







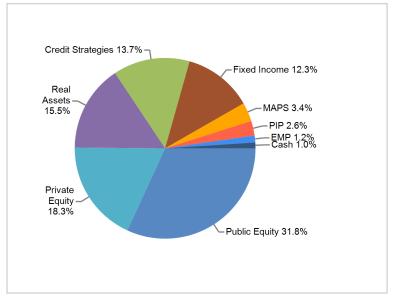






# Asset Allocation Report December 31, 2022

For Internal Investment Purposes Only



Tracking Error
3Yr-Total Fund: 2.03%
3Yr-Total Public: 1.74%
5Yr-Total Fund: 1.93%
5Yr-Total Public: 1.43%

	Current \$Bil	Current Weight	Policy Weight	<u>Variance</u>		<u>rable</u> nge	Internal <u>%</u>
Total Fund	100.3						28.3%
Public Equity	31.9	31.8%	34.0%	-2.2%	-5%	+5%	47.1%
Fixed Income	12.4	12.3%	15.0%	-2.7%	-3%	+5%	96.3%
Credit Strategies	13.8	13.7%	14.0%	-0.3%	-5%	+5%	
RS Credit	3.1	3.1%	5.6%	-2.5%			
NRS Credit	10.6	10.6%	8.4%	2.2%			
Real Assets	15.6	15.5%	14.0%	1.5%	-5%	+5%	8.7%
Public RE	1.4	1.4%					99.9%
Private RE	9.6	9.6%					
Other RA	4.6	4.6%					
Private Equity	18.3	18.3%	16.0%	2.3%	-5%	+5%	
MAPS	3.4	3.4%	4.0%	-0.6%	-2%	+2%	
DSTRAT	1.6	1.6%					
RBI	1.8	1.8%					0.4%
PIP	2.6	2.6%	2.0%	0.6%	-2%	+2%	
EMP	1.2	1.2%	0.0%	1.2%		+3%	
Cash	1.0	1.0%	1.0%	0.0%	-1%	+4%	
High-Level Exposure	Current \$Bil	Current Weight	Policy Weight	<u>Variance</u>		<u>rable</u> nge	
Total Equity	50.3	50.1%	50.0%	0.1%	-10%	10%	
Fixed Income + Cash	13.4	13.4%	16.0%	-2.6%	-4%	9%	
	Current \$Bil	Current Weight	Policy Limit				
Hedge Funds	9.8	9.8%	15.0%				

<sup>\*</sup> Total Fund includes the following amt held by the Treasurer of VA: \$ 45 million

<sup>•</sup> The values shown for each asset class on this report may differ from the VRS Monthly Performance Report due to adjustments related to derivative positions in the Rebalance Account, pending transactions, and certain accruals. The values on this report are a more descriptive representation of the Virginia Retirement System's true economic exposure to each asset class.( 4 adjustments applied )

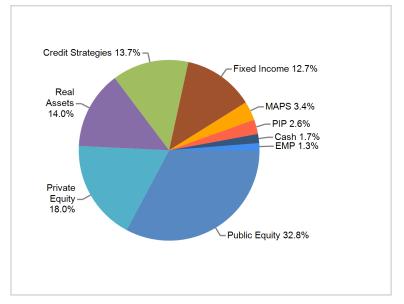
<sup>\*</sup>Total Fund and Total Public annualized tracking error is calculated using compounded quarterly returns as of 12/31/2022

<sup>\*</sup> Differences in totals are due to rounding.



# Asset Allocation Report February 28, 2023

For Internal Investment Purposes Only



Tracking Error
3Yr-Total Fund: 2.03%
3Yr-Total Public: 1.73%
5Yr-Total Fund: 1.93%
5Yr-Total Public: 1.43%

	Current \$Bil	Current Weight	Policy Weight	<u>Variance</u>		<u>rable</u> nge	Interna <u>%</u>
Total Fund	102.1						27.8%
Public Equity	33.5	32.8%	34.0%	-1.2%	-5%	+5%	47.5%
Fixed Income	13.0	12.7%	15.0%	-2.3%	-3%	+5%	96.4%
Credit Strategies	14.0	13.7%	14.0%	-0.3%	-5%	+5%	
RS Credit	3.2	3.1%	5.6%	-2.5%			
NRS Credit	10.8	10.6%	8.4%	2.2%			
Real Assets	14.3	14.0%	14.0%	0.0%	-5%	+5%	
Private RE	9.6	9.4%					
Other RA	4.6	4.5%					
Private Equity	18.4	18.0%	16.0%	2.0%	-5%	+5%	
MAPS	3.5	3.4%	4.0%	-0.6%	-2%	+2%	
DSTRAT	1.6	1.6%					
RBI	1.8	1.8%					0.4%
PIP	2.6	2.6%	2.0%	0.6%	-2%	+2%	
EMP	1.3	1.3%	0.0%	1.3%		+3%	
Cash	1.7	1.7%	1.0%	0.7%	-1%	+4%	
High-Level Exposure	Current \$Bil	Current Weight	Policy Weight	Variance		<u>rable</u> nge	
Total Equity	51.9	50.8%	50.0%	0.8%	-10%	10%	
Fixed Income + Cash	14.7	14.3%	16.0%	-1.7%	-4%	9%	
	Current \$Bil	Current Weight	Policy Limit				
Hedge Funds	9.9	9.7%	15.0%				

<sup>\*</sup> Total Fund includes the following amt held by the Treasurer of VA: \$ 388 million

<sup>•</sup> The values shown for each asset class on this report may differ from the VRS Monthly Performance Report due to adjustments related to derivative positions in the Rebalance Account, pending transactions, and certain accruals. The values on this report are a more descriptive representation of the Virginia Retirement System's true economic exposure to each asset class.( 5 adjustments applied )

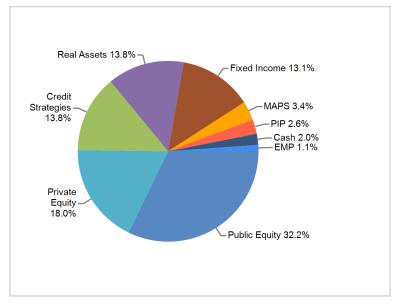
<sup>\*</sup>Total Fund and Total Public annualized tracking error is calculated using compounded quarterly returns as of 12/31/2022

<sup>\*</sup> Differences in totals are due to rounding.



## Daily Asset Allocation Report April 06, 2023

For Internal Investment Purposes Only



Tracking Error
3Yr-Total Fund: 2.06%
3Yr-Total Public: 1.75%
5Yr-Total Fund: 1.95%
5Yr-Total Public: 1.42%

	Current \$Bil	Current Weight	Policy Weight	<u>Variance</u>		rable nge	Interna <u>%</u>
Total Fund	102.5						27.7%
Public Equity	33.0	32.2%	34.0%	-1.8%	-5%	+5%	46.4%
Fixed Income	13.4	13.1%	15.0%	-1.9%	-3%	+5%	96.5%
Credit Strategies	14.2	13.8%	14.0%	-0.2%	-5%	+5%	
RS Credit	3.2	3.1%	5.6%	-2.5%			
NRS Credit	11.0	10.7%	8.4%	2.3%			
Real Assets	14.1	13.8%	14.0%	-0.2%	-5%	+5%	
Private RE	9.3	9.1%					
Other RA	4.8	4.6%					
Private Equity	18.5	18.0%	16.0%	2.0%	-5%	+5%	
MAPS	3.5	3.4%	4.0%	-0.6%	-2%	+2%	
DSTRAT	1.6	1.6%					6.5%
RBI	1.9	1.8%					0.5%
PIP	2.6	2.6%	2.0%	0.6%	-2%	+2%	
EMP	1.2	1.1%	0.0%	1.1%		+3%	
Cash	2.0	2.0%	1.0%	1.0%	-1%	+4%	
High-Level Exposure	Current \$Bil	Current Weight	Policy Weight	Variance		<u>rable</u>	
Total Equity	51.5	50.2%	50.0%	0.2%	-10%	10%	
Fixed Income + Cash	15.5	15.1%	16.0%	-0.9%	-4%	9%	
	Current \$Bil	Current Weight	Policy Limit				
Hedge Funds	9.8	9.5%	15.0%				

<sup>\*</sup> Total Fund includes the following amt held by the Treasurer of VA: \$ 111 million

<sup>•</sup> The values shown for each asset class on this report may reflect adjustments related to derivative positions in the Rebalance Account, pending transactions and certain accruals, in order to provide a more descriptive representation of the true economic exposure to each asset class ( 3 adjustments applied )

<sup>\*</sup>Total Fund and Total Public annualized tracking error is calculated using compounded quarterly returns as of 3/31/2023

<sup>\*</sup> Differences in totals are due to rounding.

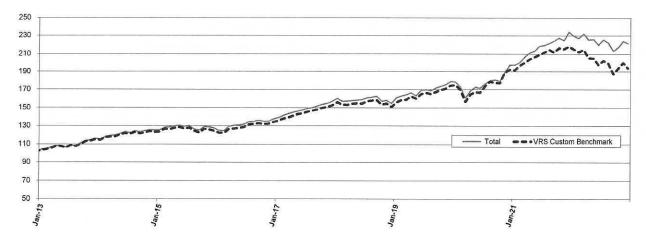
## PERFORMANCE SUMMARY Rolling Periods Ending December 31, 2022



### **TOTAL FUND PERFORMANCE**

	10 Yr	5 Yr	3 Yr	1 Yr	Qtr	Month	Fiscal YTD	Cal YTD	Market Value (\$MM)
Total Public Equity Strategies	8.4	5.1	4.7	-15.2	10.5	-2.9	3.9	-15.2	30,427
Benchmark	8.2	5.4	4.4	-18.1	10.0	-3.8	2.8	-18.1	
Total Fixed Income	1.8	1.1	-1.2	-12.6	2.8	-0.2	-2.0	-12.6	12,379
Benchmark	1.1	0.1	-2.7	-13.1	2.3	-0.4	-2.3	-13.1	
Total Credit Strategies	5.9	5.6	5.5	-2.0	1.3	0.2	0.7	-2.0	13,756
Benchmark	4.4	3.4	1.5	-4.9	3.2	0.0	3.4	-4.9	
Total Real Assets	10.7	9.9	10.9	14.4	1.5	0.6	3.4	14.4	15,557
Benchmark	8.9	8.2	9.2	12.9	1.3	-0.1	4.0	12.9	
Total Private Equity	16.4	18.2	20.4	0.0	-0.9	-1.2	-4.9	0.0	18,344
Benchmark	10.6	7.1	5.0	-20.9	-6.5	-9.6	-21.2	-20.9	U+0.00 P000000000
Total Private Investment Partnerships	n/a	9.4	10.9	3.5	0.0	0.0	-1.2	3.5	2,636
Benchmark	n/a	6.8	6.6	-3.4	-0.7	-3.1	-4.4	-3.4	(47 <b>.</b> 070,7336)
Total Multi-Asset Public Strategies	n/a	n/a	3.1	-4.9	4.7	-0.9	2.5	-4.9	3,412
Benchmark	n/a	n/a	2.5	-9.8	4.7	-1.6	1.1	-9.8	50
Total Fund	8.1	7.1	7.4	-5.3	4.0	-1.1	0.7	-5.3	100,252
VRS Custom Benchmark	6.7	4.9	3.6	-11.2	3.5	-3.0	-1.8	-11.2	1004 See 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10

### 10-Year Performance Indexed to 100



Effective July 2013, the VRS Custom Benchmark is a blend of the Asset Class Benchmarks at policy weights.

The VRS Cash Account, the Treasurer Short-Term Investment Account, the VRS Rebalancing Account, transition activity and accounts with market values of less than \$1 million are included in the Total Fund's market value. Differences in market value totals are due to rounding.

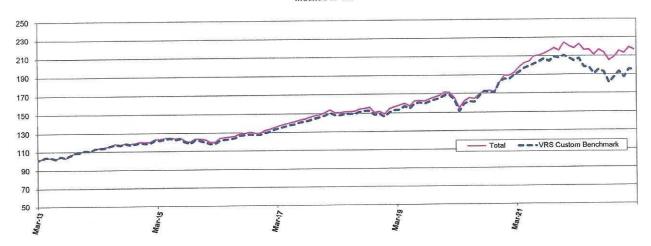
## PERFORMANCE SUMMARY Rolling Periods Ending February 28, 2023



### TOTAL FUND PERFORMANCE

	10 Yr	5 Yr	3 Yr	1 Yr	Qtr	Month	Fiscal YTD	Cal YTD	Market Value (\$MM)
Total Public Equity Strategies	8.2	5.8	9.4	-5.6	0.9	-2.3	8.0	4.0	31,615
Benchmark	8.1	6.2	9.4	-7.7	0.5	-2.7	7.3	4.4	
Total Fixed Income	1.9	1.6	-2.1	-8.7	0.5	-2.4	-1.3	0.7	12,961
Benchmark	1.1	0.6	-3.6	-9.5	0.1	-2.5	-1.8	0.5	
Total Credit Strategies	5.8	5.7	5.9	0.3	1.3	0.0	1.9	1.2	13,983
Benchmark	4.5	3.8	2.5	-0.9	2.7	-0.3	6.1	2.7	
Total Real Assets	10.6	10.1	11.3	15.3	0.6	-0.1	3.4	0.0	14,271
Benchmark	8.5	7.7	8.5	7.7	-2.1	-1.1	1.9	-2.1	
Total Private Equity	16.4	18.1	20.5	0.1	-1.3	-0.2	-5.0	-0.1	18,367
Benchmark	12.1	9.1	7.9	-11.4	3.3	7.7	-10.0	14.3	
Total Private Investment Partnerships	n/a	9.4	10.9	3.5	0.0	0.0	-1.2	0.0	2,636
Benchmark	n/a	7.8	7.4	-0.3	1.5	2.0	0.1	4.7	
Total Multi-Asset Public Strategies	n/a	n/a	5.7	-0.1	2.2	0.5	5.6	3.1	3,465
Benchmark	n/a	n/a	4.0	-4.4	0.4	-0.9	3.2	2.0	
Total Fund	8.0	7.5	9.3	-0.8	0.6	-1.1	2.4	1.7	102,130
VRS Custom Benchmark	6.8	5.6	6.0	-4.9	1.0	-0.3	2.2	4.1	

### 10-Year Performance Indexed to 100



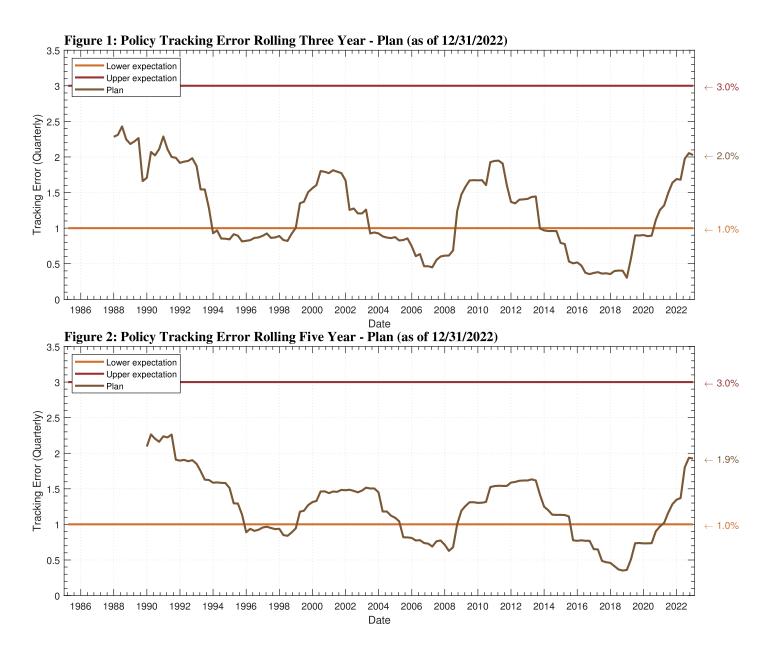
Effective July 2013, the VRS Custom Benchmark is a blend of the Asset Class Benchmarks at policy weights.

The VRS Cash Account, the Treasurer Short-Term Investment Account, the VRS Rebalancing Account, transition activity and accounts with market values of less than \$1 million are included in the Total Fund's market value. Differences in market value totals are due to rounding.

4/7/2023 10:40 AM

# Total Fund Tracking Error





The VRS Defined Benefit Plan Investment Policy Statement established the total fund tracking error range as the allowable observed tracking error calculated quarterly using 5 years of history.

**VRS Investment Department**Recap of New Investments/Terminations
Time Period: 11/30/2022 – 04/12/2023



Program	Action	Effective Date	Commitment/ Current Value	Funding/ Defunding Period	Description
Total Fund	Manager acquired active currency manager	11/29/2022	\$1.8 Billion	Immediate	* Systematica Investments – a quantitative active currency manager specializing in G10 currency.
Risk-Based Investments	Terminated	12/31/2022	\$159 Million	Immediate	AQR Risk Parity – an actively managed risk parity mandate.
Risk-Based Investments	Hired	03/01/2023	\$300 Million	Immediate	Man AHL – a custom mix of various trend following strategies.
Public Equity	Closed	01/03/2023	\$2.1 Billion	Immediate	Matoaka – Internal non-U.S. large cap account.
Public Equity	Closed	02/28/2023	\$1 Billion	Immediate	Potomac – Internal U.S. large cap account.
Public Equity	Opened	03/01/2023	\$300 Million	Immediate	Amherst – An internally managed REIT strategy with swap overlay.
Real Assets	Closed	01/03/2023	\$520 Million	Immediate	Montalto – An internally managed international REIT account.
Real Assets	Closed	01/03/2023	\$830 Million	Immediate	Monroe – An internally managed U.S. focused REIT account.
Real Assets	Hired	02/07/2023	\$125 Million	3 Years	Penwood Select Industrial Partners VII, LP – A closed end fund investing in industrial real estate.
Real Assets	Hired	03/15/2023	\$350 Million	5 Years	<b>VA - Pantheon Infrastructure III -</b> A separate account investing in infrastructure funds.
Private Equity	Hired	03/30/2023	\$300 Million	6 Years	<b>Hellman and Friedman XI</b> – A mega buyout fund that will target high quality businesses with defensible competitive positions, strong economic profiles, and a growth orientation in the U.S. and Europe.

<sup>\*</sup> The manager is considered Diverse Investment Management Engagement (DIME) under the Commonwealth of Virginia definition, which defines ownership threshold of 51% or more.

April 12, 2023 IAC Meeting

**VRS Investment Department**Recap of New Investments/Terminations
Time Period: 11/30/2022 – 04/12/2023



Program	Action	Effective Date	Commitment/ Current Value	Funding/ Defunding Period	Description
Credit Strategies	Hired	03/17/2023	\$150 Million	4 Years	<b>Ares Capital Europe VI</b> – A closed-end fund that will directly originate and provide one-stop, flexible and scaled debt capital to European middle market companies.
Credit Strategies	Hired	03/31/2023	\$250 Million	3 Years	<b>Ares Pathfinder II</b> – An alternative credit fund investing in performing assets that have predictable cash flows and are directly originated by the manager.
Credit Strategies	Hired	03/31/2023	\$150 Million	3 Years	Oaktree Opportunities Fund XII – A closed-end fund focused on investing in both private and public corporate distressed debt opportunities.
Credit Strategies	Hired	03/31/2023	\$250 Million	3 Years	Oak Street Real Estate Capital VI – A closed-end fund seeking income generation through sale-leasebacks with investment grade tenants.

April 12, 2023 IAC Meeting

<sup>\*</sup> The manager is considered Diverse Investment Management Engagement (DIME) under the Commonwealth of Virginia definition, which defines ownership threshold of 51% or more.



April 12, 2023

Investment Advisory Committee
Public Market Assets
Program Reviews



# **Public Market Assets**



## **Overview**

(J.T. Grier, Managing Director)

## **Program Reviews**

- Public Equity(Dan Whitlock, Program Director)
- Internal Equity Management Public Equity
   (Dan Schlussler, Program Director)
- Fixed Income(Parham Behrooz & Greg Oliff, Co-Directors)



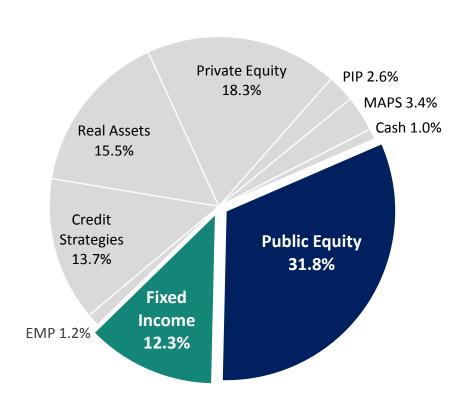
Public Market
Program Overview
J.T. Grier
Managing Director, Public Markets



# **Overview: Public Market Assets**



**Public Market Assets: 44.1%** 



## **Public Equity**

- 23 Developed Mkts
- 27 Emerging Mkts

## **Internal Equity Management**

- ≈45% of Public Equity
- Invested in 50 Global Mkts

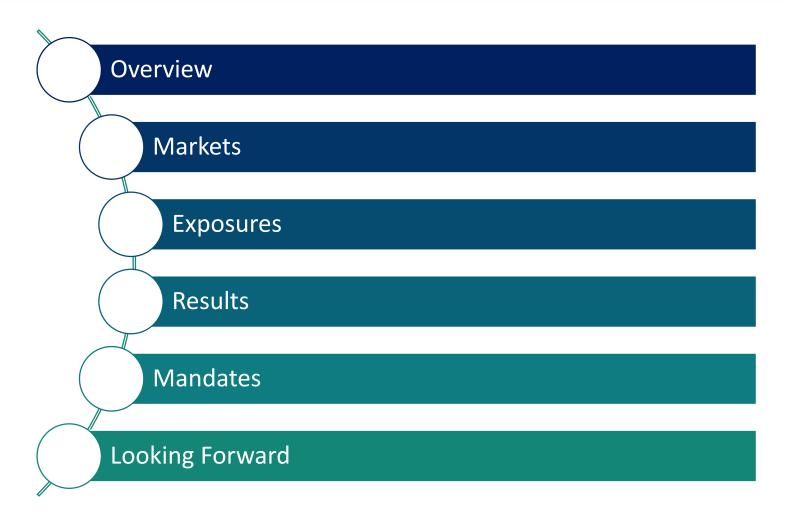
## **Fixed Income**

- U.S. Core Focus
- USD EMD
- High Yield

Market values as of 12/31/2022; source: BNY Mellon data

# Overview: Preview Of Agenda Items







# **Public Equity**

**Dan Whitlock and Dan Schlussler**Program Directors

"Basically, experience in finance with a discount rate near zero is like having studied physics except without gravity."

- Mathematician Nassim Nicholas Taleb



# Agenda: Public Equity Annual Review Topics



- Overview
- Markets
- Exposures
- Results
- Mandates
- Looking Forward

# Overview: Public Equity Team Members



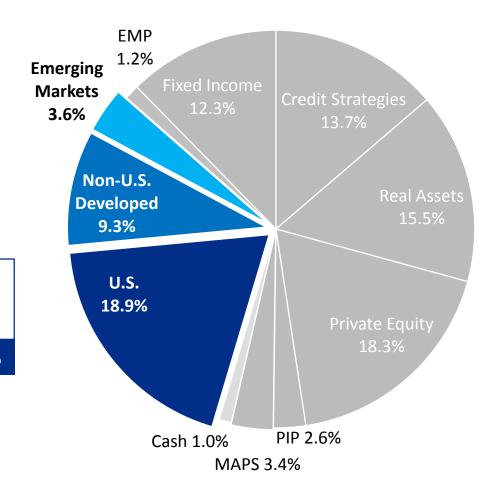
Professional	Position	Highest Degree	Professional Certifications	Investment Experience	VRS Tenure
Dan Whitlock	Director	MBA	CFA, CAIA	21	21
Stephen Adelaar	Portfolio Manager	MS	CFA	23	16
Holly Glass	Portfolio Manager	MA	CFA	22	22
Olga Zozulya	Investment Officer	MBA	CFA	10	10
Korey Turner	Senior Investment Analyst	MS/MBA		3	3
Kelly Baker	Portfolio Assistant	AAS		13	8
Additional Resources	The entire Internal Equity Te Committee, Operations Tea		• •		nagement

# Overview: Public Equity Asset Allocation as of 12/31/22



U.S. Equity 18.9% Non-U.S. Developed 9.3% Emerging Market 3.6%

**Total Public Equity 31.8%** 



# Overview: Public Equity Philosophy



## Primary Objective

Gain exposure to global economic growth & the global equity risk premium

## Specific Return Objective

Outperform the strategic benchmark over three to five years

## Approach

Risk-adjusted, using both equity hedge funds & low-volatility equity mandates

## Strategic Benchmark

MSCI All-Country World Index Investible Markets Index (MSCI ACWI IMI)

# Exposures: Public Equity Positioning as of 12/31/22



\$30.4 Billion

30.4% of Plan Assets

57% Domestic (-2.1% vs. bmk)

31% Non-US Developed (+2.0% vs. bmk)

12% Emerging Markets (+0.2% vs. bmk)

69% Active

31% Enhanced

45% Internal

55% External

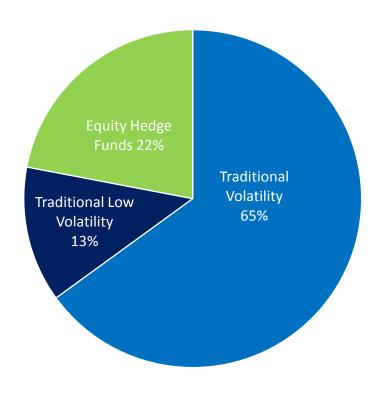
65% Traditional Volatility

13% Traditional Low Volatility

22% Equity Hedge Funds

0.94 Beta

1.70% Forecasted Active Risk (Barra)



- 27 External Mandates (13 Traditional & 14 HFs)
- 21 External Managers (9 Traditional & 12 HFs)

# Exposures: Public Equity Portfolio Changes as of 12/31/22



## 2022 was a Year of Action:

Raised ~\$1.6 billion for plan needs

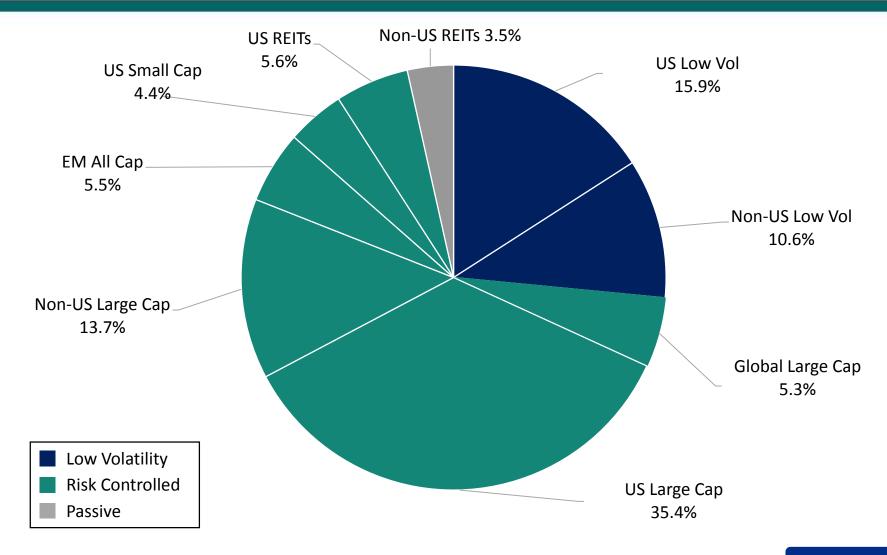
Rebalanced another~\$2.1 billion within Public Equity

Out of this, a combined ~\$3.2 billion of flows came from HF's and Low Vol to lower active risk, lock in relative gains during selloff, gain liquidity.

Total PE	2021	2022	Difference
Traditional	58%	65%	7%
Low Volatility	18%	13%	-5%
Hedge Funds	24%	22%	-2%
Active	74%	69%	-5%
Enhanced	26%	31%	5%
Internal	39%	45%	6%
External	61%	55%	-6%
AUM (billions)	38	30	(7)
% of Total Fund	35%	30%	-5%

# Overview: Internal Equity Asset Allocation as of 12/31/22





# Overview: Internal Equity Asset Allocation Changes



# 2022 – 2023 Portfolio Actions:

Launched Global Enhanced Index Strategy in September

Began reallocation of US and non-US Developed Large Cap assets to Global Enhanced in 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023

Reallocated most of REIT strategy assets and completed redesign of US component for Public Equity

Total IEM	2021	2022	2023 (Feb)	Difference
Risk Controlled				
US Large Cap	40%	35%	7%	-33%
Non-US Large Cap	14%	14%	0%	-14%
Global Lap Cap	0%	5%	52%	52%
Total Large Cap Developed	54%	54%	60%	5%
US Small Cap	5%	4%	5%	0%
EM All Cap	3%	5%	6%	3%
US REITs	5%	6%	2%	-3%
Total Risk Controlled	68%	70%	73%	5%
Low Volatility				
US Low Vol	18%	16%	16%	-1%
Non-US Low Vol	12%	11%	11%	0%
Total Low Volatility	29%	27%	28%	-2%
Total Active	97%	96%	100%	4%
Non-US REITs (Passive)	3%	4%	0%	-3%

# **Overview: Internal Equity Team Members**



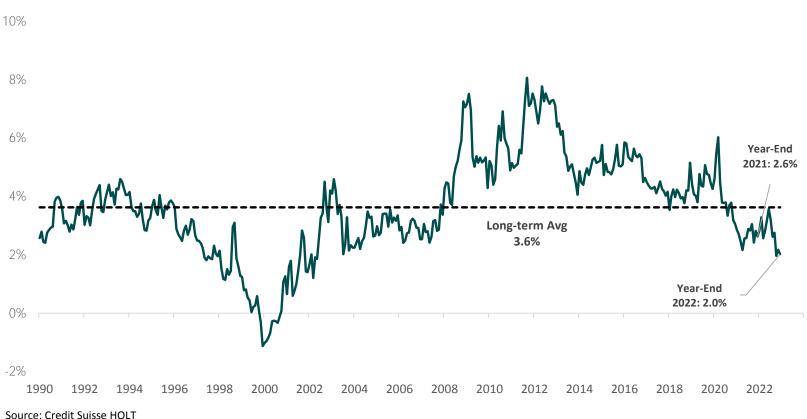
Professional	Position	Area(s) of Focus	Highest Degree	Professional Certifications	Investment Experience	
Dan Schlussler	Program Director	Non-U.S. Dev Low Vol, Research	МВА	CFA	27	10
Joe Kennebeck	Sr. Investment Officer	Head Trader	ВА		30	16
Ryan Carlson	Portfolio Manager	U.S. REIT & Small Cap, Investment Tools	BS	CFA	20	3
Aaron Lazar	Investment Officer	Currency Hedge, Global Enhanced Transition, U.S. REIT, Swaps & Equity Trading	MA	Passed CFA Level 1	9	9
Vu Le	Portfolio Manager	Global Enhanced, Research, Currency Hedge	PhD	CFA	12	11
Alex Muniz	Sr. Portfolio Manager	U.S. Low Volatility, Research	MA	CFA	22	22
Garret Rhodes	Investment Officer	Non-U.S. Dev Low Vol, Global Enhanced, Currency Hedge, Swaps Trading	MS	CFA	4	4
Larry Tentor	Portfolio Manager	Global Enhanced Transition, Data Infrastructure	PhD	FRM	21	15
Weldon Wirick	Portfolio Manager	Emerging Markets, Trading	MA	CFA	21	17
Matthew Lacy	Director of Portfolio Integration (PSG)	U.S. Large Cap	MA	CFA	24	24
Additional Resources	Investment Operations Portfolio Solutions Grou Investment Decision Su	up pport	2022			while Fault
		IAC Magting 350if 20	12023		F	ublic Equity

10

# Markets: **Equity Risk Premium**



### **US Equity Risk Premium**



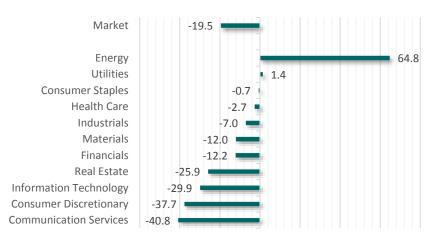
Source: Credit Suisse HOLT

### Markets: Market Performance



#### **United States**

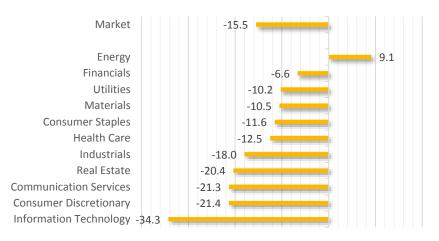
Total Return: 2022



Source: MSCI, Bloomberg

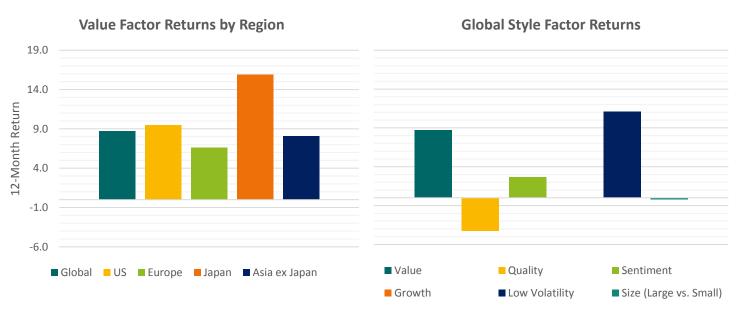
#### **All-Country World ex USA**

Total Return (USD): 2022



# Markets: Factor Returns (2022)

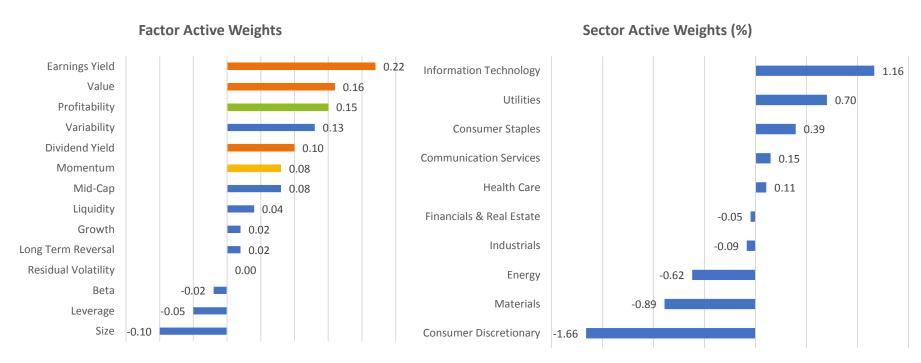




Source: UBS
Long Minus Benchmark. Region, size and sector neutral, cap-weighted

### Exposures: Internal Equity Style Factor & Sector Allocations





<sup>\*</sup>Data as of 12/16/2022.

# Results: Internal Equity Program Performance (as of 12/31/22)



	IEM Active			IEM Enhanced Index			IEM Low Volatility					
	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	Incep	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	Incep	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	Incep
Total Active Internal Equity	-15.72	4.41	5.56	7.06	-17.75	4.94	5.98	6.68	-10.57	3.31	4.55	10.79
IEM Benchmark	-17.20	4.26	6.12	6.49	-18.55	4.68	6.27	6.41	-13.69	3.43	5.87	8.94
Excess Returns	1.48	0.15	-0.56	0.57	0.80	0.26	-0.30	0.27	3.12	-0.12	-1.32	1.85
Realized Tracking Error	1.44	1.40	1.20	1.06	1.20	1.28	1.07	0.83	2.79	2.22	2.02	2.73
Realized Information Ratio	1.03	0.11	-0.47	0.54	0.66	0.20	-0.28	0.32	1.12	-0.05	-0.66	0.68

# Results: Internal Equity Strategy Performance (as of 12/31/22)



	Inception Date	Mkt Value (\$MM)	1-Year Return	1-Year Excess	Since Inc. Excess	Since Inc. Tracking
Risk Controlled Strategies		10,413	-17.75	0.80	0.27	0.83
U.S. Large Cap (Potomac)	Apr-01	5,277	-18.73	0.73	0.35	0.98
Non-U.S. Large Cap (Matoaka)	Sep-10	2,045	-12.47	1.41	0.08	1.28
EM All Cap (Tuckahoe)	Sep-15	814	-19.71	0.09	-0.55	1.82
U.S. Small Cap (Afton)	Jun-05	651	-15.73	1.44	0.39	1.92
U.S. REITs (Monroe)	Dec-05	831	-25.57	-0.72	0.98	1.11
Global Dev. Large Cap (Rivanna)	Sep-22	795	N/A	N/A	1.01	N/M
Less Constrained (Low Vol) Strategies		3,959	-10.57	3.12	1.85	2.73
U.S. Large Cap (Mobjack)	Jun-10	2,375	-11.44	1.94	1.70	3.12
Non-U.S. Large Cap (Piedmont)	Dec-12	1,584	-9.27	4.85	1.18	2.73
Passive Strategies		522	-23.72	0.07	0.12	0.27
Non-U.S. Developed REIT	Jul-20	522	-23.73	0.07	-0.23	0.23
Other Mandates						
Currency Hedging	Apr-09	2,260	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

### Results: Public Equity as of 12/31/22



	10 Year	5 Year	3 Year	1 Year
Total Public Equity	8.39	5.11	4.67	-15.19
Strategic Benchmark	8.21	5.41	4.39	-18.06
Excess Return	0.18	-0.30	0.28	2.87
Beta vs. Strategic Benchmark*	0.95	0.94	0.93	
Alpha**	0.48	-0.12	0.41	
Active Risk vs. Strategic Benchmark***	1.50	1.98	2.48	
Information Ratio vs. Strategic Benchmark****	0.12	-0.15	0.11	

<sup>\*</sup>Measure of volatility, or systematic risk, of a portfolio in comparison to a benchmark

VRS Public Equity has outperformed in seven of the last ten calendar years, underperforming in only 2018 - 2020

Please see endnotes for benchmark information

<sup>\*\*</sup>Risk-adjusted excess return (accounts for market beta)

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>A relative risk measure otherwise known as tracking error, this is the standard deviation of returns relative to a benchmark

<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup>A measure of excess return per unit of relative risk (Portfolio Returns - Benchmark Returns) / Active Risk

### Results: Public Equity CY 2022 Attribution Deeper Dive



#### **2022 Performance Factor Attribution**

Note: Attribution an <u>estimate</u> and does not contain fees, intra-month trading, t-costs, etc.; some categories that are not material were left off.

#### **Factor Impact Summary:**

18

- An overweight to U.S. Value was the largest contributor to Style.
- The low beta approach was a tailwind in falling markets (after a headwind for several years).
- An underweight to the U.S. added.
- Stock Selection was negative, primarily due to being underweight some energy names that were up a large amount.

Attribution	Value (%)
Portfolio Base Return	-14.8%
Benchmark Base Return	-17.9%
Excess Return	3.1%
Currency	0.0%
Market Timing	1.2%
Country Allocation	0.6%
Selection	1.3%
Industry	0.0%
Style	1.7%
Specific Return	-0.3%

# Results: Public Equity 2023 Update



#### 2022/2023 Performance Factor Attribution\*

#### **Factor Impact Summary:**

- Lower beta that protected capital in 2022 detracted in the first two months of 2023.
- Underweights of growth names in 2022 that contributed to stock outperformance in 2022 led to underperformance in January and February.
- Generally, January 2023 was a lowquality rally by several fundamental metrics.

Attribution	2022	2023 (through Feb)
Portfolio Base Return	-14.8	4.1
Benchmark Base Return	-17.9	4.4
Excess Return	3.1	-0.4
Currency	0.0	0.0
Market Timing	1.2	-0.3
Country Allocation	0.6	0.0
Selection	1.3	-0.1
Industry	0.0	0.0
Style	1.7	0.0
Stock Specific Return	-0.3	-0.2

<sup>\*</sup>Attribution is an estimate and does not contain fees, intra-month trading, t-costs, etc.; some categories that are not material were left off.

### Results: External Manager Breakout As of 12/31/22



**Public Equity** 

	10 Year	5 Year	3 Year	1 Year
External Managers (net of fees)	7.70	4.84	4.77	-15.01
Associated Market Cap Benchmarks	7.41	4.70	4.03	-18.32
Excess Return	0.29	0.15	0.73	3.31
Beta vs. Benchmarks*	0.94	0.94	0.92	
Alpha**	0.62	0.29	0.87	
Active Risk vs. Benchmarks***	2.25	2.84	3.49	
Information Ratio vs. Benchmarks****	0.13	0.05	0.21	

<sup>\*</sup>Measure of volatility, or systematic risk, of a portfolio in comparison to a benchmark

VRS Public Equity external managers have had a low excess return correlation (diversification) to internal management over time and have added value net of all fees.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Risk-adjusted excess return (accounts for market beta)

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>A relative risk measure otherwise known as tracking error, this is the standard deviation of returns relative to a benchmark

<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup>A measure of excess return per unit of relative risk (Portfolio Returns - Benchmark Returns) / Active Risk

### Managers: Public Equity Hires & Terminations – 1 Year



Action	Effective Date	Commitment/ Current Value	Funding/ Defunding Period	Description
Closed	2/28/2022	\$200 Million	< 1 Month	<b>Kylin*</b> A China, Korea, and Japan oriented equity hedge fund
Terminated	7/18/2022	\$270 Million	Immediate	Nordea Emerging Markets Long only emerging markets manager
Hire	8/1/2022	\$250 Million	Immediate	CET Energy Dynamics A long/short equity hedge fund focused on the energy sector
Terminated	8/4/2022	\$1,200 Million	Immediate	Nordea Global Long only global markets manager
Hire	9/1/2022	\$750 Million	Immediate	<b>Rivanna</b> An internally managed active global equity strategy

<sup>\*</sup>The manager is considered DIME under the Commonwealth of Virginia definition, which defines ownership threshold of 51% or more

### Managers: Diverse Investment Management Engagement (DIME)



#### **Women & Minority Owned Management Firms Currently In The Lineup**

- Ariel managing VRS assets since 2014
   African-American, Asian-American & women-owned global equity manager
- Advent managing VRS assets since 2011, Public Equity assets since 2020
   African-American owned convertible manager

#### **Continue To Meet With New Prospects & Consider New Investments**

- 86 meetings with minority managers or consultants in last 5 years
- 223 meetings since we started tracking this in late 2009

### Looking Forward: Remain Opportunistic



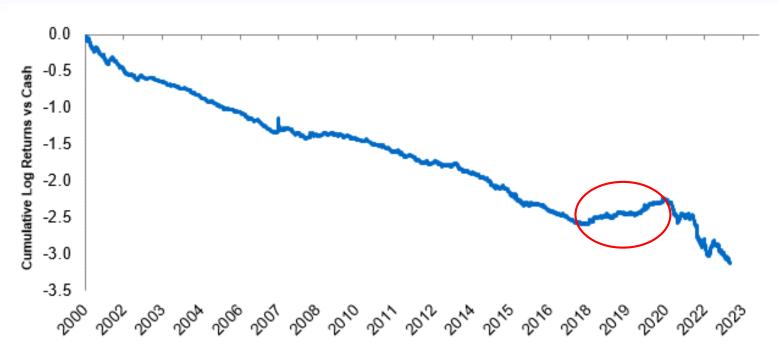
- Benchmark Study: Strategic Allocation to Low Vol
- Continue To Work Closely With All Cross Functional Teams
- External
  - Opportunistic Manager and Selection, Portfolio Management, and Risk Management
  - Continue Women & Minority Manager Outreach
- Internal
  - Globalization of Strategies Continues with Low Volatility Next
  - Major Projects to Enhance Our Research Infrastructure and Investment Tools



### **Appendix**

### Markets: Costanza Portfolio





Source: AQR. For illustrative purposes only. Hypothetical data has inherent limitations, some of which are described in the disclosures. See detailed explanation in the body of this article, and additional disclosures at the end of this article. This hypothetical performance does not reflect the deduction of any management fees, which as mentioned, would further reduce the actual return. It should not be assumed that the inversion of these charts is illustrative of actual portfolio performance.

A portfolio of the worst fundamentals did best in the 2018 – 2020 time frame. These were the same years Total Public Equity underperformed. Public Equity continued to invest in a diversified, fundamental-based way.

### Results: Internal Equity Program Performance (as of 2/28/23)



	IEM Active			IEN	IEM Enhanced Index			IEM Low Volatility				
	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	Incep	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	Incep	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	Incep
Total Active Internal Equity	-6.52	9.08	6.39	7.18	-7.53	10.16	6.94	6.85	-4.10	6.70	5.12	10.77
IEM Benchmark	-7.06	8.66	6.89	6.61	-7.74	9.55	7.18	6.57	-5.35	6.70	6.32	8.94
Excess Returns	0.54	0.42	-0.50	0.57	0.21	0.60	-0.24	0.28	1.25	0.00	-1.20	1.83
Realized Tracking Error	0.99	1.41	1.22	1.06	1.01	1.25	1.08	0.83	1.96	2.28	2.05	2.73
Realized Information Ratio	0.54	0.30	-0.41	0.54	0.21	0.48	-0.22	0.33	0.64	0.00	-0.59	0.67

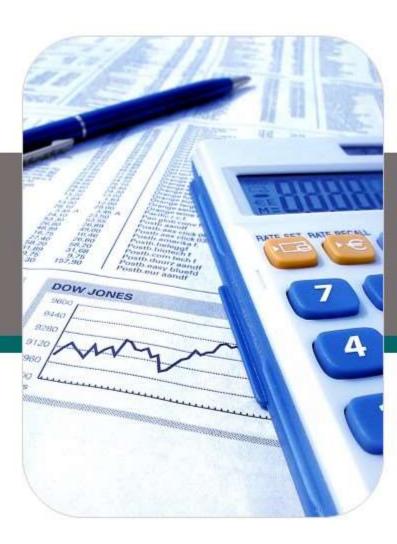
# Managers: Public Equity Top 5



Name	Mandates	# of Mandates	% of Program
VRS Internal Equity	Global, U.S., Non-U.S., Emerging	7	45%
LSV	Global, Non-U.S. Small, U.S. Small	3	9%
Arrowstreet	Global	1	8%
Baillie Gifford	Global, Emerging	2	5%
Select Equity	Hedge Fund	2	4%
Total			70%



# Fixed Income Parham Behrooz & Greg Oliff Co-Directors



# Agenda: Fixed Income Annual Review Topics



- Overview
- Markets
- Exposures
- Results
- Looking Forward
- Collaboration

### Overview: Team Members



Professional	Position	Highest Degree	Professional Certifications	Investment Experience	VRS Tenure			
Parham Behrooz	Co-Director	BS	CFA	26	10			
Greg Oliff	Co-Director	МВА	CFA	15	12			
Mehtab Haleem	Portfolio Manager	MS		14	2			
Teresa Nguyen	Portfolio Manager	MS*	CFA	21	6			
Michael Desai	Investment Officer	MS	**	6	2			
Moeen Mostafavi	Investment Officer	Ph. D*		<1	<1			
Kidus Molla	Investment Analyst	BS	**	1	1			
Additional Resources	Investment Operations Department, Portfolio Solutions Group, Management Committee, Operations Team, Compliance Team, and Legal/Regulatory Team.							

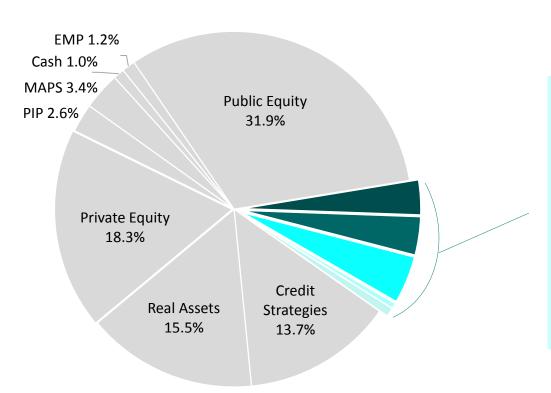
<sup>\*</sup> Expected 2023

<sup>\*\*</sup> CFA Candidate

# Overview: Asset Allocation as of 12/31/22



#### **Total Fixed Income = 12.3%**



Securitized	4.3%
Government	3.5%
IG Credit	3.1%
Emerging Market Debt	0.8%
High Yield	0.5%
Opportunistic	0.0%
Core Overlay	0.0%
Total FI Overlay	0.0%

Market values as of 12/31/2022; Source: BNY Mellon data

### Overview: Philosophy



#### **Risk Controlled Relative Value**

Market factors provide opportunities to add value through optimal sector allocation and security selection, while managing risk exposures to the benchmark within controlled parameters

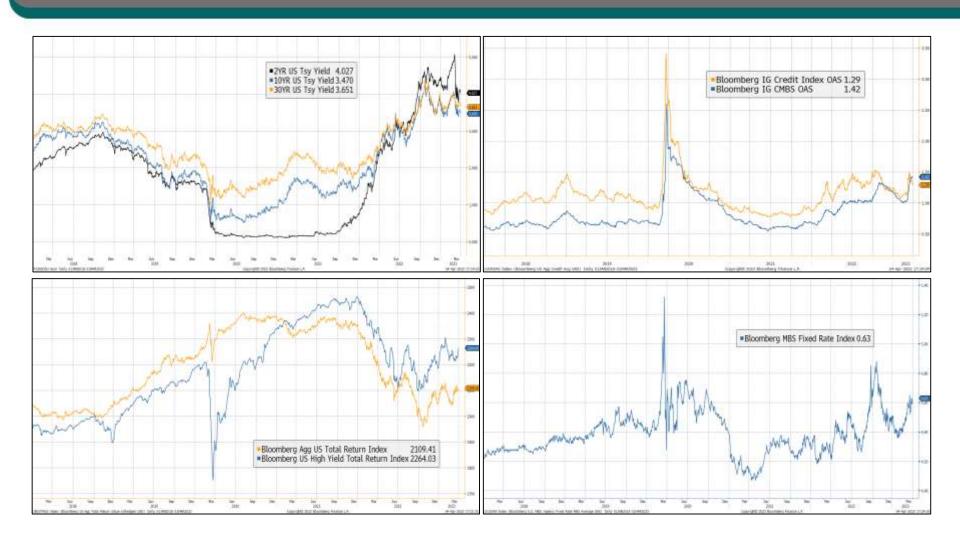


The Fixed Income Program serves as a diversifying asset class, historically providing a hedge against a deflationary economic environment.

### Markets:

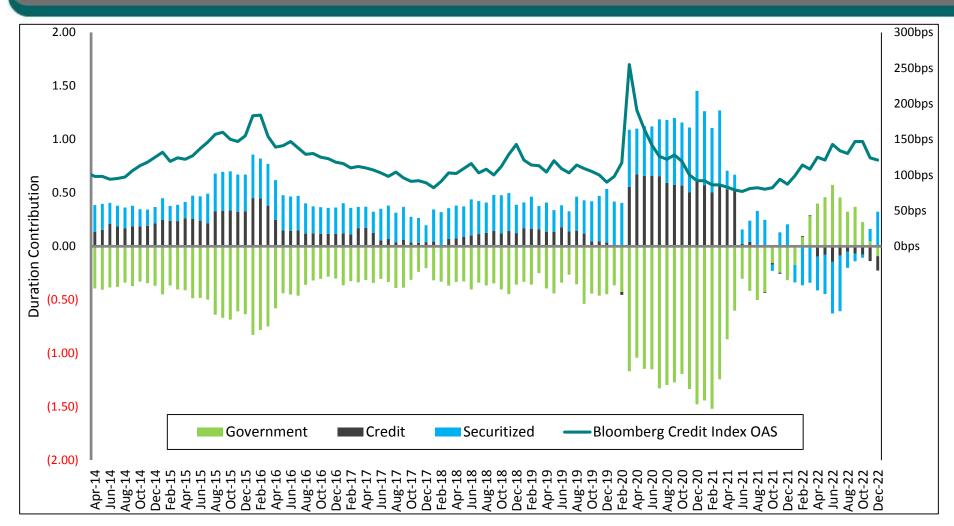
### Data: Jan 2018 - Mar 2023





### Markets: History of Core Sector Tilts

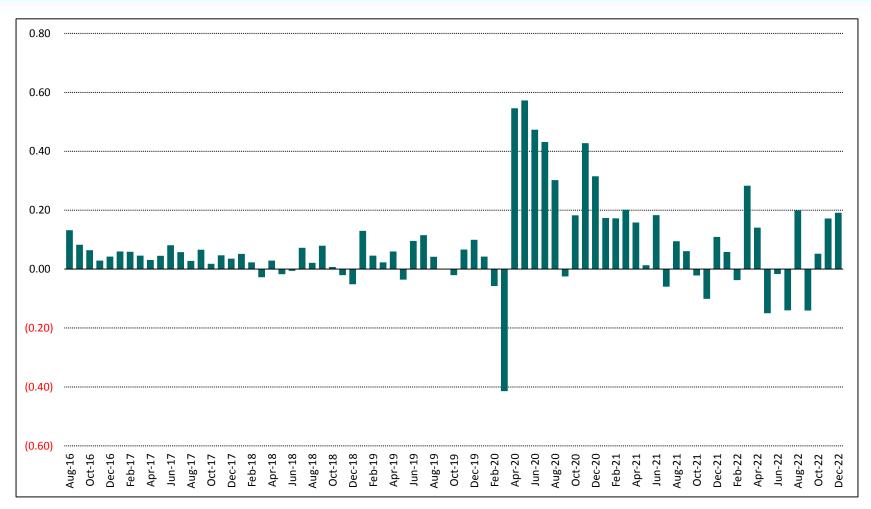




Source: Aladdin, Bloomberg

# Markets: Program Monthly Excess Returns

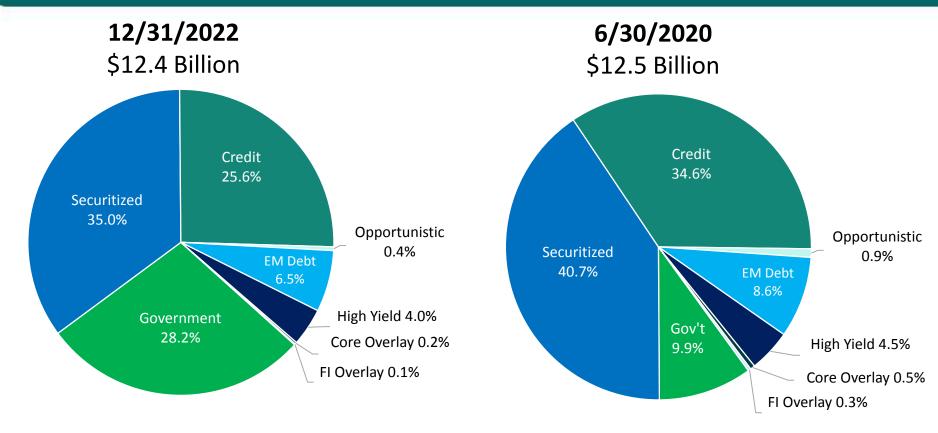




Source: BNY Mellon, VRS

### **Exposures: Portfolio Positioning Over Time**





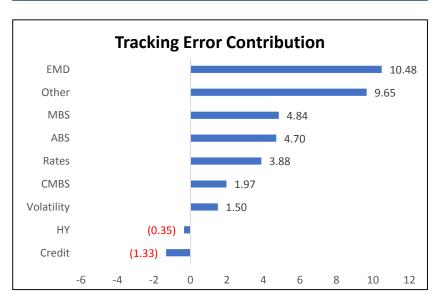
Portfolio	Dec-22	Jun-20	Difference	Portfolio	Dec-22	Jun-20	Difference
Securitized	35.0%	40.7%	(5.7%)	Emerging Market Debt	6.5%	8.6%	(2.1%)
Government	28.2%	9.9%	18.3%	High Yield	4.0%	4.5%	(0.5%)
Credit	25.6%	34.6%	(9.0%)	Opportunistic	0.4%	0.9%	(0.5%)
Core Overlay	0.2%	0.5%	(0.3%)	Total FI Overlay	0.1%	0.3%	(0.2%)

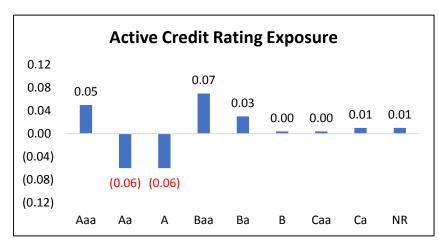
### **Exposures: Portfolio Characteristics**

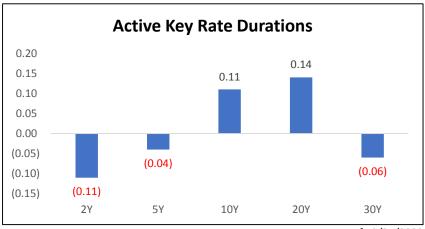


#### **Total Fixed Income Program Market Value: \$12.4 Billion**

Portfolio Characteristics				
	Port	Bench	Diff	
Effective Duration	6.34	6.29	0.05	
Yield to Maturity	5.17	4.90	0.27	
Option Adj. Spread	100	76	24	







As of 12/31/2022

### Results: Core Portfolio Attribution Factors For CY'22



#### **Program Level**

- The Fed tightened rates to a target of 4.25-4.50% into year end
- This substantial tightening resulted in curve inversion, a reduction of monetary stimulus, and elevated rate volatility

#### **Portfolio Level**

- Fixed income portfolios opportunistically reallocated to an even more defensive position
- Team worked vigilantly to use active portfolio positioning to take advantage of opportunities and dislocations within sectors
- Security selection added considerably to the Program's excess return for CY'22

# Results: FI Program Risk/Return Characteristics



Program Excess Return and Statistics				
	10 Year	5 Year	3 Year	1 Year
Core IFI Program	0.74	1.03	1.44	0.63
Tracking Error	0.42	0.53	0.65	0.38
Information Ratio	1.75	1.95	2.23	1.64
Total FI Program	0.76	1.03	1.43	0.54
Tracking Error	0.47	0.59	0.73	0.52
Information Ratio	1.64	1.74	1.95	1.05

As of 12/31/2022

#### **Batting Average**

	Monthly Excess Returns		
Core IFI Program	89/120	74%	

# Results: Core Portfolio Risk/Return Characteristics



Portfolio Excess Return and Statistics				
	10 Year	5 Year	3 Year	1 Year
Government	0.29	0.30	0.35	0.16
Tracking Error	0.16	0.20	0.26	0.10
Information Ratio	1.75	1.46	1.38	1.57
Securitized	0.76	1.19	1.91	2.46
Tracking Error	0.69	0.94	1.16	1.67
Information Ratio	1.09	1.27	1.65	1.47
Credit	0.71	0.80	0.86	0.39
Tracking Error	0.33	0.30	0.34	0.42
Information Ratio	2.17	2.65	2.52	0.93
Opportunistic	_	1.31	2.07	2.16
Tracking Error	<u> </u>	1.76	2.16	3.62
Information Ratio	_	0.75	0.96	0.60

As of 12/31/2022

# Results: EM/HY Portfolio Risk/Return Characteristics



Portfolio Excess Return and Statistics				
	Since Inception*	3 Year	1 Year	
Internal EMD	0.55	0.73	1.14	
Tracking Error	0.97	1.03	1.58	
Information Ratio	0.57	0.71	0.72	
Payden & Rygel EMD	1.12	1.12	1.59	
PIMCO EMD	0.98	0.98	1.56	
Internal High Yield	0.64	0.46	2.93	
Tracking Error	1.27	1.33	1.63	
Information Ratio	0.51	0.35	1.80	
Man Numeric High Yield	0.71	_	0.02	

As of 12/31/2022

<sup>\*</sup>Inception dates: Internal EMD Portfolio 11/2018, Internal HY Portfolio 7/2019, External EMD Portfolio 1/2020, Man Numeric HY 7/2020

### Results: 2023 Update



#### **Noteworthy items:**

- During February, we reallocated \$500 million from fund level cash into Fixed Income
- Given tight valuations across credit sectors and recent volatility, we used the inflow to further the portfolio's defensive positioning
- Volatility within the fixed income market remains elevated
  - 2/1 and 3/22 Fed Rate Hikes (+25bps each time)
  - 3/10 SVB/Signature Events

2023 Program Return Snapshot			
	Jan-23	Feb-23	
Core IFI Portfolio	3.14	(2.48)	
Benchmark	3.08	(2.59)	
Excess Return	0.06	0.11	
Total FI Program	3.18	(2.40)	
Benchmark	3.11	(2.52)	
Excess Return	0.07	0.12	

### Looking Forward: Where Are We focusing?



#### **Continue To Implement Long Term Vision For The Program**

Actively Finding Ways To Collaborate Across Teams to Add Value to VRS

#### On The Radar

- > Enhancements to portfolio processes and portfolio management tools
- Emphasize cross training throughout the program
- Cross-asset class working groups to enhance expertise
- Expand into more value-adding ideas in the Opportunistic Portfolio

### Collaboration: Across the Fund



#### **Portfolios**

- IEM: Systematic High Yield & Total Fund Rebalance Portfolio
- RBI: RBI Risk Hedging Portfolio
- Operations: Collateral Management Portfolio

#### People

- Intentional Touch Points Across Programs
- External Manager Partnership Sessions
- Factor Based Investing and Quantitative Tool Exploration
- Individual Team Member Collaboration



### **Public Equity**

**Dan Whitlock and Dan Schlussler**Program Directors

"Basically, experience in finance with a discount rate near zero is like having studied physics except without gravity."

- Mathematician Nassim Nicholas Taleb



# Agenda: Public Equity Annual Review Topics



- Overview
- Markets
- Exposures
- Results
- Mandates
- Looking Forward

### Overview: Public Equity Team Members



Professional	Position	Highest Degree	Professional Certifications	Investment Experience	VRS Tenure
Dan Whitlock	Director	MBA	CFA, CAIA	21	21
Stephen Adelaar	Portfolio Manager	MS	CFA	23	16
Holly Glass	Portfolio Manager	MA	CFA	22	22
Olga Zozulya	Investment Officer	MBA	CFA	10	10
Korey Turner	Senior Investment Analyst	MS/MBA		3	3
Kelly Baker	Portfolio Assistant	AAS		13	8
Additional Resources	The entire Internal Equity Team, Portfolio Solutions Group, Governance Team, Management Committee, Operations Team, Compliance Team, and Legal/Regulatory Team.				

## Overview: Public Equity Team & Process



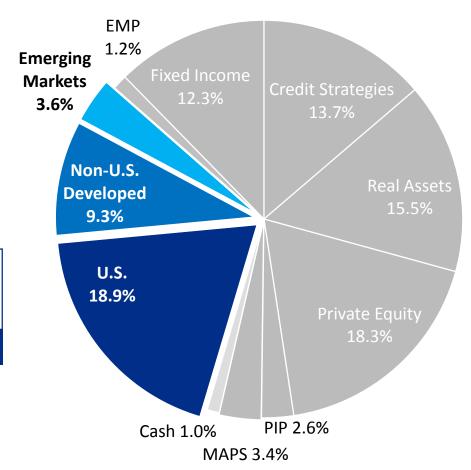
	Stephen Adelaar	<b>Holly Glass</b>	Korey Turner	Olga Zozulya	<b>Daniel Whitlock</b>
Strategy Lead	Defined Contribution Emerging Markets Hedge Funds	IEM Group (Italics) Risk Management Transition Management United States	Tilt Monitoring	Global Equity International Developed	Total Public Equity
Analyst	Afton (IEM) Arisaig Global EM Cons Baillie Gifford Global Baillie Gifford EM	Acadian EM Acadian Small Cap Advent Convertibles Arrowstreet Global	Ariel Global Coatue J.P. Morgan LS ValueAct Capital	CET Energy Dynamics Internal EM (IEM) Jackson Square Lansdowne Global	Farallon Farallon Healthcare Rivanna
	LSV Global LSV Non-U.S. Small Cap LSV U.S. SC Select - SEG Select - Cooper Square	Cevian Eminence Hedge Fund Overlay Mobjack (IEM) Piedmont (IEM) Taiyo		Maverick Nitorum Theleme	

## Overview: Public Equity Asset Allocation as of 12/31/22





**Total Public Equity 31.8%** 



# Overview: Public Equity Philosophy



### Primary Objective

Gain exposure to global economic growth & the global equity risk premium

### Specific Return Objective

Outperform the strategic benchmark over three to five years

### Approach

Risk-adjusted, using both equity hedge funds & low-volatility equity mandates

### Strategic Benchmark

MSCI All-Country World Index Investible Markets Index (MSCI ACWI IMI)

## Overview: Public Equity Manager Evaluation Framework



### Sustainable Risk-Adjusted Returns

- Long history, repeatable process, consistent philosophy
- Sustainable team and firm
- Outperformed in a consistently diversified manner
- Outperformed when considering risk profile
- Sizeable allocations will not impact performance

## Doing Things Differently

- Low correlations to existing book (quantitative & qualitative)
- Something VRS cannot produce internally
- Something one of VRS' existing external managers cannot provide
- Employ a different way of thinking or different strategies

## Terms & Back Office

- Favorable fees, liquidity, etc.
- Robust back office
- Partnership mentality
- Resources to manage sizeable allocations

## Markets: 1 Year Ending 12/31/22



	Global	Developed	Dev ex US	US	EMEA	Pacific	Emerging	EM ASIA	EM LatAm	EM EMEA
All Sectors	-18.4%	-18.1%	-14.3%	-19.9%	-15.2%	-13.0%	-20.1%	-21.1%	8.9%	-28.3%
Energy	33.1%	46.0%	24.6%	62.8%	28.5%	15.3%	-24.3%	2.5%	41.0%	-75.4%
Utilities	-4.7%	-4.7%	-13.1%	0.5%	-13.8%	-13.0%	-4.5%	-6.7%	21.7%	-15.8%
Health Care	-6.1%	-5.4%	-11.3%	-3.1%	-10.2%	-17.3%	-23.5%	-23.8%	-27.1%	-11.4%
Consumer Staples	-6.6%	-6.1%	-12.2%	-1.4%	-13.9%	-11.4%	-10.6%	-11.4%	-1.8%	-21.5%
Financials	-9.8%	-10.2%	-7.0%	-12.7%	-9.2%	-1.6%	-7.9%	-7.1%	17.6%	-16.1%
Materials	-11.6%	-10.8%	-9.5%	-12.5%	-14.8%	-7.8%	-14.9%	-15.2%	11.2%	-31.3%
Industrials	-13.1%	-13.2%	-19.4%	-7.5%	-22.4%	-18.1%	-10.8%	-15.7%	11.1%	35.1%
Real Estate	-24.6%	-25.1%	-21.2%	-26.7%	-41.9%	-15.2%	-18.9%	-24.3%	21.4%	7.5%
Information Technology	-31.1%	-30.8%	-35.5%	-30.1%	-32.8%	-33.3%	-33.4%	-33.5%	2.1%	-36.8%
Consumer Discretionary	-31.8%	-33.4%	-22.0%	-37.8%	-22.0%	-22.9%	-20.8%	-21.6%	-39.6%	-5.2%
Communication Services	-35.5%	-36.9%	-16.1%	-40.9%	-17.6%	-23.2%	-27.0%	-26.5%	-15.4%	-34.7%

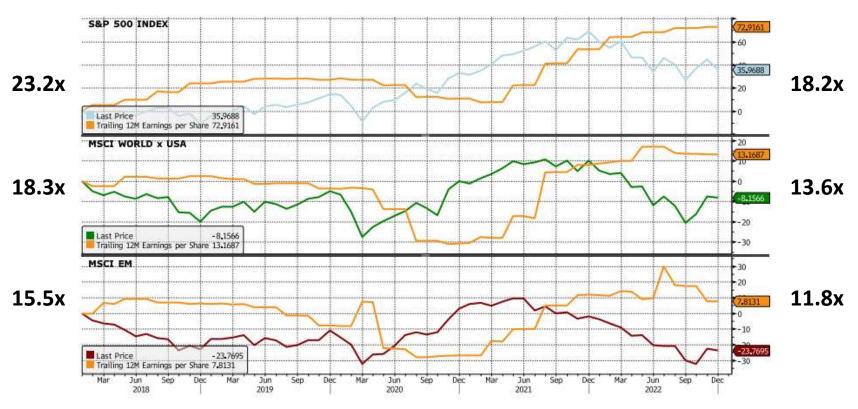
Unhedged Total Returns

Sources: MSCI and Bloomberg

# Markets: 5 Years Ending 12/31/22



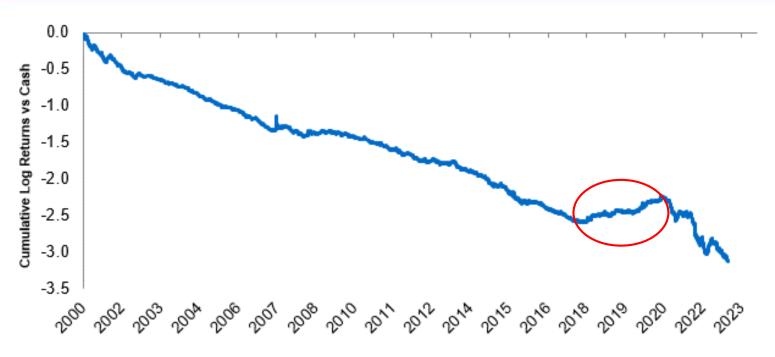
### **Percentage Appreciation of Price and Earnings**



Source: Bloomberg

### Markets: Costanza Portfolio





Source: AQR. For illustrative purposes only. Hypothetical data has inherent limitations, some of which are described in the disclosures. See detailed explanation in the body of this article, and additional disclosures at the end of this article. This hypothetical performance does not reflect the deduction of any management fees, which as mentioned, would further reduce the actual return. It should not be assumed that the inversion of these charts is illustrative of actual portfolio performance.

A portfolio of the WORST fundamentals did best in the 2018 – 2020 time frame. These were the same years Total Public Equity underperformed. Public Equity continued to invest in a diversified, fundamental-based way.

## **Exposures: Public Equity Positioning as of 12/31/22**



\$30.4 Billion

30.4% of Plan Assets

57% Domestic (-2.1% vs. bmk)

31% Non-US Developed (+2.0% vs. bmk)

12% Emerging Markets (+0.2% vs. bmk)

69% Active

31% Enhanced

45% Internal

55% External

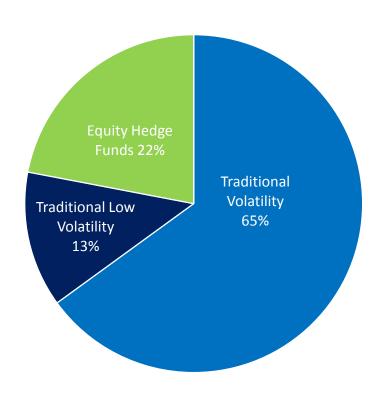
65% Traditional Volatility

13% Traditional Low Volatility

22% Equity Hedge Funds

0.94 Beta

1.70% Forecasted Active Risk (Barra)



27 External Mandates (13 Traditional & 14 HFs)

21 External Managers (9 Traditional & 12 HFs)

## Exposures: Public Equity Portfolio Changes as of 12/31/22



### 2022 was a Year of Action:

Raised ~\$1.6 billion for plan needs

Rebalanced another~\$2.1 billion within Public Equity

Out of this, a combined ~\$3.2 billion of flows came from HF's and Low Vol to lower active risk, lock in relative gains during selloff, gain liquidity.

Total PE	2021	2022	Difference
Traditional	58%	65%	7%
Low Volatility	18%	13%	-5%
Hedge Funds	24%	22%	-2%
Active	74%	69%	-5%
Enhanced	26%	31%	5%
Internal	39%	45%	6%
External	61%	55%	-6%
AUM (billions)	38	30	(7)
% of Total Fund	35%	30%	-5%

## **Exposures: Public Equity Portfolio Characteristics as of 12/31/22**



Portfolio Characteristics	Program	Benchmark	
Dividend Yield	3.2%	2.8%	
Price to Book	2.1	2.4	
Price to Earnings (F12)	13.0	14.5	
Price to Earnings (T12)	13.7	16.1	
Return on Equity	15.8%	13.9%	
Debt to Assets	21.2%	22.7%	
Sales Growth	10.4%	10.4%	
Net Income Growth	8.5%	5.6%	
Profit Margin	9.2%	9.2%	

**Great Value, Better Quality, and Attractive Growth Profiles** 

## Results: Public Equity As of 12/31/22



	10 Year	5 Year	3 Year	1 Year
Total Public Equity	8.39	5.11	4.67	-15.19
Strategic Benchmark	8.21	5.41	4.39	-18.06
Excess Return	0.18	-0.30	0.28	2.87
Beta vs. Strategic Benchmark*	0.95	0.94	0.93	
Alpha**	0.48	-0.12	0.41	
Active Risk vs. Strategic Benchmark***	1.50	1.98	2.48	
Information Ratio vs. Strategic Benchmark****	0.12	-0.15	0.11	

<sup>\*</sup>Measure of volatility, or systematic risk, of a portfolio in comparison to a benchmark

VRS Public Equity has outperformed in seven of the last ten calendar years, underperforming in only 2018 - 2020

<sup>\*\*</sup>Risk-adjusted excess return (accounts for market beta)

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>A relative risk measure otherwise known as tracking error, this is the standard deviation of returns relative to a benchmark

<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup>A measure of excess return per unit of relative risk (Portfolio Returns - Benchmark Returns) / Active Risk

# Results: Public Equity Regional Breakout As of 12/31/22



	10 Year	5 Year	3 Year	1 Year	MV (\$M)
Total Public Equity	8.39	5.11	4.67	-15.19	30,427
Strategic Benchmark <sup>1</sup>	8.21	5.41	4.39	-18.06	
Excess Return	0.18	-0.30	0.28	2.87	
U.S. Program	11.67	8.29	7.00	-17.53	9,891
U.S. Benchmark <sup>2</sup>	11.97	8.81	7.17	-19.13	
Excess Return	-0.30	-0.52	-0.17	1.60	
Non-U.S. Developed Program	6.83	1.83	1.43	-11.57	4,609
Non-U.S. Developed Benchmark <sup>3</sup>	6.57	2.91	1.67	-14.86	
Excess Return	0.26	-1.07	-0.24	3.29	
Emerging Market Program	1.58	-1.60	-1.53	-18.23	2,142
Emerging Market Benchmark <sup>4</sup>	1.69	-1.05	-1.78	-19.79	
Excess Return	-0.11	-0.55	0.25	1.56	
Global Program	10.24	6.52	6.20	-12.60	7,135
Global Benchmark <sup>5</sup>	9.01	6.00	4.50	-18.01	
Excess Return	1.23	0.52	1.71	5.41	
Equity Hedge Fund Program	6.07	4.25	4.35	-15.45	6,643
Equity Hedge Fund Program Benchmark <sup>6</sup>	5.12	4.04	4.44	-18.06	
Excess Return	0.95	0.21	-0.09	2.61	

## Results: External Manager Breakout As of 12/31/22



	10 Year	5 Year	3 Year	1 Year
External Managers (net of fees)	7.70	4.84	4.77	-15.01
Associated Market Cap Benchmarks	7.41	4.70	4.03	-18.32
Excess Return	0.29	0.15	0.73	3.31
Beta vs. Benchmarks*	0.94	0.94	0.92	
Alpha**	0.62	0.29	0.87	
Active Risk vs. Benchmarks***	2.25	2.84	3.49	
Information Ratio vs. Benchmarks****	0.13	0.05	0.21	

<sup>\*</sup>Measure of volatility, or systematic risk, of a portfolio in comparison to a benchmark

VRS Public Equity external managers have had a low excess return correlation (diversification) to internal management over time and have added value net of all fees.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Risk-adjusted excess return (accounts for market beta)

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>A relative risk measure otherwise known as tracking error, this is the standard deviation of returns relative to a benchmark

<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup>A measure of excess return per unit of relative risk (Portfolio Returns - Benchmark Returns) / Active Risk

## Results: Public Equity CY 2022 Attribution Deeper Dive



### **2022 Performance Factor Attribution**

Note: Attribution an <u>estimate</u> and does not contain fees, intra-month trading, t-costs, etc.; some categories that are not material were left off.

### **Factor Impact Summary:**

- An overweight to U.S. Value was the largest contributor to Style.
- The low beta approach was a tailwind in falling markets (after a headwind for several years).
- An underweight to the U.S. added.
- Stock Selection was negative, primarily due to being underweight some energy names that were up a large amount.

Attribution	Value (%)
Portfolio Base Return	-14.8%
Benchmark Base Return	-17.9%
Excess Return	3.1%
Currency	0.0%
Market Timing	1.2%
Country Allocation	0.6%
Selection	1.3%
Industry	0.0%
Style	1.7%
Specific Return	-0.3%

## Results: Public Equity As of 12/31/22



	1 Year
Total Public Equity	-15.19
Strategic Benchmark <sup>1</sup>	-18.06
Excess Return	2.87

### **Large One Year Absolute Return Contributors:**

Positive: Non-U.S. program was down -11.6% with a 15% weight

Negative: U.S. Program was down -17.5% with a 33% weight

### **Large One Year Relative Return Contributors:**

Positive: Value exposure, Low Volatility Managers, HF Managers

Negative: Growth exposure

Please see endnotes

# Results: Public Equity 2023 Update



### 2022/2023 Performance Factor Attribution\*

### **Factor Impact Summary:**

- Lower beta that protected capital in 2022 detracted in the first two months of 2023.
- Underweights of growth names in 2022 that contributed to stock outperformance in 2022 led to underperformance in January and February.
- Generally, January 2023 was a lowquality rally by several fundamental metrics.

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Attribution	2022	2023 (through Feb)
Portfolio Base Return	-14.8	4.1
Benchmark Base Return	-17.9	4.4
Excess Return	3.1	-0.4
Currency	0.0	0.0
Market Timing	1.2	-0.3
Country Allocation	0.6	0.0
Selection	1.3	-0.1
Industry	0.0	0.0
Style	1.7	0.0
Stock Specific Return	-0.3	-0.2

<sup>\*</sup>Attribution is an estimate and does not contain fees, intra-month trading, t-costs, etc.; some categories that are not material were left off.

# Managers: Public Equity Top 5



Name	Mandates	# of Mandates	% of Program
VRS Internal Equity	Global, U.S., Non-U.S., Emerging	7	45%
LSV	Global, Non-U.S. Small, U.S. Small	3	9%
Arrowstreet	Global	1	8%
Baillie Gifford	Global, Emerging	2	5%
Select Equity	Hedge Fund	2	4%
Total			70%

## Managers: Public Equity Hires & Terminations – 1 Year



Action	Effective Date	Commitment/ Current Value	Funding/ Defunding Period	Description
Closed	2/28/2022	\$200 Million	< 1 Month	<b>Kylin*</b> A China, Korea, and Japan oriented equity hedge fund
Terminated	7/18/2022	\$270 Million	Immediate	Nordea Emerging Markets Long only emerging markets manager
Hire	8/1/2022	\$250 Million	Immediate	CET Energy Dynamics A long/short equity hedge fund focused on the energy sector
Terminated	8/4/2022	\$1,200 Million	Immediate	Nordea Global Long only global markets manager
Hire	9/1/2022	\$750 Million	Immediate	<b>Rivanna</b> An internally managed active global equity strategy

<sup>\*</sup>The manager is considered DIME under the Commonwealth of Virginia definition, which defines ownership threshold of 51% or more

## Managers: Diverse Investment Management Engagement (DIME)



### **Women & Minority Owned Management Firms Currently In The Lineup**

- Ariel managing VRS assets since 2014
   African-American, Asian-American & women-owned global equity manager
- Advent managing VRS assets since 2011, Public Equity assets since 2020
   African-American owned convertible manager

### **Continue To Meet With New Prospects & Consider New Investments**

- 86 meetings with minority managers or consultants in last 5 years
- 223 meetings since we started tracking this in late 2009



## **Appendix**

## Due Diligence: Constant Re-Underwriting



### **Existing Portfolio**

- Qualitative: long-term relationships, frequent communication, monitor organizations & personnel
- **Quantitative**: monitor exposures & performance & risk, risk budget drives allocation, identify new strategic & tactical tilts

### **Assess Opportunity**

- **Qualitative**: identify attractive investments, identify talented managers, utilize network of contacts
- **Quantitative**: multiple data sources/screen universe, identify potential manager, evaluate performance & risk of prospects



### **Manager Due Diligence**

- Qualitative: face to face manager meetings, review firm strategy & process, detailed portfolio reviews, reference checks
- Quantitative: due diligence of existing managers, attribution, verify performance, assess risk

### **Portfolio Construction & Risk Management**

- Qualitative: bottom-up portfolio construction, look for organizational "cracks" & process changes
- **Quantitative**: review targeted policy allocation & portfolio tilts, determine benchmark & manager allocations, perform risk analysis, monitor exposures

### **End Notes**



<sup>1</sup>Effective February 2020, this is the MSCI ACWI IMI (net VRS tax rates) index; prior periods included several other representative benchmarks.

<sup>2</sup>Effective March 2017, this is a weighted average of MSCI U.S. Standard and MSCI U.S. Small Cap indices; prior periods are other representative benchmarks

<sup>3</sup>Effective February 2020, this is a weighted average of MSCI World ex U.S. Standard (net VRS tax rates) and MSCI World ex U.S. Small Cap (net of VRS tax rates) indices; prior periods are other representative benchmarks

<sup>4</sup>Effective April 2009, this is the MSCI Emerging IMI (net of VRS tax rates); prior periods are other representative benchmarks

<sup>5</sup>Effective February 2020, this is the MSCI ACWI Standard (net of VRS tax rates) index; prior periods are other representative benchmarks

<sup>6</sup>Effective February 2020, this is the MSCI ACWI IMI (net of VRS tax rates) index; prior periods are other representative benchmarks



## **Internal Equity**

## **Overview: Internal Equity Team Members**

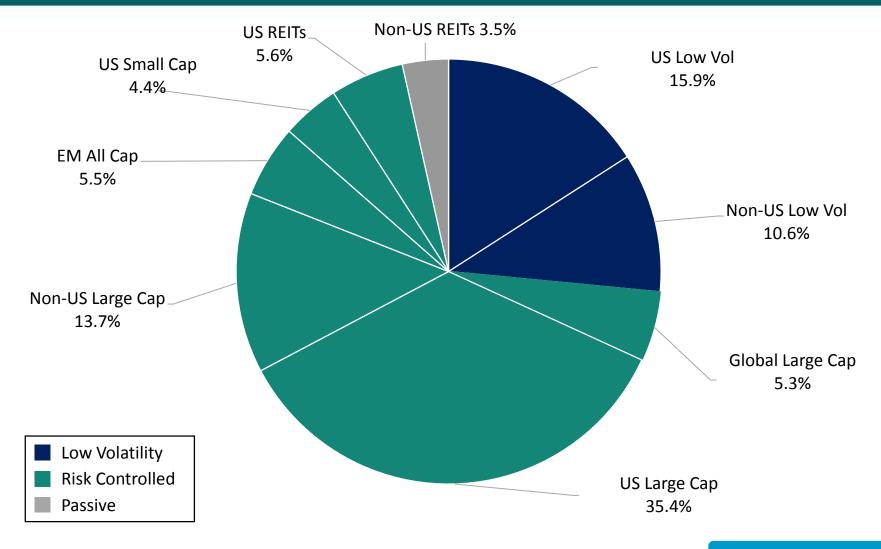


Professional	Position	Area(s) of Focus	Highest Degree	Professional Certifications	Investment Experience	VRS Tenure
Dan Schlussler	Program Director	Non-U.S. Dev Low Vol, Research	МВА	CFA	27	10
Joe Kennebeck	Sr. Investment Officer	Head Trader	ВА		30	16
Ryan Carlson	Portfolio Manager	U.S. REIT & Small Cap, Investment Tools	BS	CFA	20	3
Aaron Lazar	Investment Officer	Currency Hedge, Global Enhanced Transition, U.S. REIT, Swaps & Equity Trading	MA	Passed CFA Level 1	9	9
Vu Le	Portfolio Manager	Global Enhanced, Research, Currency Hedge	PhD	CFA	12	11
Alex Muniz	Sr. Portfolio Manager	U.S. Low Volatility, Research	MA	CFA	22	22
Garret Rhodes	Investment Officer	Non-U.S. Dev Low Vol, Global Enhanced, Currency Hedge, Swaps Trading	MS	CFA	4	4
Larry Tentor	Portfolio Manager	Global Enhanced Transition, Data Infrastructure	PhD	FRM	21	15
Weldon Wirick	Portfolio Manager	Emerging Markets, Trading	MA	CFA	21	17
Matthew Lacy	Director of Portfolio Integration (PSG)	U.S. Large Cap	MA	CFA	24	24
Additional Resources	Investment Operations Portfolio Solutions Grou Investment Decision Su	ab .	2023		Internal Equity N	Managemen

2/

## Overview: Internal Equity Asset Allocation as of 12/31/22





## Overview: Internal Equity Asset Allocation Changes



### 2022 – 2023 Portfolio Actions:

Launched Global Enhanced Index Strategy in September

Began reallocation of US and non-US Developed Large Cap assets to Global Enhanced in 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023

Reallocated most of REIT strategy assets and completed redesign of US component for Public Equity

Total IEM	2021	2022	2023 (Feb)	Difference	
Risk Controlled					
US Large Cap	40%	35%	7%	-33%	
Non-US Large Cap	14%	14%	0%	-14%	
Global Lap Cap	0%	5%	52%	52%	
Total Large Cap Developed	54%	54%	60%	5%	
US Small Cap	5%	4%	5%	0%	
EM All Cap	3%	5%	6%	3%	
US REITs	5%	6%	2%	-3%	
Total Risk Controlled	68%	70%	73%	5%	
Low Volatility					
US Low Vol	18%	16%	16%	-1%	
Non-US Low Vol	12%	11%	11%	0%	
Total Low Volatility	29%	27%	28%	-2%	
Total Active	97%	96%	100%	4%	
Non-US REITs (Passive)	3%	4%	0%	-3%	

# Overview: Internal Equity Philosophy



Provide Cost Effective Access To The Equity Risk Premium

Provide Risk-Controlled Value Added

Provide Insights Into The Capital Markets

Complement The Total Public Equity Program

## Overview: Internal Equity Philosophy



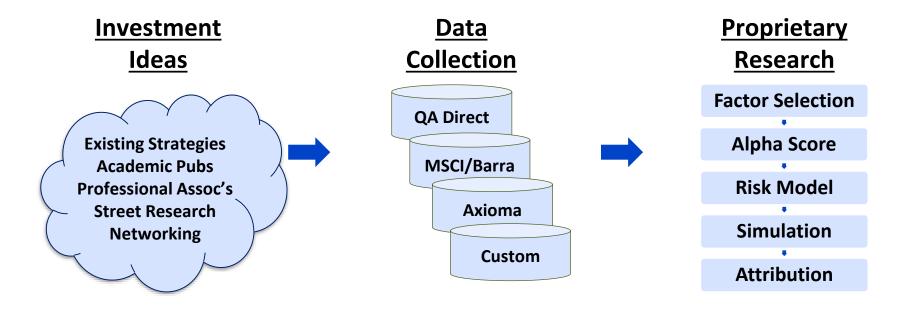
### Philosophy – Risk Controlled Relative Value

- Markets are relatively efficient
- Behavioral biases create exploitable opportunities
- Systematic strategies are effective at capitalizing on these opportunities



## Overview: Internal Equity Research Process





## Overview: Internal Equity Factor Selection & Alpha Score



### **Valuation**

Discounted Cash Flow Relative Valuations



### Quality

Prudent Accounting Return on Equity



### **Market Sentiment**

Momentum Analyst Revisions



Composite Score

- DCF models provide robust estimates of intrinsic value
- RV models compare stocks within cohorts using accounting metrics
- Valuation models identify stocks trading at a discount or premium
- Cash based earnings are preferred to accrual-based earnings
- High & stable profitability help to avoid value traps
- Quality captures accounting strength & management efficiency
- Stock price movements show persistence in the intermediate term
- Analyst revisions have a predictable impact on stock prices
- Market sentiment indicates potential investment opportunities

Composite score identifies stocks that are trading at a discount, have superior management & positive market recognition

# Overview: Internal Equity Portfolio & Risk Management

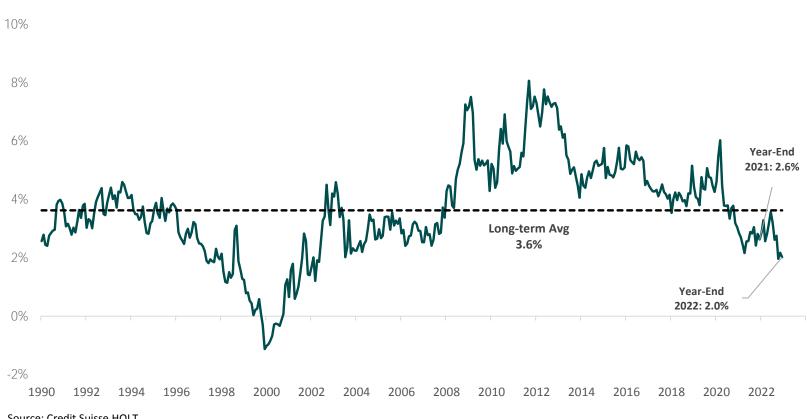


Quantitative				
Statistical Risk	<ul><li>Fundamental Multifactor Risk Models</li><li>PCA Risk Models</li></ul>			
Factor Constraints	<ul> <li>Relative or Total Risk</li> <li>Return &amp; Risk Factors</li> <li>Industries, Sectors, Countries, Regions, etc.</li> </ul>			
Qualitative				
Fundamental & Non-Modeled Risks	<ul><li>Forensic Accounting, Shorting Activity, etc.</li><li>Individual Stock Modeling Tools</li></ul>			
Expert Assessment	<ul><li>Continuous Monitoring</li><li>Thematic Trend Analysis</li><li>Proprietary Research</li></ul>			

## **Markets: Internal Equity Equity Risk Premium**



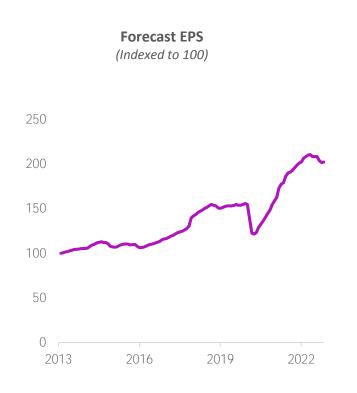
#### **US Equity Risk Premium**



Source: Credit Suisse HOLT

# Markets: Internal Equity Equity Risk Premium









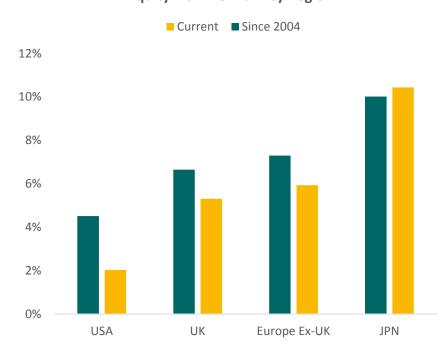
**US Government Yields** 



## Markets: Internal Equity Equity Risk Premium (As of 12/31/22)



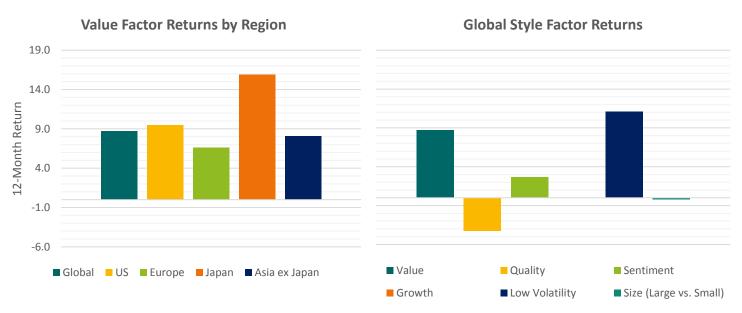
### **Equity Risk Premium by Region**



Source: Credit Suisse HOLT

# Markets: Internal Equity Factor Returns (2022)





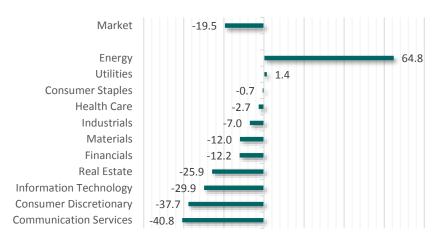
Source: UBS
Long Minus Benchmark. Region, size and sector neutral, cap-weighted

## Markets: Internal Equity Market Performance



#### **United States**

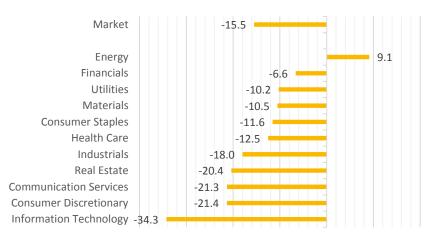
Total Return: 2022



Source: MSCI, Bloomberg

#### **All-Country World ex USA**

Total Return (USD): 2022



## Markets: Internal Equity Value Opportunity



#### **Value Spreads**



Source: Refinitiv, Credit Suisse HOLT

### **Exposures: Internal Equity Risk & Positions**

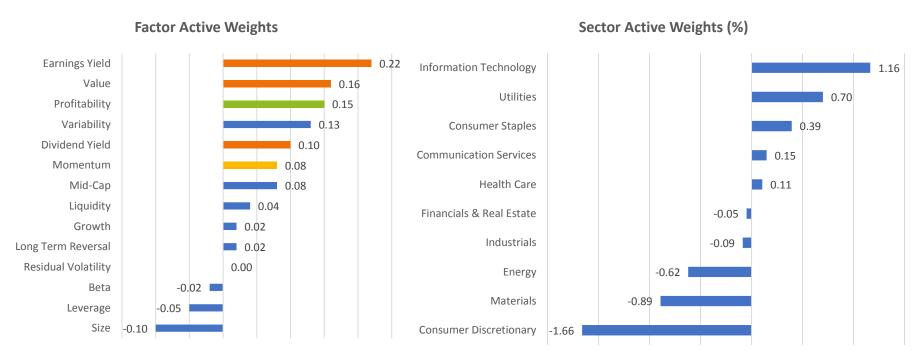


Risk Summary*	Strategy	Mkt Val (\$MM)	Weight	Tracking	CF Risk	Specific	Risk Attrib	% of TE
Program	Composite	14,372	100.0	0.91	0.63	0.37	0.91	100.0
Potomac	US Large Cap	5,277	36.7	0.90	0.36	0.64	0.26	28.6
Afton	US Small Cap	651	4.5	1.21	0.43	0.57	0.03	3.3
Monroe	US REIT	831	5.8	0.70	0.05	0.95	0.01	1.1
Mobjack	US Low Vol	2,375	16.5	2.16	0.21	0.79	0.26	28.6
Matoaka	Non-US Dev. Large Cap	2,045	14.2	1.27	0.56	0.44	0.12	13.2
Tuckahoe	Emerging Markets	814	5.7	1.48	0.53	0.47	0.08	7.6
Piedmont	Non-US Dev. Low Vol	1,584	11.0	1.76	0.42	0.58	0.11	12.1
Rivanna	Global Dev. Standard	795	5.5	1.17	0.47	0.53	0.05	5.5

<sup>\*</sup>Data as of 12/31/2022

## Exposures: Internal Equity Style Factor & Sector Allocations



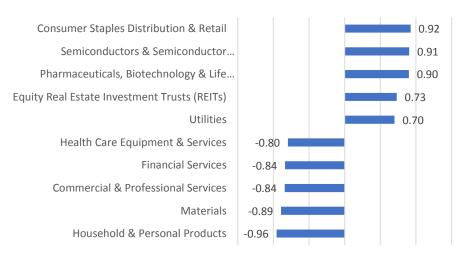


<sup>\*</sup>Data as of 12/16/2022.

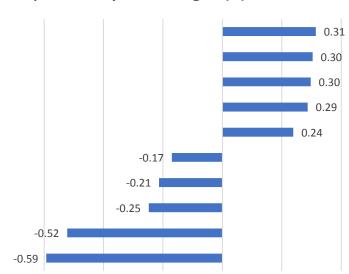
### **Exposures: Internal Equity Industry & Country Allocations**



**Top 10 Industry Group Active Weights (%)** 



Top 10 Country Active Weights (%)



Data as of 12/16/2022

Israel

Norway

Australia

Japan

Spain

Belgium

Finland

Germany

Canada

Switzerland

## Results: Internal Equity Program Performance (as of 12/31/22)



		IEM Active			IEM Enhanced Index			IEM Low Volatility				
	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	Incep	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	Incep	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	Incep
Total Active Internal Equity	-15.72	4.41	5.56	7.06	-17.75	4.94	5.98	6.68	-10.57	3.31	4.55	10.79
IEM Benchmark	-17.20	4.26	6.12	6.49	-18.55	4.68	6.27	6.41	-13.69	3.43	5.87	8.94
Excess Returns	1.48	0.15	-0.56	0.57	0.80	0.26	-0.30	0.27	3.12	-0.12	-1.32	1.85
Realized Tracking Error	1.44	1.40	1.20	1.06	1.20	1.28	1.07	0.83	2.79	2.22	2.02	2.73
Realized Information Ratio	1.03	0.11	-0.47	0.54	0.66	0.20	-0.28	0.32	1.12	-0.05	-0.66	0.68

## Results: Internal Equity Strategy Performance (as of 12/31/22)



	Inception Date	Mkt Value (\$MM)	1-Year Return	1-Year Excess	Since Inc. Excess	Since Inc. Tracking
Risk Controlled Strategies		10,413	-17.75	0.80	0.27	0.83
U.S. Large Cap (Potomac)	Apr-01	5,277	-18.73	0.73	0.35	0.98
Non-U.S. Large Cap (Matoaka)	Sep-10	2,045	-12.47	1.41	0.08	1.28
EM All Cap (Tuckahoe)	Sep-15	814	-19.71	0.09	-0.55	1.82
U.S. Small Cap (Afton)	Jun-05	651	-15.73	1.44	0.39	1.92
U.S. REITs (Monroe)	Dec-05	831	-25.57	-0.72	0.98	1.11
Global Dev. Large Cap (Rivanna)	Sep-22	795	N/A	N/A	1.01	N/M
Less Constrained (Low Vol) Strategies		3,959	-10.57	3.12	1.85	2.73
U.S. Large Cap (Mobjack)	Jun-10	2,375	-11.44	1.94	1.70	3.12
Non-U.S. Large Cap (Piedmont)	Dec-12	1,584	-9.27	4.85	1.18	2.73
Passive Strategies		522	-23.72	0.07	0.12	0.27
Non-U.S. Developed REIT	Jul-20	522	-23.73	0.07	-0.23	0.23
Other Mandates						
Currency Hedging	Apr-09	2,260	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

### Results: Internal Equity Performance Factors



### **Piedmont:**Non-US Low Volatility

- Piedmont had a very strong year, outperforming its benchmark by over 480 bps.
- Exposure to our value factors delivered nearly half of its performance. Sector defensiveness was also additive.

### Afton: US Small Cap Enhanced Index

- Positive performance was driven by most components of its model with value, sentiment and capital management all adding to performance.
- The Healthcare and Industrial sectors delivered good returns.

### Mobjack: US Low Volatility

- Similar to the strong year for our non-US Low Volatility strategy, Mobjack outperformed its benchmark by over 190 bps.
- Drivers included underweights to Consumer Discretionary and Technology and strong contribution from our sentiment model.

### Monroe: US REIT Enhanced Index

- Monroe underperformed during the year driven partly by negative contribution from our sentiment model.
- Overweights in Storage and Apartments also detracted while an underweight to Office REITs was a contributor.

## Results: Internal Equity Program Performance (as of 2/28/23)



		IEM Active			IEM Enhanced Index			IEM Low Volatility				
	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	Incep	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	Incep	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	Incep
Total Active Internal Equity	-6.52	9.08	6.39	7.18	-7.53	10.16	6.94	6.85	-4.10	6.70	5.12	10.77
IEM Benchmark	-7.06	8.66	6.89	6.61	-7.74	9.55	7.18	6.57	-5.35	6.70	6.32	8.94
Excess Returns	0.54	0.42	-0.50	0.57	0.21	0.60	-0.24	0.28	1.25	0.00	-1.20	1.83
Realized Tracking Error	0.99	1.41	1.22	1.06	1.01	1.25	1.08	0.83	1.96	2.28	2.05	2.73
Realized Information Ratio	0.54	0.30	-0.41	0.54	0.21	0.48	-0.22	0.33	0.64	0.00	-0.59	0.67

### Looking Forward: Remain Opportunistic



- Benchmark Study: Strategic Allocation to Low Vol
- Continue To Work Closely With All Cross Functional Teams
- External
  - Opportunistic Manager and Selection, Portfolio Management, and Risk Management
  - Continue Women & Minority Manager Outreach
- Internal
  - Globalization of Strategies Continues with Low Volatility Next
  - Major Projects to Enhance Our Research Infrastructure and Investment Tools



# Fixed Income Parham Behrooz & Greg Oliff Co-Directors



## Agenda: Fixed Income Annual Review Topics



- Overview
- Markets
- Exposures
- Results
- Looking Forward
- Collaboration

## Overview: Team Members



Professional	Position	Highest Degree	Professional Certifications	Investment Experience	VRS Tenure	
Parham Behrooz	Co-Director	BS	CFA	26	10	
Greg Oliff	Co-Director	МВА	CFA	15	12	
Mehtab Haleem	Portfolio Manager	MS		14	2	
Teresa Nguyen	Portfolio Manager	MS*	CFA	21	6	
Michael Desai	Investment Officer	MS	**	6	2	
Moeen Mostafavi	Investment Officer	Ph. D*		<1	<1	
Kidus Molla	Investment Analyst	BS	**	1	1	
Additional Resources	Investment Operations Department, Portfolio Solutions Group, Management Committee, Operations Team, Compliance Team, and Legal/Regulatory Team.					

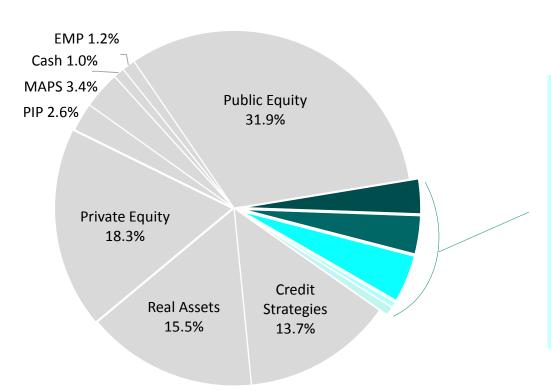
<sup>\*</sup> Expected 2023

<sup>\*\*</sup> CFA Candidate

## Overview: Asset Allocation as of 12/31/22



#### **Total Fixed Income = 12.3%**



Securitized	4.3%
Government	3.5%
IG Credit	3.1%
Emerging Market Debt	0.8%
High Yield	0.5%
Opportunistic	0.0%
Core Overlay	0.0%
Total FI Overlay	0.0%

Market values as of 12/31/2022; Source: BNY Mellon data

## Overview: Philosophy



#### **Risk Controlled Relative Value**

Market factors provide opportunities to add value through optimal sector allocation and security selection, while managing risk exposures to the benchmark within controlled parameters

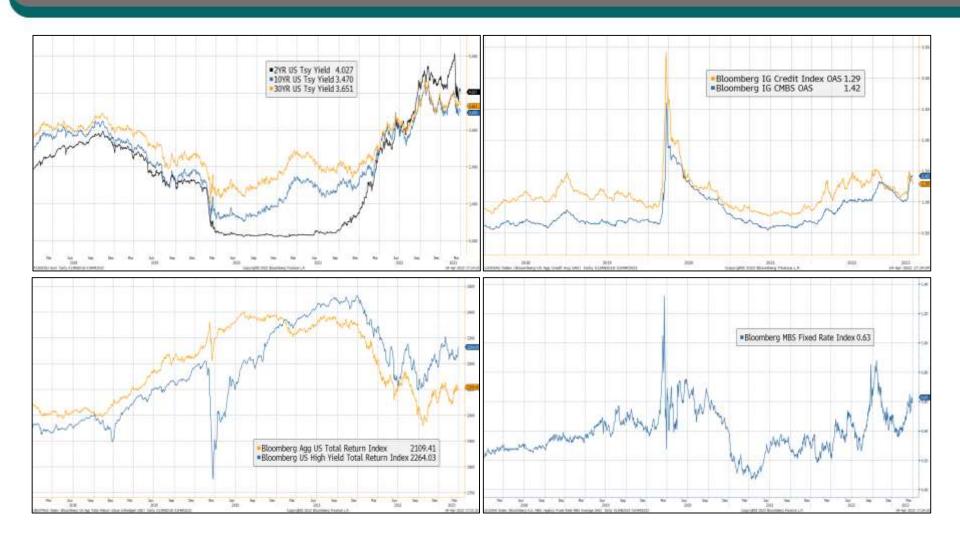


The Fixed Income Program serves as a diversifying asset class, historically providing a hedge against a deflationary economic environment.

### Markets:

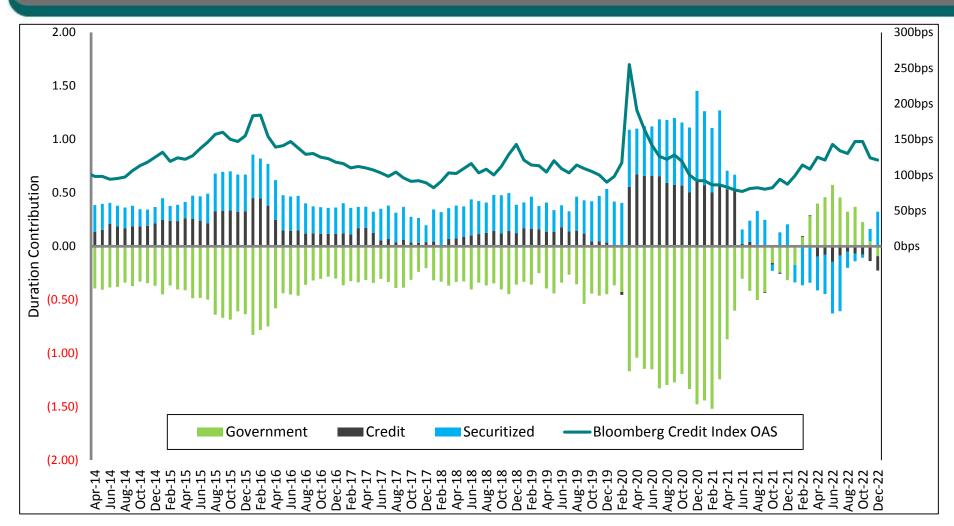
Data: Jan 2018 - Mar 2023





## Markets: History of Core Sector Tilts

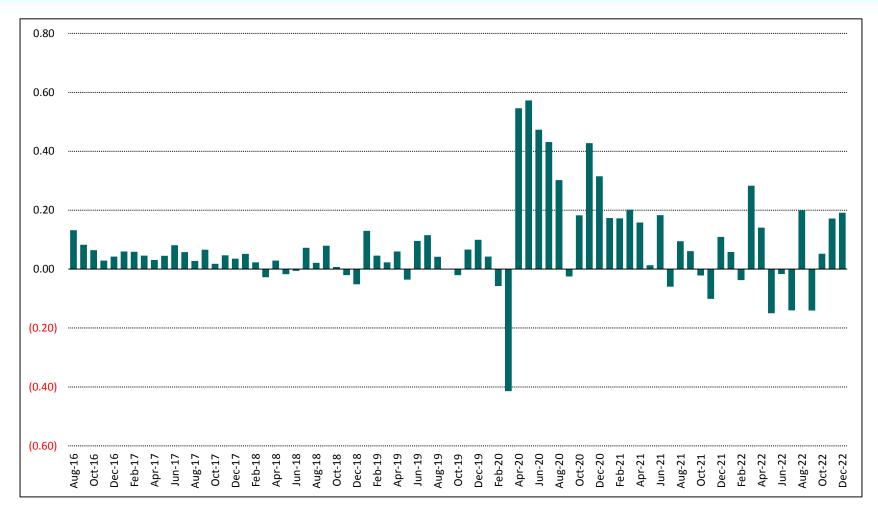




Source: Aladdin, Bloomberg

## Markets: Program Monthly Excess Returns

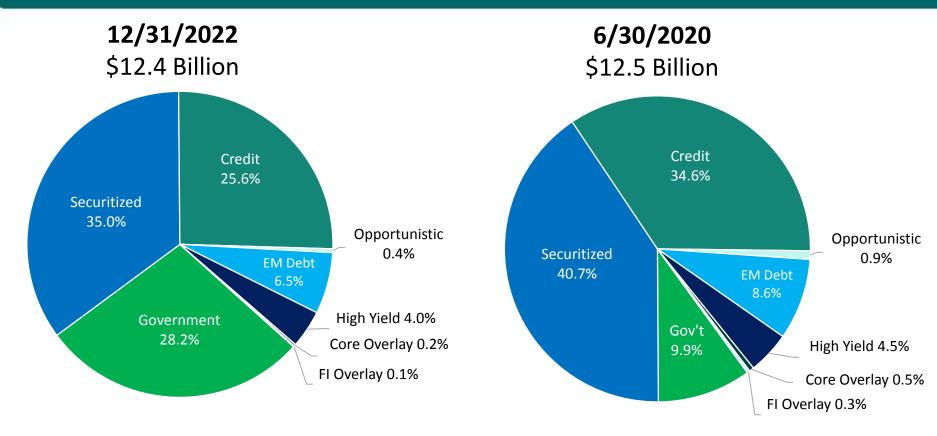




Source: BNY Mellon, VRS

### **Exposures: Portfolio Positioning Over Time**





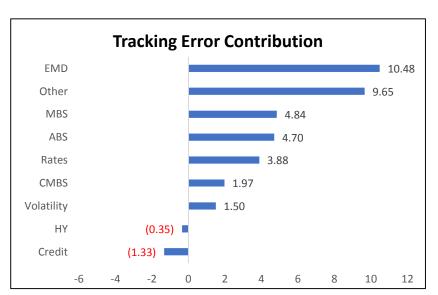
Portfolio	Dec-22	Jun-20	Difference	Portfolio	Dec-22	Jun-20	Difference
Securitized	35.0%	40.7%	(5.7%)	Emerging Market Debt	6.5%	8.6%	(2.1%)
Government	28.2%	9.9%	18.3%	High Yield	4.0%	4.5%	(0.5%)
Credit	25.6%	34.6%	(9.0%)	Opportunistic	0.4%	0.9%	(0.5%)
Core Overlay	0.2%	0.5%	(0.3%)	Total FI Overlay	0.1%	0.3%	(0.2%)

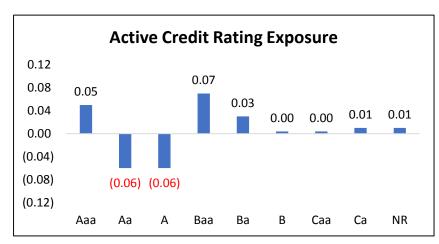
### **Exposures: Portfolio Characteristics**

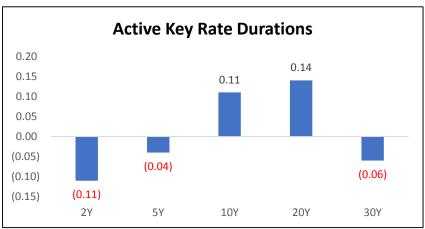


#### **Total Fixed Income Program Market Value: \$12.4 Billion**

Portfolio Characteristics						
	Port	Bench	Diff			
Effective Duration	6.34	6.29	0.05			
Yield to Maturity	5.17	4.90	0.27			
Option Adj. Spread 100 76 24						







As of 12/31/2022

### Results: Core Portfolio Attribution Factors For CY'22



#### **Program Level**

- The Fed tightened rates to a target of 4.25-4.50% into year end
- This substantial tightening resulted in curve inversion, a reduction of monetary stimulus, and elevated rate volatility

#### **Portfolio Level**

- Fixed income portfolios opportunistically reallocated to an even more defensive position
- Team worked vigilantly to use active portfolio positioning to take advantage of opportunities and dislocations within sectors
- Security selection added considerably to the Program's excess return for CY'22

## Results: FI Program Risk/Return Characteristics



Program Excess Return and Statistics						
	10 Year	5 Year	3 Year	1 Year		
Core IFI Program	0.74	1.03	1.44	0.63		
Tracking Error	0.42	0.53	0.65	0.38		
Information Ratio	1.75	1.95	2.23	1.64		
Total FI Program	0.76	1.03	1.43	0.54		
Tracking Error	0.47	0.59	0.73	0.52		
Information Ratio	1.64	1.74	1.95	1.05		

As of 12/31/2022

#### **Batting Average**

	Monthly Exc	ess Returns
Core IFI Program	89/120	74%

## Results: Core Portfolio Risk/Return Characteristics



Portfolio Excess Return and Statistics						
	10 Year	5 Year	3 Year	1 Year		
Government	0.29	0.30	0.35	0.16		
Tracking Error	0.16	0.20	0.26	0.10		
Information Ratio	1.75	1.46	1.38	1.57		
Securitized	0.76	1.19	1.91	2.46		
Tracking Error	0.69	0.94	1.16	1.67		
Information Ratio	1.09	1.27	1.65	1.47		
Credit	0.71	0.80	0.86	0.39		
Tracking Error	0.33	0.30	0.34	0.42		
Information Ratio	2.17	2.65	2.52	0.93		
Opportunistic	_	1.31	2.07	2.16		
Tracking Error	<u> </u>	1.76	2.16	3.62		
Information Ratio	_	0.75	0.96	0.60		

As of 12/31/2022

## Results: EM/HY Portfolio Risk/Return Characteristics



Portfolio Excess Return and Statistics							
	Since Inception*	3 Year	1 Year				
Internal EMD	0.55	0.73	1.14				
Tracking Error	0.97	1.03	1.58				
Information Ratio	0.57	0.71	0.72				
Payden & Rygel EMD	1.12	1.12	1.59				
PIMCO EMD	0.98	0.98	1.56				
Internal High Yield	0.64	0.46	2.93				
Tracking Error	1.27	1.33	1.63				
Information Ratio	0.51	0.35	1.80				
Man Numeric High Yield	0.71	_	0.02				

As of 12/31/2022

<sup>\*</sup>Inception dates: Internal EMD Portfolio 11/2018, Internal HY Portfolio 7/2019, External EMD Portfolio 1/2020, Man Numeric HY 7/2020

## Results: 2023 Update



#### **Noteworthy items:**

- During February, we reallocated \$500 million from fund level cash into Fixed Income
- Given tight valuations across credit sectors and recent volatility, we used the inflow to further the portfolio's defensive positioning
- Volatility within the fixed income market remains elevated
  - 2/1 and 3/22 Fed Rate Hikes (+25bps each time)
  - 3/10 SVB/Signature Events

2023 Program Return Snapshot		
	Jan-23	Feb-23
Core IFI Portfolio	3.14	(2.48)
Benchmark	3.08	(2.59)
Excess Return	0.06	0.11
Total FI Program	3.18	(2.40)
Benchmark	3.11	(2.52)
Excess Return	0.07	0.12

### Looking Forward: Where Are We focusing?



#### **Continue To Implement Long Term Vision For The Program**

Actively Finding Ways To Collaborate Across Teams to Add Value to VRS

#### On The Radar

- > Enhancements to portfolio processes and portfolio management tools
- Emphasize cross training throughout the program
- Cross-asset class working groups to enhance expertise
- Expand into more value-adding ideas in the Opportunistic Portfolio

### Collaboration: Across the Fund



#### **Portfolios**

- IEM: Systematic High Yield & Total Fund Rebalance Portfolio
- RBI: RBI Risk Hedging Portfolio
- Operations: Collateral Management Portfolio

#### People

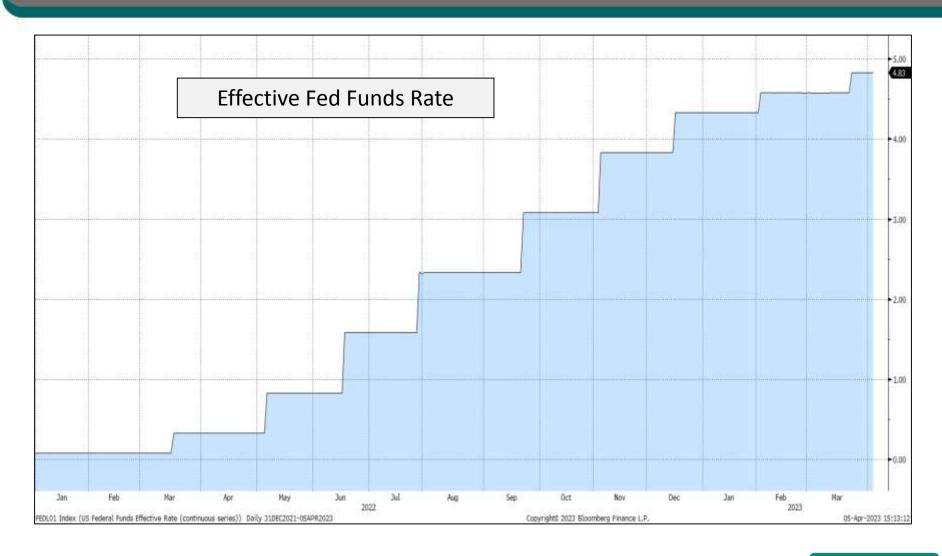
- Intentional Touch Points Across Programs
- External Manager Partnership Sessions
- Factor Based Investing and Quantitative Tool Exploration
- Individual Team Member Collaboration



### **Appendix**

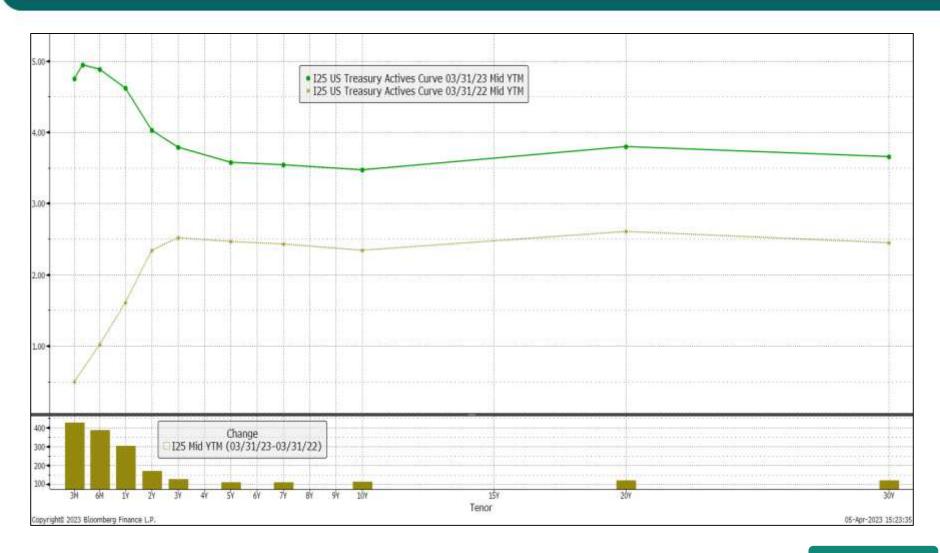
### Markets: Fed Rate Hike Cycle





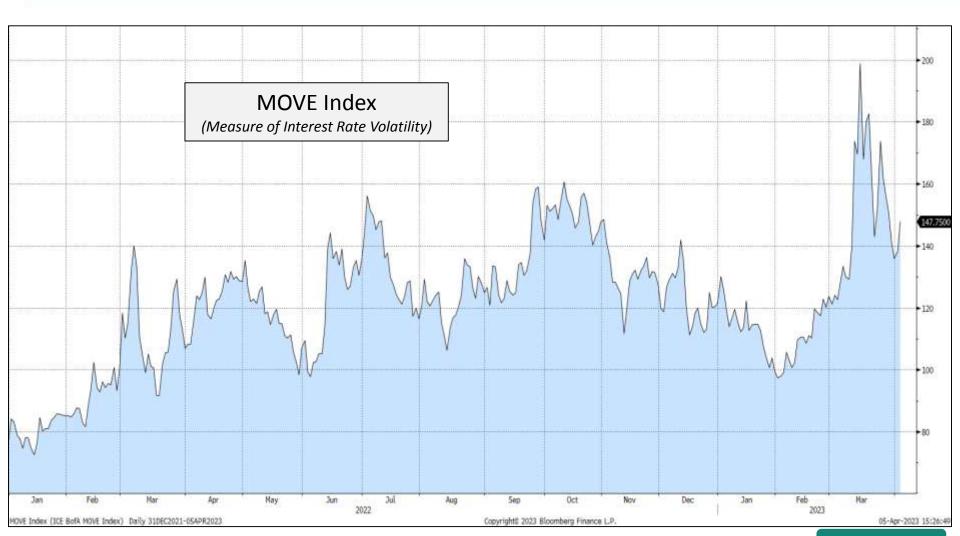
### Markets: Yield Curve Inversion





### Markets: Interest Rate Volatility Elevated







### Risk Profile Enhancement Using Leverage for Diversification

Andrew Junkin and Chung Ma April 12, 2023



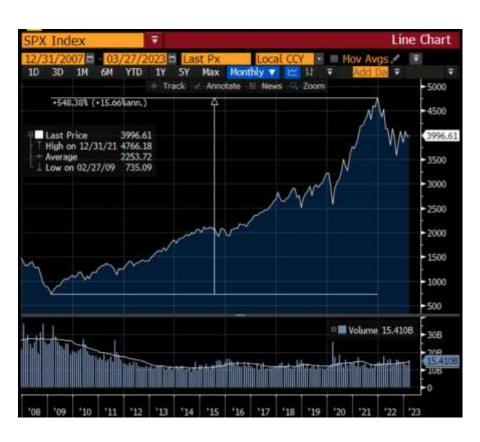
### Agenda



- Motivation
- Definition of leverage
- Portfolio diversification using asset allocation leverage
- Implementation options
- Takeaways

### **Equity Markets Have Run**







### Partly Driven by Stimulative Policy





### **But Liquidity Conditions Have Tightened**







### **Challenging Future Environment**

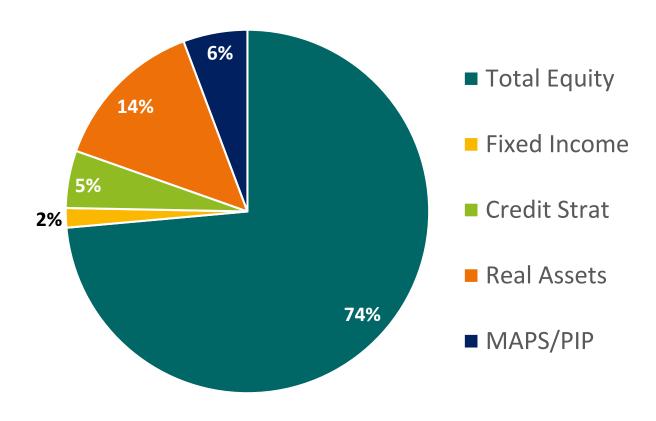


- A potential regime change
- Expectation of future lower returns and wider range of outcomes
- Macro risks abound, volatility ahead
- Potential solutions
  - Active management
  - Tactical opportunities
  - Rebalance policy to more diversifying assets
  - Prudent use of leverage

## **Portfolio Risk Dominated by Growth**



#### **Total Risk Contribution\***



<sup>\*</sup> BarraOne, as of December 31, 2022 MAPS – Multi-asset Public Strategies, Private Investment Partnership

## **Defining Leverage**



## Two main types for VRS

## **Implementation Leverage**

- Within and specific to certain asset classes
- Leverage on commercial real estate, for example
- Non-recourse to VRS
- No cross collateralization

## **Asset Allocation Leverage**

- The sum of the target weights of the strategic asset allocation is greater than 100%
- Successful use requires that total fund return exceeds cost of leverage over the long term

## **Key Tenets**



- Use leverage to defend the fund
  - Better risk balance
  - Help mitigate drawdown risk
  - Ability to hold positions don't be a forced seller of assets
- Liquidity management is critical
- Don't use leverage to increase public equity exposure

## What is Asset Allocation Leverage?



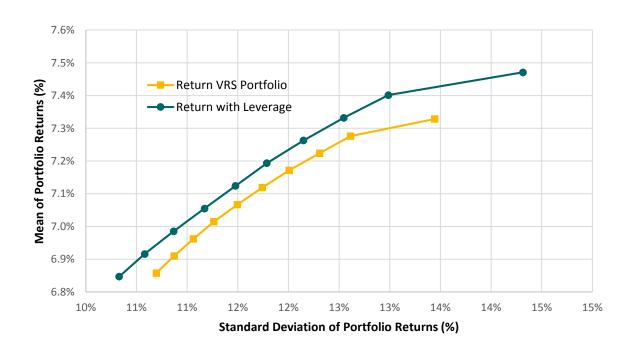
- Leverage strategic asset allocation weights adding to over 100%
- Would take time to implement, likely 3 years

	Current		Modestly		More
	Target	Unlevered	Diversifying	Less Liquid	Diversifying
Public Equity	34%	33%	33%	29%	29%
Private Equity	16%	15%	15%	16%	15%
Total Equity	50%	48%	48%	45%	44%
Real Assets	14%	15%	15%	16%	16%
Credit Strategies	14%	15%	15%	16%	16%
Private Inv Partnership	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Risk-Based Investment:	2%	3%	5%	3%	5%
Dynamic Strategies	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%
Total MAPS	4%	4%	6%	5%	6%
Fixed Income	15%	15%	16%	18%	18%
Cash	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Total Cash+FI	16%	17%	18%	20%	20%
Total Fund	100%	100%	103%	103%	103%
Leverage	0%	0%	-3%	-3%	-3%
Total Fund (lev)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

## **Higher Efficient Frontier**



- Can be thought of as a new asset
- More diversification
- Creates more efficient portfolios



## **Diversification Can Mitigate Drawdowns**



	Current		Modestly		More
	Target	Unlevered	Diversifying	Less Liquid	Diversifying
Return	7.0%	7.0%	7.2%	7.2%	7.1%
Volatility	12.6%	12.1%	12.2%	12.0%	11.7%
Return/Volatility	0.56	0.58	0.59	0.60	0.61
Worst Cases					
25th Percentile	-1.5%	-1.2%	-1.0%	-1.0%	-0.8%
5th Percentile	-13.7%	-13.0%	-12.9%	-12.6%	-12.1%
Largest Drawdown	-40.8%	-38.9%	-38.7%	-37.8%	-36.5%

- Asset Allocation Leverage should be used to better balance portfolio risks
- Drawdown risk is mitigated through prudent use of Asset Allocation Leverage

## **Benefits and Considerations of Leverage**



### **Benefits**

- Can be used to improve diversification and create better risk balance
- Increase odds of achieving investment goal
- Potential to have a more efficient portfolio (e.g., better Sharpe Ratio)
- Potential to increase return (especially if used for growth assets)

### **Considerations**

- Increase operational complexity
- Will not always outperform, depending on market environment
- Potential to increase volatility versus an unlevered portfolio, amplify gains and losses
- Increases importance on risk management, especially with liquidity considerations

## **U.S. Pension Plans Employing Leverage**



Plan *	Role of Asset Allocation Leverage
SWIB (15%)	Increase <b>fixed income</b>
TRS (4%)	Increase fixed income and diversifiers
CalPERS (5%)	Increase alternatives
PSERS (10%)	Increase fixed income and real assets
MOSERS (40%)	Increase fixed income and alternatives
OP&F (25%)	Increase fixed income and diversifiers

<sup>\*</sup>State of Wisconsin Investment Board, Teacher Retirement System of Texas, California Public Employees' Retirement System,

Pennsylvania Public Schools Employees' Retirement System, Missouri State Employees' Retirement System, Ohio Police and Fire Pension

Risk Profile #192061201 - April 2023

## Implementation – Cost Versus Complexity



## **Higher Cost/Lower Complexity**

- Line of credit
- Private notes
- Bank loans
- Pension obligation bonds –
   not allowed under statute

### **Lower Cost/Higher Complexity**

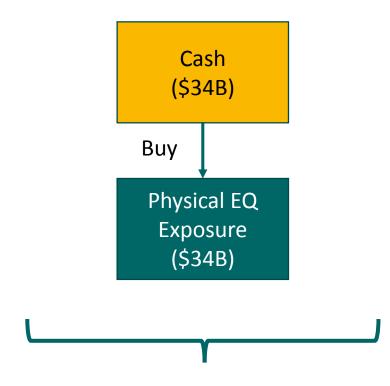
- Repurchase agreements
- Securities lending program
- Futures
- Total return swaps

## **Current Situation – An Example**



34% Policy Allocation to Public Equity (EQ)

Economic Exposure



Public Equity Policy Exposure \$34B

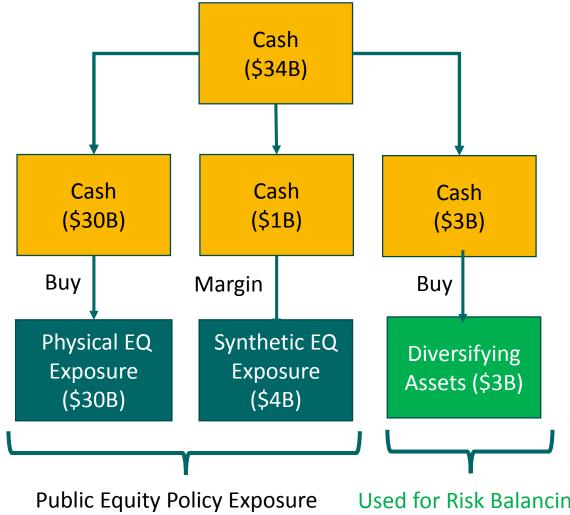
## Use of Synthetics – An Example



34% Policy Allocation to Public Equity (EQ)

> Allocate Cash to Exposures (\$34B)

Economic Exposures\* (\$37B)



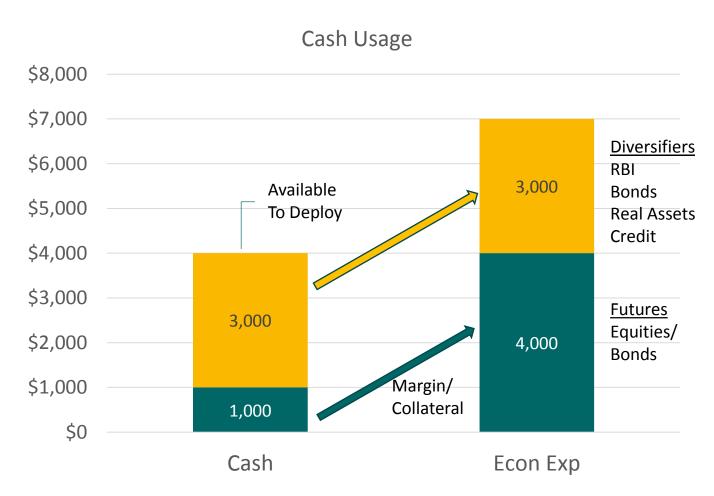
\$34B

Used for Risk Balancing \$3B

## **Cash Management - Synthetic Case Study**



### Synthetic exposure allows for re-allocation to other assets



Illustrative, numbers are in US dollars, millions

## **Scenario Analysis**



### Portfolio construction allows for drawdown mitigation

	Current		Modestly		More
Scenario	Target	Unlevered	Diversifying	Less Liquid	Diversifying
Global Financial Crisis (2007-09)	-28.9	-28.1	-28.1	-26.9	-26.3
Tech Crash	-18.2	-17.5	-17.3	-15.7	-15.3
1987 Market Crash (Aug-Nov)	-7.2	-6.9	-6.9	-6.6	-6.4
2011 US Debt Ceiling Act	-7.8	-7.5	-7.5	-7.0	-6.8

## **Operational Considerations**



- Over time, hire additional FTEs (1-3) and design for efficiency
- Risk management oversight is essential
  - Liquidity
  - Collateral
  - Funding
  - Rebalancing
- Need external and internal tools to monitor
- Communicate regularly to management

## **Takeaways**



- Aligning portfolio priorities use leverage to create a better risk balance (desired outcome-more predictable contribution rates, protect funded ratio, defend the fund) and to not be a forced seller
- Increase odds of achieving assumed rate of return over time, by potentially reducing drawdown risk
- Glide path to 3%, starting small to stress test process and systems with continuous re-evaluation
- Critical success factors
  - Strong governance
  - Risk management
  - Implementation capabilities and tools
  - Appreciation of pitfalls
- Desire to consider strategic asset allocation and rebalancing leverage in candidate portfolios





## **Forward Returns & Scenario Analysis**

Steven Peterson Program Director – Research Rory Badura Senior Actuary



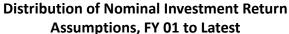
## Summary Forward Returns And Scenario Analysis

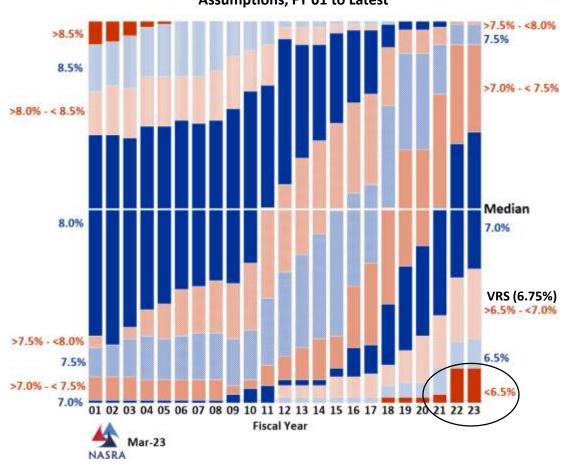


- State Plans' Forward Returns Summary
- External Managers' Forward Returns Comparison
- VRS Long Term Forward Returns
- Forward Returns Attribution
- Scenarios (Impact on Funded Status, Contribution Rates, Liquidity)
  - Baseline
  - Soft Landing
  - Hard Landing
  - No Landing
  - Lost Decade (Japan)

# Public Pension Plan Discount Rate Revisions Over Time (2023)







# History of External Managers' Forward Returns Forecasts

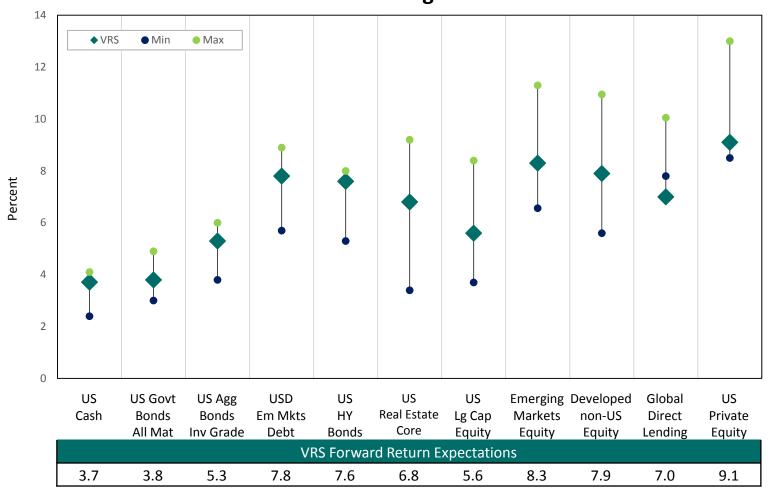


	2015	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
U.S. Core Fixed	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.4	1.5	1.6	2.7	4.1
Credit (HY)	5.0	4.6	4.4	5.0	4.8	3.5	4.8	6.3
Core Real Estate	5.4	5.5	5.2	5.7	5.3	5.9	5.2	5.4
U.S. Stocks	6.2	6.0	5.5	5.7	5.5	4.0	5.2	6.8
Int'l Developed Stocks	6.9	6.4	6.8	6.7	6.2	6.2	6.6	8.1
Emerging Stocks	8.4	7.5	7.1	8.2	7.6	6.6	7.5	9.2
Private Equity	8.9	7.2	7.7	9.2	8.9	9.5	9.3	9.8

# Current Year External Managers' Forward Returns Expectations Range



# Long Term Forward Return Expectations External Manager & VRS



# Forward Returns and Volatilities By Asset Class (20 year)



	Current			Allowable	
Asset Class	Wt.	E(r)	Ε(σ)	Min	Max
Public Equity	34.0%	7.0%	18.1%	-5.0%	5.0%
Fixed Income	15.0%	4.9%	5.6%	-3.0%	5.0%
Credit Strategies	14.0%	7.9%	6.4%	-5.0%	5.0%
Real Assets	14.0%	6.5%	14.3%	-5.0%	5.0%
Private Equity	16.0%	9.0%	23.1%	-5.0%	5.0%
PIP	2.0%	7.8%	19.4%	-2.0%	2.0%
Dstrat	2.0%	6.7%	12.4%	-2.0%	2.0%
RBI	2.0%	6.2%	5.1%	-2.0%	2.0%
Cash	1.0%	3.7%	0.5%	-1.0%	4.0%
Currency Return Addition		0.1%			
Total Fund		7.1%	12.6%		

	Current		
Asset Class and Strategy	Wt.	E(r)	Ε(σ)
Public Equity	34.0%	7.0%	18.1%
Fixed Income	15.0%	4.9%	5.6%
Treasury	5.4%	3.8%	
Agency	0.1%	4.7%	
MBS	4.1%	4.8%	
CMBS	0.3%	6.6%	
ABS	0.2%	6.1%	
IG	3.4%	5.3%	
НҮ	0.6%	7.6%	
JPM EMBI Core	1.0%	7.8%	
Credit Strategies	14.0%	7.9%	6.4%
Rate Sensitive HY	4.2%	6.5%	
Rate Sensitive IG	1.4%	4.5%	
Non-Rate Sensitive	8.4%	7.9%	
Real Assets	14.0%	6.5%	14.3%
Private Real Estate	9.4%	6.8%	
Public Real Estate	0.0%	8.1%	
Other Real Assets	4.6%	6.1%	
Private Equity	16.0%	9.0%	23.1%
PIP	2.0%	7.8%	19.4%
Dstrat	2.0%	6.7%	12.4%
RBI	2.0%	6.2%	5.1%
Cash	1.0%	3.7%	0.5%
Currency Return Addition		0.1%	
Total Fund		7.1%	12.6%

E(r) = Expected Return

 $E(\sigma)$  = Expected Volatility

# Forward Returns and Volatilities By Asset Class (20 year)



#### 2023

	Current			Allowable	
Asset Class	Wt.	E(r)	Ε(σ)	Min	Max
Public Equity	34.0%	7.0%	18.1%	-5.0%	5.0%
Fixed Income	15.0%	4.9%	5.6%	-3.0%	5.0%
Credit Strategies	14.0%	7.9%	6.4%	-5.0%	5.0%
Real Assets	14.0%	6.5%	14.3%	-5.0%	5.0%
Private Equity	16.0%	9.0%	23.1%	-5.0%	5.0%
PIP	2.0%	7.8%	19.4%	-2.0%	2.0%
Dstrat	2.0%	6.7%	12.4%	-2.0%	2.0%
RBI	2.0%	6.2%	5.1%	-2.0%	2.0%
Cash	1.0%	3.7%	0.5%	-1.0%	4.0%
Currency Return Addition		0.1%			
Total Fund		7.1%	12.6%		

#### 2022

	Current			Allow	able
Asset Class	Wt.	E(r)	Ε(σ)	Min	Max
Public Equity	34.0%	6.8%	16.8%	-5.0%	5.0%
Fixed Income	15.0%	4.4%	4.7%	-3.0%	5.0%
Credit Strategies	14.0%	7.1%	5.4%	-5.0%	5.0%
Real Assets	14.0%	6.0%	14.0%	-5.0%	5.0%
Private Equity	14.0%	8.8%	26.2%	-5.0%	5.0%
MAPS	6.0%	5.9%	7.9%	-2.0%	2.0%
PIP	3.0%	7.3%	18.9%	-2.0%	2.0%
Cash	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	-1.0%	4.0%
Currency Return Addition		0.1%			
Total Fund		6.7%	13.8%		

E(r) = Expected Return

 $E(\sigma)$  = Expected Volatility

## **Forward Returns Attribution**

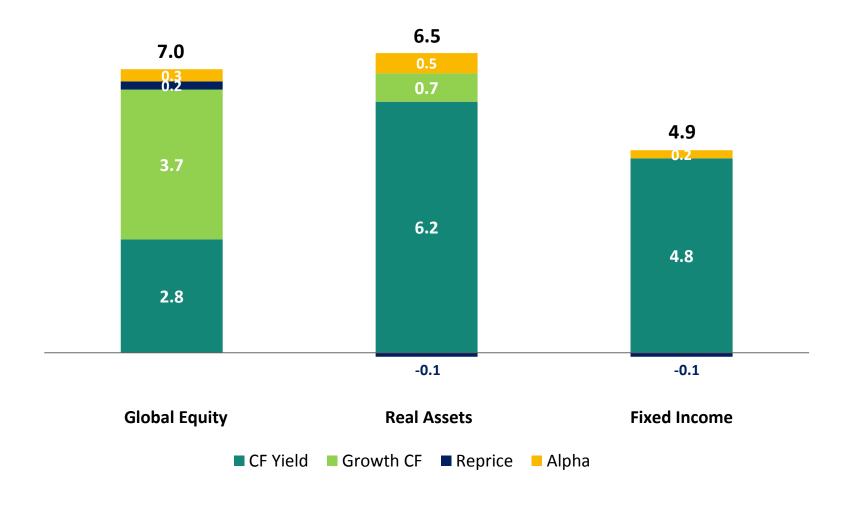


	Return	CF Yield	Growth in CF	Reprice	Alpha
Global Eq (10 yr)	7.0%	2.8%	3.7%	0.2%	0.3%
US Eq	5.6%	2.2%	3.3%	-0.2%	0.3%
Non_US Eq	7.9%	3.8%	2.8%	1.1%	0.3%
EM Eq	8.3%	3.3%	3.9%	0.8%	0.3%
Real Assets (20 yr)	6.5%	6.2%	0.7%	-0.1%	0.5%
Private RE	6.8%	4.3%	2.7%	-0.2%	0.4%
Global REITs	8.1%	2.8%	5.2%	-0.1%	0.3%
Infrastructure	5.4%	3.7%	2.4%	-0.1%	0.7%
Energy & Mining	7.8%	25.0%	-17.0%	0.0%	0.7%
Timberland	5.0%	3.0%	2.5%	-0.2%	0.7%
Farmland	5.9%	4.8%	1.8%	0.0%	0.7%
Tot. ORA	6.1%	10.2%	-3.6%	-0.1%	0.7%
Total IFI (20 yr)	4.9%	4.8%	0.0%	-0.1%	0.2%
BC Treasury	3.8%	3.8%	0.0%	-0.1%	0.1%
BC Agency	4.7%	4.6%	0.0%	-0.1%	0.2%
BC MBS	4.8%	4.6%	0.0%	-0.1%	0.4%
BC CMBS	6.6%	6.4%	0.0%	-0.2%	0.4%
BC ABS	6.1%	5.9%	0.0%	-0.1%	0.4%
BC IG Credit	5.3%	5.1%	0.0%	-0.2%	0.4%
BC HY Credit	7.6%	7.7%	0.0%	-0.5%	0.4%
JPM EMBI Core	7.8%	7.9%	0.0%	-0.4%	0.2%

Notes: RA is net of leverage; IFI CF Yield includes growth in CF

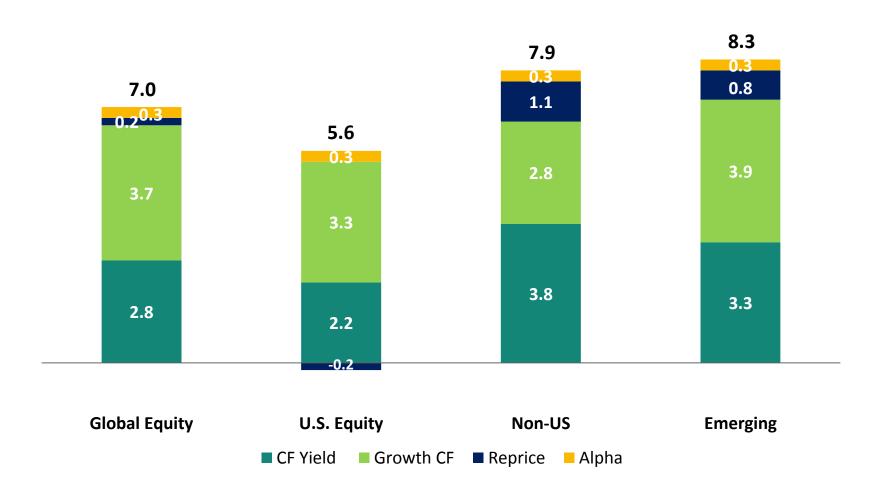
## Total Fund – Selected Attribution (Percent)





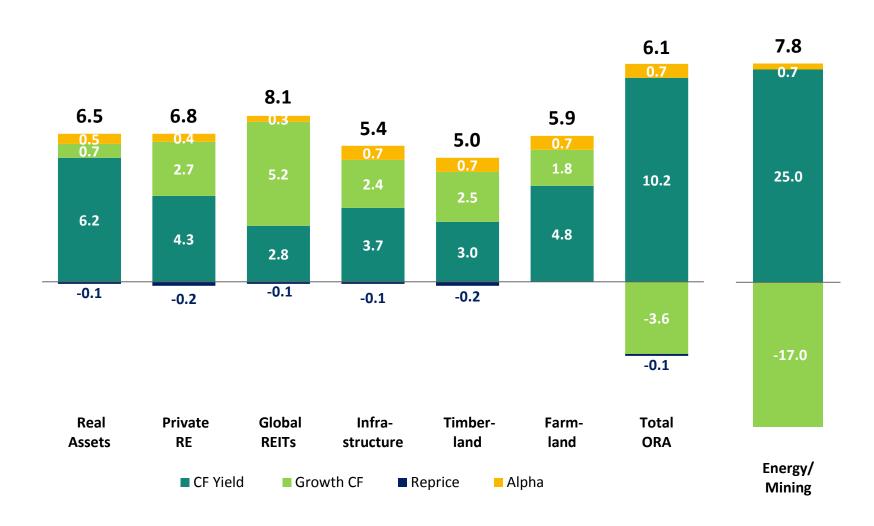
## **Global Equity Attribution (Percent)**





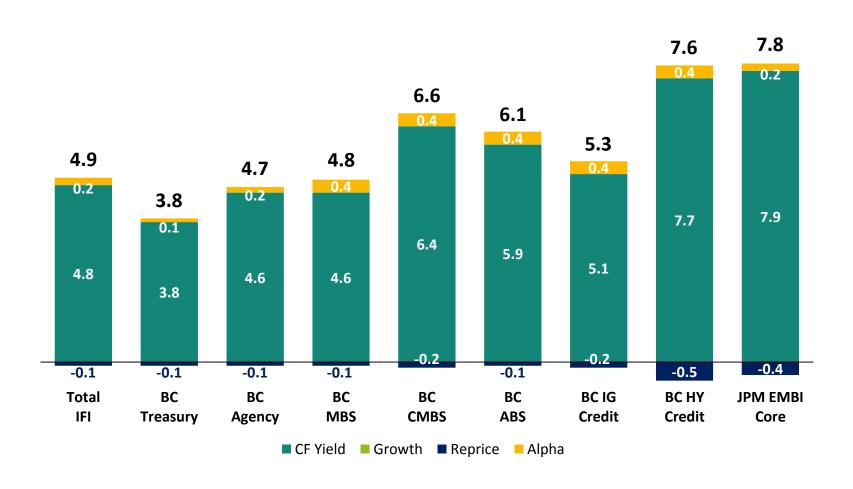
## Real Assets Attribution (Percent)





## Fixed Income Attribution (Percent)





## Macro Factor Impact on Forward Returns



Alpha
Growth In Yield
Real Yield
Inflation
Revaluation

Footon	lucco a at
Factor	Impact
Elevated Vol	+
Taxes	_
Productivity	_
De-Globalization	_
Nominal Rates	+
Rates v Inflation	+/-
Discount Factor	- /
Fed QT	_
Commodity Prices	+
Nominal Wage Growth	_
Oil	+
P/E Mean Reversion	_
Risk Aversion	_
111311711011	



# **Scenario Analysis**



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## **Scenario Narratives**



Hard Landing—The Fed fails to achieve a soft landing. While the first half of 2022 was largely about downward revisions in equity valuations, the second half was about downward revisions in (real) earnings forecasts. Growth expectations retracted, inflation is persistent especially in services, and higher nominal rates result in a significant slowdown in housing and consumer durables. Households continue to spend down savings inventoried during the pandemic while real incomes continue to fall off. The Fed is forced into a more aggressive rate hiking cycle that is not priced into the market. Real economic growth is hit hard along with risk assets which take 4 years to recover to pre-landing levels.

**Soft Landing** - This is a Goldilocks case in which inflation responds immediately to Fed policy moves and is back to a targeted 2.5% by the end of 2023. Both inflation and real growth surprise to the upside along with earnings growth and sentiment drives returns on all asset classes above expectations for years 1-2 before settling back to the baseline.

## Scenario Narratives



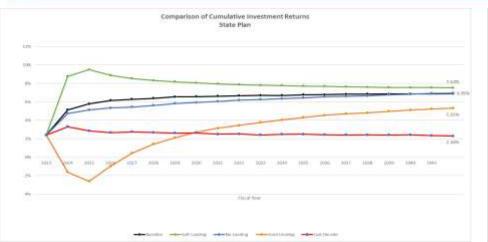
**No Landing** - inflation persists and Fed policy is ineffective at achieving a non-inflationary equilibrium. Short rates (and inflation) therefore remain 'elevated' though not excessive and real growth equilibrates around its historical average of 3%. While risk assets do comparatively well (above expectations), fixed income and credit as well as real assets take several years to return to their long run target returns.

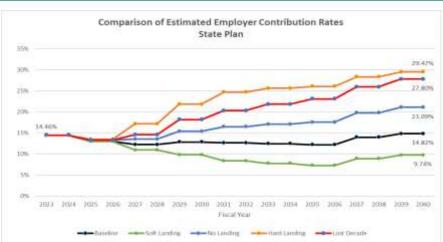
**Japan - Lost Decade** - The economy collapses into an extended low growth, deflationary equilibrium similar to Japan's experience beginning in the 1990's. Risk assets such as public equity and real assets are especially hit hard. Fund returns equilibrate around 2.5% annually with very little volatility. Policy is ineffectual.

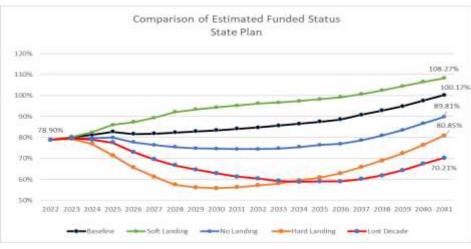
**Baseline** – current FY 2023 estimates followed by latest forward return estimates.

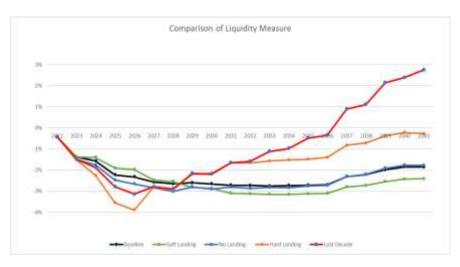
# Scenarios – Median Paths (State)







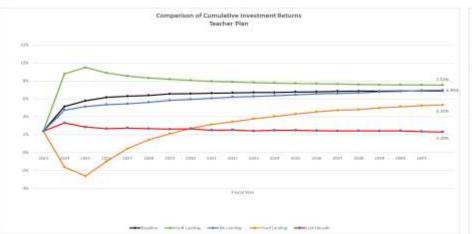


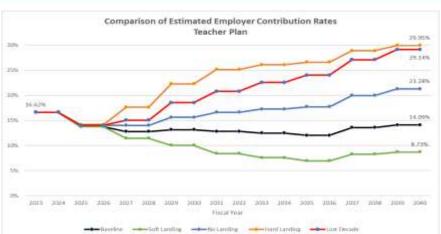


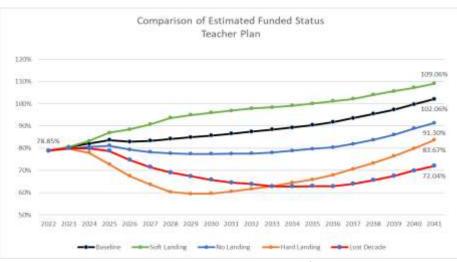
- Results include estimated 2023 investment return of 2.4%.
- Projections reflect measures from 2022 Appropriation Act which include additional contributions made in June 2022 and maintaining of prior employer rates for State and Teacher plans. They also include additional cash infusions scheduled for June 2023 from the 2023 proposed budget.

# Scenarios – Median Paths (Teachers)









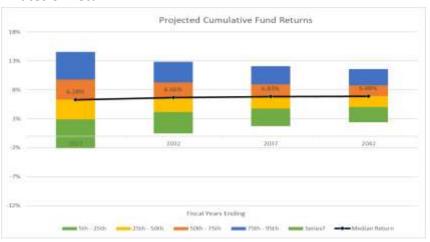


- Results include estimated 2023 investment return of 2.4%.
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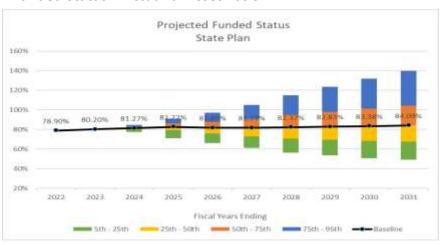
## **Baseline - State Plan**



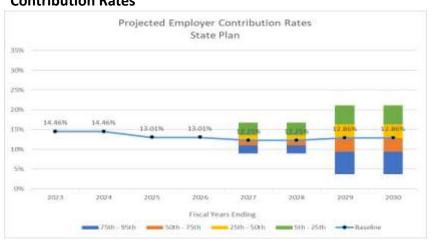
#### **Rates of Return**



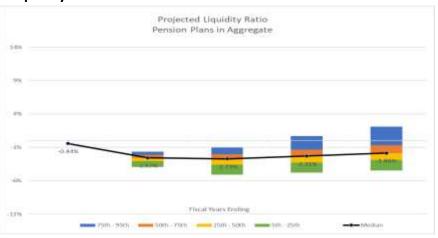
#### Funded Status - Actuarial Asset Basis



#### **Contribution Rates**



#### Liquidity



- Results include estimated 2023 investment return of 2.4%.
- Projections reflect measures from 2022 Appropriation Act which include additional contributions made in June 2022 and maintaining of prior employer rates for State and Teacher plans. They also include additional cash infusions scheduled for June 2023 from the 2023 proposed budget.

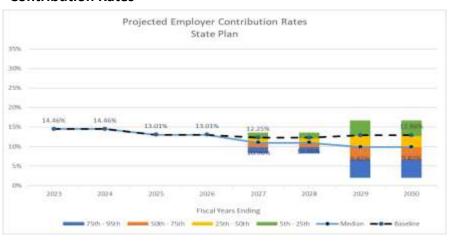
# Soft Landing – State Plan



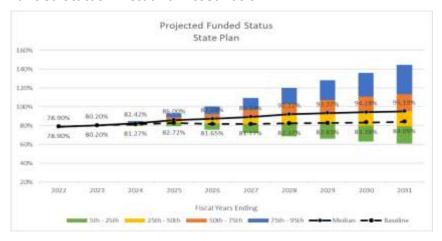
#### **Rates of Return**



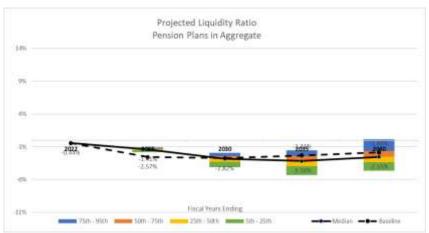
#### **Contribution Rates**



#### Funded Status - Actuarial Asset Basis



#### Liquidity

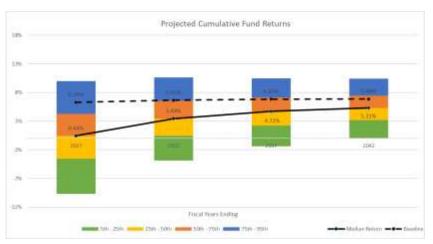


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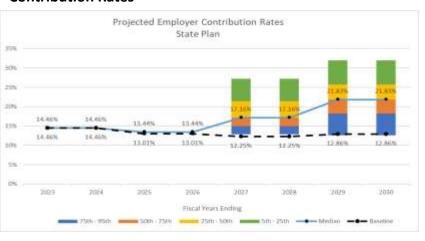
# Hard Landing-State Plan



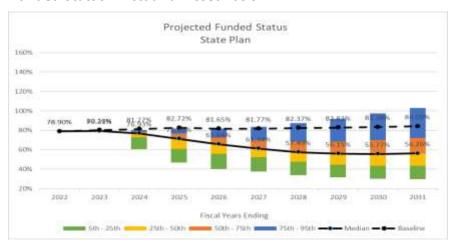
#### **Rates of Return**



#### **Contribution Rates**



#### Funded Status - Actuarial Asset Basis



#### Liquidity



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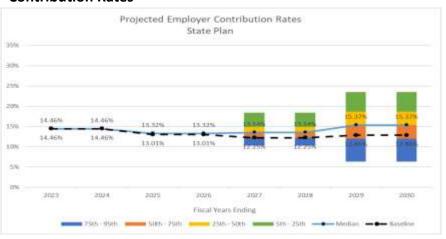
# No Landing - State Plan



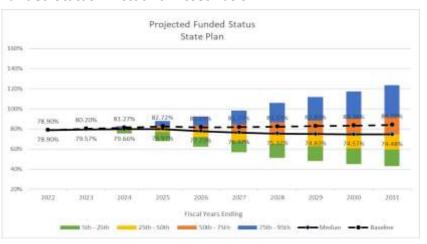
#### **Rates of Return**



#### **Contribution Rates**



#### Funded Status - Actuarial Asset Basis



#### Liquidity

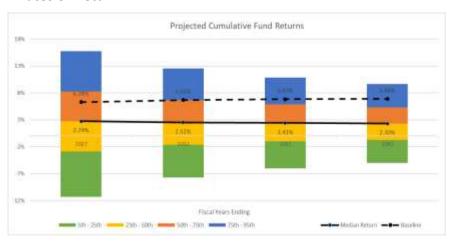


- Results include estimated 2023 investment return of 2.4%.
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## **Lost Decade – State Plan**



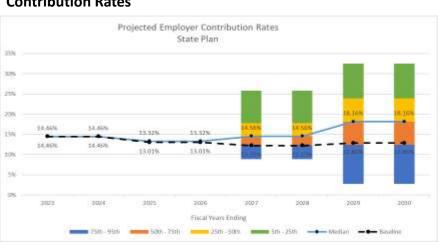
#### **Rates of Return**



#### Funded Status - Actuarial Asset Basis



#### **Contribution Rates**



#### Liquidity



- Results include estimated 2023 investment return of 2.4%.
- Projections reflect measures from 2022 Appropriation Act which include additional contributions made in June 2022 and maintaining of prior employer rates for State and Teacher plans. They also include additional cash infusions scheduled for June 2023 from the 2023 proposed budget.



# **Appendix**

# Changes in the Policy Mix – Impact on Scenario Mean Returns



/W/	'EIGHTS)	
(VV	CIUNISI	

_	Pub Eq	FI	CS	RA	Pvt Eq	PIP	Dstrat	RBI	Cash
Aggressive	40%	10%	11%	15%	18%	2%	2%	2%	0%
Policy	34%	15%	14%	14%	16%	2%	2%	2%	1%
Conservative	25%	31%	11%	10%	10%	3%	3%	3%	4%

#### (RETURNS)

	Pub Eq	FI	CS	RA	Pvt Eq	PIP	Dstrat	RBI	Cash	Conservative	Policy	Aggressive
Baseline	7.0%	4.9%	7.9%	6.5%	9.0%	7.8%	6.7%	6.2%	3.7%	6.5%	7.0%	7.2%
<b>Soft Landing</b>	7.6%	5.1%	7.9%	7.4%	8.8%	7.4%	6.9%	6.2%	3.7%	6.7%	7.3%	7.5%
No Landing	5.8%	3.8%	6.4%	5.2%	7.0%	6.7%	5.2%	5.2%	3.7%	5.2%	5.7%	5.8%
<b>Hard Landing</b>	5.2%	3.1%	5.9%	4.5%	6.4%	5.3%	4.9%	6.2%	3.7%	4.6%	5.1%	5.2%
Japan	5.3%	1.0%	3.1%	4.0%	6.6%	4.6%	4.1%	5.4%	3.7%	3.6%	4.3%	4.6%

# **Global Annualized Sensitivity**



Terminal Global P/E

#### GLOBAL ANNUALIZED FORWARD RETURNS SENSITIVITY

Yield	1.8%	7.1%	8.2%	9.2%	10.3%	11.3%	12.4%	13.4%	25x
•	2.0%	6.4%	7.4%	8.4%	9.5%	10.5%	11.6%	12.6%	23x
Div	2.2%	5.5%	6.5%	7.6%	8.6%	9.6%	10.7%	11.7%	21x
Global	2.4%	4.6%	5.6%	6.6%	7.7%	8.7%	9.7%	10.7%	19x
	2.7%	3.6%	4.6%	5.6%	6.6%	7.6%	8.7%	9.7%	17x
nina	3.0%	2.5%	3.5%	4.5%	5.5%	6.5%	7.5%	8.5%	15x
<b>Ferminal</b>	3.5%	1.3%	2.3%	3.2%	4.2%	5.2%	6.2%	7.2%	13x
	4.1%	-0.1%	0.8%	1.8%	2.8%	3.7%	4.7%	5.7%	11x
		0.0%	1.0%	2.0%	3.0%	4.0%	5.0%	6.0%	

10-year Annualized Nominal Global Earnings Growth

# **US Annualized Sensitivity**



$\mathbf{I} \mathbf{I} \mathbf{C}$	ANNITATIZE	$D = CDM \times DL$	DETTIONS	SENSITIVITY
$\mathbf{U}$ . $\mathbf{O}$ .	ANNUALIZE	IJ FUK W AKL	KELUKNS	OCNOLLIALL

pI	1.8%	5.1%	6.1%	7.1%	8.2%	9.2%	10.2%	11.3%	25x	
Yield	2.0%	4.3%	5.3%	6.3%	7.4%	8.4%	9.4%	10.4%	23x	
)iv.	2.1%	3.5%	4.5%	5.5%	6.5%	7.5%	8.5%	9.5%	21x	[ern
S. I	2.4%	2.5%	3.6%	4.6%	5.6%	6.6%	7.6%	8.6%	19x	ninal
al U	2.6%	1.5%	2.5%	3.5%	4.5%	5.5%	6.5%	7.5%	17x	U.S
Terminal	3.0%	0.4%	1.4%	2.4%	3.4%	4.4%	5.3%	6.3%	15x	5. P/E
Tei	3.5%	-0.8%	0.2%	1.1%	2.1%	3.1%	4.0%	5.0%	13x	[I]
	4.1%	-2.2%	-1.3%	-0.3%	0.6%	1.6%	2.5%	3.5%	11x	
		0.0%	1.0%	2.0%	3.0%	4.0%	5.0%	6.0%		
		10	A	1' 1 N	T 1 T	TO D		_41 <u>_</u>		

10-year Annualized Nominal U.S. Earnings Growth

## Developed Markets (non-US) Annualized Sensitivity



Yield		NON-U.	S. ANN	UALIZEI	) FORW	ARD RE	TURNS	SENSITI	VITY			
7. Yi	2.0%	8.4%	9.5%	10.6%	11.6%	12.7%	13.8%	14.8%	25x	T		
Div.	2.2%	7.7%	8.7%	9.8%	10.9%	11.9%	13.0%	14.0%	23x	erminal		
U.S.	2.4%	6.9%	7.9%	9.0%	10.0%	11.1%	12.1%	13.2%	21x	nal l		
on-l	2.6%	6.0%	7.0%	8.1%	9.1%	10.1%	11.2%	12.2%	19x	Dev		
Z ;	2.9%	5.0%	6.0%	7.1%	8.1%	9.1%	10.1%	11.2%	17x	No		
l De	3.3%	4.0%	5.0%	6.0%	7.0%	8.0%	9.0%	10.0%	15x	Non-U		
nina	3.8%	2.8%	3.8%	4.8%	5.8%	6.8%	7.8%	8.8%	13x	S. I		
Terminal Dev. Non-U.S.	4.5%	1.4%	2.4%	3.4%	4.4%	5.3%	6.3%	7.3%	11x	P/E		
L		-1.0%	0.0%	1.0%	2.0%	3.0%	4.0%	5.0%				
	10-year Annualized Nominal Dev. Non-U.S. Earnings Growth											

# **Developed Markets Annualized Sensitivity**



EM ANNUALIZED FORWARD RETURNS SENSITIVITY										
þ	1.8%	10.0%	11.0%	12.1%	13.2%	14.2%	15.3%	16.3%	20x	
Terminal EM Div. Yield	1.9%	9.0%	10.0%	11.1%	12.1%	13.2%	14.2%	15.3%	18x	
	2.2%	7.9%	8.9%	10.0%	11.0%	12.0%	13.1%	14.1%	16x	Terr
	2.5%	6.7%	7.7%	8.7%	9.7%	10.8%	11.8%	12.8%	14x	[ermina
	2.9%	5.3%	6.3%	7.3%	8.3%	9.3%	10.3%	11.4%	12x	1 EM
rmin	3.5%	3.7%	4.7%	5.7%	6.7%	7.7%	8.7%	9.7%	10x	I P/E
Te	4.4%	1.9%	2.8%	3.8%	4.8%	5.7%	6.7%	7.7%	8x	[T]
	5.8%	-0.5%	0.5%	1.4%	2.4%	3.3%	4.3%	5.2%	6x	
		0.9%	1.9%	2.9%	3.9%	4.9%	5.9%	6.9%		

10-year Annualized Nominal EM Earnings Growth



# Private Equity Benchmark Adjustment Andrew Junkin Chief Investment Officer



# Private Equity Objectives & Proposal



#### **Private Equity Objectives:**

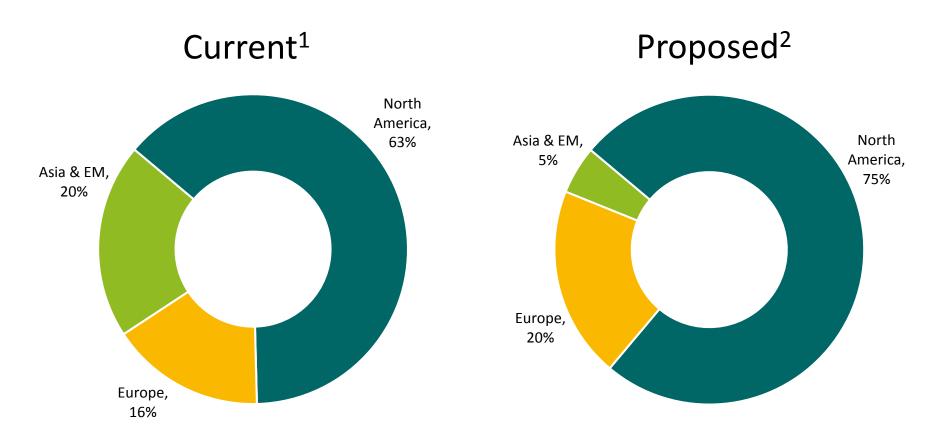
(1) Earn a meaningful long term return premium over the public equity markets and (2) provide diversification to the total fund.

#### **Private Equity Benchmark Proposal:**

Adjust the regional weights of the current benchmark to better reflect the global private equity opportunity set.

# Private Equity Benchmark Proposal Regional Composition





- 1: Current Private Equity benchmark = MSCI ACWI IMI index (net of VRS tax rate).
- 2: Proposed Private Equity benchmark = the regional benchmarks of the MSCI ACWI IMI index, weighted to reflect the Private Equity opportunity set (currently 75%/20%/5% as shown above) with weights re-evaluated as part of VRS ALM process.

# Regional Weighting Adjustment



#### **Pros**

- The private equity opportunity set does not coincide with the regional weighting of the public equity markets.
- The private equity program is not managed to the benchmark geographic mix.
- The change removes unintended geographic market and currency exposures.

#### Cons

- The switch moves away from a straightforward comparison to a well-known public equity index.
- The change provides limited historical reduction in tracking error and volatility.

Adjusting the geographic allocation removes unintended risks while still comparing returns to the component pieces of the existing MSCI ACWI benchmark



# Credit Strategies Benchmark Modification Andrew Junkin Chief Investment Officer



# Credit Strategies Objective & Proposal



#### **Credit Strategies Objective:**

Earn a meaningful long term return premium over the public highyield credit markets.

#### **Credit Strategies Benchmark Proposal:**

Remove Investment Grade (IG) from the Credit Strategies portfolio and benchmark.

Reweight Credit Strategies benchmark to 50% High Yield Bonds and 50% Bank Loans, effective July 1, 2023.

# Credit Strategies Benchmark Proposal



#### **Current Benchmark**

- 60% Morningstar LSTA Performing Loan Index
- 30% Bloomberg US High Yield BB/B 2% Issuer Cap Index
- 10% Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index

#### **Proposed Benchmark**

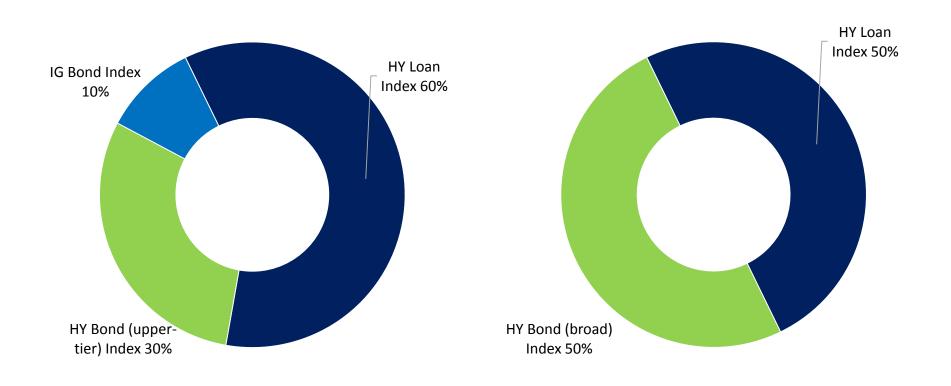
- 50% Morningstar LSTA Performing Loan Index
- 50% Bloomberg U.S. Corporate High Yield Index

# **Credit Strategies Benchmark Composition**





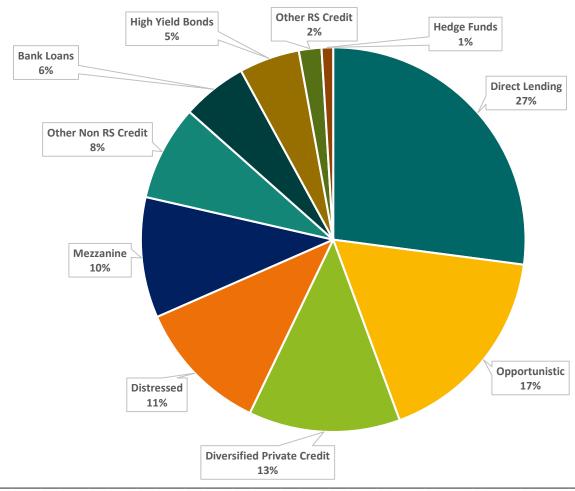
### **Proposed**



## **Credit Strategies Portfolio Composition**



### Pro Forma – 7/1/23



# Impact of Modification



#### **Pros**

- The new benchmark is simpler and more representative of the opportunity set targeted by Credit Strategies, while remaining an investable benchmark.
- The removal of IG from the program will free up capital that will be deployed into strategies with higher levels of income and that are less correlated with existing Plan exposures.
- The long term expected return of the program increases modestly.

#### Cons

 Credit Strategies volatility and tracking error increase modestly as the lowest risk/tracking error component of the existing portfolio is removed.



# Public Equity Benchmark Adjustment Andrew Junkin Chief Investment Officer



# **Public Equity Objectives & Proposal**



#### **Public Equity Objectives:**

The objective of Public Equity program is to gain exposure to global economic growth and the global equity risk premium.

Philosophically, the program has embraced global and low-volatility exposure.

VRS should seek to avoid large drawdowns so a strategic allocation to lower volatility strategies is appropriate

#### **Public Equity Benchmark Proposal:**

The proposal is to study alternative ways to benchmark Public Equity.

# **Current Benchmark (MSCI ACWI IMI)**



#### **Pros**

- The MSCI ACWI IMI is a broad global opportunity set and is widely accepted, thus representing opportunity cost.
- This benchmark is easy to understand and explain.
- There are many off-the-shelf investment products available for this benchmark.

#### Cons

- Low volatility strategies reduce absolute risk but produce high levels of relative risk against the current benchmark.
- The current benchmark may hinder the Total Plan from investing in larger exposures to low volatility strategies if desirable.

A benchmark study will be conducted to examine the tradeoffs involved in modifying the Public Equity benchmark as the program continues to embrace low volatility strategies.