## MEETING

# STATE OF CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION BOARD GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

ROBERT F. CARLSON AUDITORIUM

LINCOLN PLAZA NORTH

400 P STREET

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2018 1:00 P.M.

JAMES F. PETERS, CSR CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER LICENSE NUMBER 10063

## APPEARANCES

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Ms. Priya Mathur, Chairperson
- Ms. Dana Hollinger, Vice Chairperson
- Ms. Margaret Brown
- Mr. John Chiang, represented by Mr. Steve Juarez
- Mr. Rob Feckner
- Mr. Ramon Rubalcava
- Ms. Theresa Taylor

### BOARD MEMBERS:

- Mr. Richard Costigan
- Mr. Richard Gillihan
- Mr. Henry Jones
- Mr. David Miller
- Mr. Bill Slaton
- Ms. Betty Yee, represented by Mr. Alan Lofaso

## STAFF:

- Ms. Marcie Frost, Chief Executive Officer
- Mr. Matt Jacobs, General Counsel
- Ms. Kristen Garner, Committee Secretary

# APPEARANCES CONTINUED

# ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Tim Behrens, California State Retirees

Mr. Al Darby, Retired Public Employees Association

Mr. J.J. Jelincic

Mr. Jason Perez, Corona Police Officers Association

Ms. Donna Snodgrass, Retired Public Employees Association

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# PROCEEDINGS

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: All right. Good afternoon, everyone. I'm going to call the Governance Committee meeting to order. And the first order of business is roll call.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY GARNER: Priya Mathur?

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Good afternoon.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY GARNER: Dana Hollinger?

VICE CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGER: Good afternoon.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY GARNER: Margaret Brown?

COMMITTEE MEMBER BROWN: Here.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY GARNER: Steve Juarez for

13 John Chiang?

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ACTING COMMITTEE MEMBER JUAREZ: Here.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY GARNER: Rob Feckner?

COMMITTEE MEMBER FECKNER: Here.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY GARNER: Ramon Rubalcava?

COMMITTEE MEMBER RUBALCAVA: Here.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY GARNER: Theresa Taylor?

COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: Here.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: We have a quorum. Please also note for the record that we have Mr. Miller, Mr. Jones, Mr. Lofaso, Mr. Gillihan, and Mr. Costigan in attendance today. And Mr. Slaton all the way at the other

25 side.

So the next item on the agenda is the approval of the Board Governance Committee timed agenda.

COMMITTEE MEMBER BROWN: Move approval.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Moved by Ms. Brown.

VICE CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGER: Second.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Seconded by Ms. Hollinger

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Any discussion on the motion?

Seeing none.

All those in favor say aye?

11 (Ayes.)

12 CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: All opposed?

Motion passes.

That brings us to the executive report. Mr.

15 Jacobs.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Yes. Good afternoon, Chair Mathur and Board members. We have one substantive item on the agenda today. It's the process for handling allegations against Board members.

There was one other substantive item that was supposed to be on the agenda, but -- that's the Board self-evaluation process and update, but that has been deferred. But I can assure you that Anne Simpson is working hard on that and related topics.

So that is my report.

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             CHAIRPERSON MATHUR:
                                  Thank you. I would also
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    just note that the other item that we -- that was still --
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    we're still in process on is the closed session other
    confidential materials review process. And that we're
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    going to fold into a broader data security, data
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    protection policy. So that's -- that's currently under
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    development at the moment.
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             GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS:
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             CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Okay. Terrific.
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             That brings us to the action consent items,
    approval of the May 14th, 2018 Board Governance Committee
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   meeting minutes. What's the pleasure of the Committee?
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: Move approval.
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             CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Motion is made by Taylor.
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             VICE CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGER:
                                          Second.
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             CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: All those in -- any
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    discussion on the motion?
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             Seeing none.
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             All those in favor say aye?
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             (Ayes.)
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             CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: All opposed?
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             Motion passes.
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             And that brings us to the information consent
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I've had no request to pull anything off consent.

So Agenda Item number 6, action agenda items,

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process for handling harassment allegations against Board members. Mr. Jacobs.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Yes. Very good.

So this emanated from a request by the Committee to bring forward -- or actually to begin with to look at what other agencies have done with respect to policies on handling allegations of sexual and other types of misconduct. We did some research on that. Brought back the only one that we could find, which was the UC Regents policy that was adopted last year, I believe, March of 2017.

And we had a discussion about that at the last Governance Committee meeting. This Committee was generally in favor of it, and directed us to go back and kind of make it applicable to this entity, CalPERS, which we have done. And essentially, what we did is strip down the parts that we saw as superfluous, strip down the parts that don't apply, made a couple of changes to make sure that it was applicable to CalPERS, took out the part that made it generally applicable to any kind of misconduct that occurred whether or not it pertained to the agency's business, and brought it forward in attachment 1 to the agenda item.

We think it's pretty clean and happy to entertain any discussion or comments, questions about it.

1 CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Thank you, Mr. Jacobs.

What is the pleasure of the Committee on this?

COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: I would move approval

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CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Move -- motion made by Ms.

Taylor. Is there a second to the motion?

VICE CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGER: Second.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Seconded by Ms. Hollinger.

On the motion, Mr. Costigan.

BOARD MEMBER COSTIGAN: I just had a question on the policy, Mr. Jacobs. On the confidentiality aspect of it, and what I don't see in the Regents' policy or in ours, can that be waived by either party? Because similar to our peace officers, it's up to the peace officer in a personnel matter to make a determination whether they want it waived or not. So you start with the presumption that the matter is closed, the proceedings are closed.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Right.

BOARD MEMBER COSTIGAN: But in the event of the Board member, does this policy prohibit or prevent it from being disclosed? And then the caveat again, if it's related to a closed session item, you can't talk about the closed session item.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Right. Right.

I would say in the normal course, and if it's not

in that type of circumstance that, yes, the Board member could waive it.

BOARD MEMBER COSTIGAN: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Madam President.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Thank you. And that doesn't need to be explicitly spelled out in the policy?

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: No.

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CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Okay. I think that there was a question raised as to whether the composition of the panel that would review the matter should be dictated here or whether just the process for determining that panel should be dictated here. So whether it should be the Board President would assign a two-member panel or whether it should be very prescriptive. And I think it might give us more flexibility in the event that, let's say the Vice President is not available, if it's a little more general in that regard, that the Board President will determine the composition of the panel.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: We could certainly make that change. It's -- I understand the point.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: If that would be amenable to the maker and seconder of the motion.

COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: Sure.

VICE CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGER: Yeah, that's fine with me.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Okay. Thank you

2 Mr. Slaton.

BOARD MEMBER SLATON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Matt, I wanted to ask you about in section 4, type of sanctions, and number four in particular. So do we -- I just -- because we've had this come up in other issues in the past. Does the Board have the power to recuse a Board member from participating in an activity of this Board or a Committee, so --

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: I believe it does.

BOARD MEMBER SLATON: Okay.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: There would have to be a pretty close nexus between the type of activity for which the Board member has been found to have engaged in misconduct and the particular matter which he or she being -- or is up before the Committee or Board. So you couldn't have somebody who's made -- who's found to have made a harassing comment be prevented from participating in an Investment Committee decision perhaps on an investment. But if there's a pretty close nexus, and it's going to really depend upon the facts and circumstance, but you could. That's our best reading of the law.

BOARD MEMBER SLATON: Okay. So what I hear you saying is that we may in the future have other things -- this is dealing strictly with harassment. We might have

other situations where we want to create something similar to this. And again, if that nexus is close, then you're reading of the law is this Board does have the authority to recuse a Board member from participating.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Yes.

BOARD MEMBER SLATON: Okay. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Thank you.

Ms. Brown.

COMMITTEE MEMBER BROWN: Yes. My question goes to Again Item 4 on page four of four, which is types of sanctions. So it talks about revocation of Board member -- Board member privileges. So what's a Board member privilege? Because they're not identified here and they're not identified anywhere in our policies or procedures. So can you give me some examples of a privilege?

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Well, I would say travel privi -- travel is a privilege attendance at educational programs.

COMMITTEE MEMBER BROWN: Oh, education is a privilege? It's required.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Okay. Well --

COMMITTEE MEMBER BROWN: Education is required

24 under the Board policies.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Right, but there are

different types of educational opportunities, some of which require travel or more expense than others. We often provide quite a bit of education in-house, if you will. So education per se is not a privilege, but types of educational opportunities would be a privilege.

What else?

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COMMITTEE MEMBER BROWN: So would you say that travel to meet with constituents groups would be a privilege that would be denied an elected member?

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Probably not.

COMMITTEE MEMBER BROWN: So I'm concerned that there's not a clear definition of what is or is not included. And I would really hate to leave it to Board members who may be I'm in -- out of favor with who could be deciding this policy for me or another Board member. So I -- my suggestion is is that we clean this up in terms of what those actual punishments could be, so I don't actually find myself or another Board member finding themselves on the shortened here.

And then the other question I have is with respect to having in-house counsel do the investigation versus independent counsel do the investigation for the exact same reason.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Okay. Thank you.

Ms. Hollinger.

VICE CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGER: Yeah. My question is this, and maybe you'll have to get back to me, maybe not. In the event of a harassment or certain violations, is that covered under our D&O, or -- because I know sometimes certain insurance coverage doesn't cover -- maybe they'll cover negligent acts, but not necessarily intentional acts.

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GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Yeah, I will have to beg off on that one, and get back to you.

VICE CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGER: Okay. Yeah, because I also think it would be worthwhile to know if there's potential personal liability.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Personal liability for what, for the action that would be under investigation?

VICE CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGER: Well, I guess in terms of us having to defend ourselves, like whether it would be covered under our D&O policy or not.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Right. But are you talking defending yourself against an allegation of misconduct or defending, for example, the Committee or the Board against the investigative process?

VICE CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGER: No. No. Just potential misconduct.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Oh, okay.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Thank you.

1 Mr. Gillihan.

BOARD MEMBER GILLIHAN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

The second point Ms. Brown was making I think

warrants some thought here. And that is, if an

investigation can be done by an internal CalPERS staff,

that's probably going to put that staff person in a

potentially awkward situation. And I know within the

administration when allegations are brought against higher

level staff, and this is true at CalHR as well, we often

use the Attorney General's office to conduct those sort of

more sensitive investigations. And I would just offer

that I think that's a more perhaps objective and more

appropriate entity to conduct investigations of Board

Thank you.

members as opposed to internal staff.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Is that a motion to amend?

BOARD MEMBER GILLIHAN: I'm not on the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Oh, you're not on the Committee. Of course. Okay. Thank you for your thoughts.

Ms. Taylor.

COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: So I will make a motion to amend. But first, I want to make sure that before I do so -- hold on one second. I'm wondering if we should for the first thing Ms. Brown said, which is specify what we

are saying that is Board privileges before we go through
with this. I don't know if we -- because it is very.

It's very nebulous right now. So I'm wondering if maybe
we could put a list of things together before we -- you
know, or say that we will upon rewrite. You know, we can
vote on -- I don't know what you want to do.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: So the Board Governance policy - and I'm sorry, I don't have it up in front of me - does list a few things.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: It does.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: And it says including, but not limited to. Perhaps we could just copy that language into here.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Sure. That's a good suggestion.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: But, you know, I think the types of privileges it might be somewhat fluid. It might -- something -- something might come up that is not currently a current practice, but in the future there might be something that we would wish to include. So I'm not sure that we want to be completely prescriptive about it.

COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: So we can say Board privileges inclusive of...

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Yeah, including, but not

limited to perhaps.

COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: Not limited to, if we could say that.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Sure.

COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: And then I would make a motion to amend to include that as rewritten, as well as an outside independent counsel.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Can I make a suggestion on that?

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Yes.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: The section b -- III b on page two talks about and distinguishes between a preliminary investigation and a formal investigation. And it says that, "Upon determining that a formal investigation is warranted, the General Counsel shall, with the concurrence of the review panel, appoint an investigator who may or may not be a CalPERS employee".

I'm personally completely happy with outsourcing this, but I'm also concerned about the cost to the agency of doing that. When if you -- if you farm it out, you can end up spending a lot of money, because somebody takes it up. I mean, you've seen some of these special counsels on a national level just kind of spend millions and millions of dollars. I'm not suggesting anything on that scale, but you -- at least for the purposes of the preliminary

investigation, there is some value in maintaining that within CalPERS, not necessarily the Office of the General Counsel, but within CalPERS.

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And then as I read this, the way it reads to me is that at that point if the GC, with the concurrence of course of the review panel, think that a formal investigation is warranted, they can assign it to an investigator. And I think that's the point at which the determination that Mr. Gillihan was making can be made about, again with the concurrence, who ought to be doing this.

And I know that I personally, and most GCs, and I think the Board members are going to have the sensitivity to know when that ought to be farmed out and when it can be effectively done in-house.

So I throw that out there as one possible reason why this thing -- this draft is as good as it is, but I'm agnostic. I just wanted to point out that -- those factors.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Thank you.

Ms. Taylor, did you --

COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: Let me read it just really quickly before --

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Um-hmm

COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: So you're saying under

the formal investigation portion, which is b, is where we can possibly have that outside investigator or the Attorney General's office?

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Right. Right. The idea would be preliminary investigation comes in. --

COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: Oh, appoint an investigator.

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GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: The GC --

COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: Okay. Yeah, I see it.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: -- and the review panel takes a look at. Is there any potential here or is it just outright frivolous, in which case we're going to just end it. If it's more significant than that, there's something that needs to be looked at here, the GC and the review panel says okay part of the inquiry at that point is who should do it? Who should the investigator be? We could make that more explicit in the language, if that would make --

COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: I think we should still make that more explicit, that it shouldn't be -- I will say working at a State agency, the State agency themselves isn't always non-invested.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Sure.

COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: So let's --

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Well, let me do this.

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   Let me play with that language with the other suggestions
    that have come forward, and I'll bring it back at the next
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    meeting. And you guys can take another look at it.
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             CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Yeah. Why don't we bring it
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   back at the next Board -- just at the Board meeting.
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             GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS:
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             CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: We don't necessarily need to
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   bring it back to the Governance Committee, I think. And
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   since that's --
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             GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Right.
             CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: That next Committee meeting
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   could be quite a --
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             GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: It is several months
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   off, so...
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             CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: -- number of months out.
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             GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Yeah, we'll bring it
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   back next month --
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             CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Let's do that.
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             GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: -- with some tweaks
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   and -- yeah --
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             CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Good.
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             GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: -- put it on the regular
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   Board agenda.
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             COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: Okay.
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CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Terrific. Yes.

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COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: So I withdraw my propo -- my motion.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: You withdraw your motion.

Okay. Thank you, Ms. Taylor.

Mr. Jones.

COMMITTEE MEMBER JONES: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair. My question was answered on b of Ms. Brown's concern about the investigation.

And on the other item, I think that my question was answered also, but you're going to bring back some language that's reflective in our current policy.

And then the third thing on that is that even though you say including, but not limited to, there may be situations where it false outside of the realm of both of those. And in that event, the Committee or the Board will always have the option of adding or modifying the policy.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Exactly. It's our policy.

COMMITTEE MEMBER JONES: So we can include it in the next round. So I think that's a good suggestion made by Ms. Brown also.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Costigan.

BOARD MEMBER COSTIGAN: So just a couple points.

I think the first one what Ms. Hollinger was raising is
once there has been a finding and once the Board has taken

action against that member, one of the 13 trustees, if there is, in fact, a civil matter pursued by the individual that was harassed, does our insurance cover that? And that's just something -- I think that's what we were talking about is once we've made that finding, do we as the Board, we're relieved of our obligation of having to defend a pursuit on it.

The other is the CalHR Director and I were having a side-bar discussion. As it relates to Agency Secretaries and Department Directors, the wheel-off is to the Attorney General, not for the rank and file. The question you may want to enter into, not just the Attorney General, is actually contracting with CalHR with the exception if it's the SPB or CalHR member that's accused --

(Laughter.)

BOARD MEMBER COSTIGAN: -- for the rest of the Board members, because they have counsel that are available as a way to control costs. And then you enter into an agreement where there's already a statutory -- or there's already a rate involved.

But I think this is a good discussion to have, but we were just clarifying that for Department Directors Agency Secretaries, and Governor's Office if the accusation is against one of those, that's why it goes to

the AG. Because the question if it's just a standard sex -- and there is not standard sexual harassment, but if there is, in fact, an allegation filed, it goes through the normal process, the Department and Agency, where there's a finding -- where the in-house folks, the EO officer or someone else typically does the finding on it. And then the process works it's way up through the merit system.

We, as appointees, don't have that same protection. And that's -- I think -- whether it's the AG, but I do think first look at CalHR, and then there's always the carve out. So thank you, Madam President.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Thank you, Mr. Costigan.
Ms. Brown.

COMMITTEE MEMBER BROWN: Thank you. Since we are going to bring this back after modifications, I'd hope under type of sanctions, maybe you could look at adding a statement that says that no sanction shall interfere with the member's ability to fulfill their fiduciary duties or legal obligation to perform their duty, something like that, so that -- so you're not getting into listing specific, but something that says that no matter what happens, you would still be able to fulfill your fiduciary duty, which would get you to training for the educational purposes or meeting with constituents, things like that.

1 GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Interesting idea.

COMMITTEE MEMBER BROWN: But not a good one?

(Laughter.)

4 GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Interesting can be good.

COMMITTEE MEMBER BROWN: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Thank you.

Mr. Juarez.

ACTING COMMITTEE MEMBER JUAREZ: Yeah. Thank

you. I would -- first, to the point that was being raised

I think that I heard a number of people say, I think the

language as it relates to the formal investigation, it

shouldn't be open to another CalPERS employee. And maybe

that's where you're going to go with this. But I think

the sentiment at least that I share with the people that I

heard speak is that it should always be an outside. If

we're going to do a formal investigation of a Board

member, it should be an outside party doing the formal

investigation.

Certainly, leave it to you to do the preliminary one, but not even make it an option for a CalPERS employee to be the investigator. I think that's what I'm hearing. But if not, when you bring it back, we'll see.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Well --

ACTING COMMITTEE MEMBER JUAREZ: And then to the point being made by Ms. Brown, I think you're going to

find some difficult, because if you -- if one of the sanctions or options is to remove somebody from Committee activity, that could be construed as to impairing their ability to carry out their fiduciary duties. And so I just think giving some protection against that is going to be very tough if, in fact, you can removed from a Committee.

And so I just -- I would just be cautious and tread lightly on that point if you're going to try to come up with a statement that tries to protect someone in meeting their duties. And yet, we're bringing sanctions that clearly will impair that ability.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Although if someone is removed from a Committee, they still have the opportunity to vote as a Board member.

ACTING COMMITTEE MEMBER JUAREZ: Voting, but even part -- I think participation is generally construed to be part of that activity. And if you're not able to participate in the Board discussion, I would argue I think your fiduciary duties are somewhat constrained. So I would just be very careful.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: I understand what you're saying, Mr. Juarez. It makes a lot of sense. I would just point out the Board President can remove a Board member from a Committee at virtually any time. And that

doesn't -- that's not assumed to interfere with the Committee member's or the Board member's fiduciary duties.

ACTING COMMITTEE MEMBER JUAREZ: Well, until that's -- until it's challenged, until that Board me feels that, in fact, their ability is impaired. I mean, I'm saying -- I'm not disputing the fact the President can remove a member from a Committee. But if that Board member feels that it's unjust in terms of them carrying out their duties, I would say that's -- that could be a subject of a lawsuit.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: But not a -- no Board member sits on every committee, so -- in any case, we can continue having this debate, but -- Mr. Jones.

COMMITTEE MEMBER JONES: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Matt, my question goes back to the investigation, do you have a spring-fed pool of attorneys that covers everything, is that right, that you can go to on a moment's notice and identify them to conduct an investigation?

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: It's not quite that broad, but we do have a pool for these types of investigations. We also try to engage the Attorney General's office whenever that's possible and appropriate, and the AG doesn't have a conflict. But the short answer

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COMMITTEE MEMBER JONES: And do they also include their billable hour rate?

4 GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Yes.

COMMITTEE MEMBER JONES: They do. So we would know right off the bat what the cost would be to make a quick decision?

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Right. Well, we would know that their hourly rate is.

COMMITTEE MEMBER JONES: Yeah.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: You never know where it takes us.

13 COMMITTEE MEMBER JONES: Yeah. Oh, right.

14 | Exactly. Okay. Thank you.

15 GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Right, yes.

16 CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Thank you.

We do have several members of the public who wish to speak on this item. I will call you up in twos, and you can take these two seats to my left. You will have four minutes with which to speak.

Mr. Behrens, Mr. Jelincic, you are the first two.

MR. BEHRENS: Madam Chair, members of the

23 Committee, Tim Behrens, President of the California State 24 Retirees.

I'm sorry I missed this morning's meeting, where

you passed the motion to give merit awards for less than merital -- anyway.

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This afternoon, I'm also disappointed in what I've heard so far. I am glad in agreement with your zero tolerance for sexual harassment and harassment. But this seems like an ill-conceived document. I see no due process in there for the accused, which if you read the headlines in Sacramento, you see that happens fairly often. So I would urge this Committee to put more thought into this language.

I did not see -- I have a problem with the formal investigation part of it. I think I agree with Mr.

Juarez, I think they should always be a third party. It shall somebody unrelated to CalPERS staff or the Board.

It should be a third party.

And I -- I also agree with Ms. Hollinger, what's the liability for CalPERS? You know, do we have insurance, do you have insurance that would protect you from a lawsuit when one person accuses another person of sexual harassment, and they sue you for that?

Those are the kind of questions I hope you will ask yourselves. I think it should always be an outside investigator, and I thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Thank you very much.

Mr. Jelincic.

MR. JELINCIC: J.J. Jelincic, member, and thank you for the extra minute.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: You're welcome.

MR. JELINCIC: This strikes me as the perfect Mathur-Jacobs policy. Does anyone really believe that Ms. Mathur, Ms. Brown will be treated equally under this policy?

I know what the public answer is, but I ask you to look into your heart of hearts. This policy purports to enforce the CalPERS Harassment, Discrimination, and Retaliation Prevention Policy. I've been around 30 years. I've seen policies dealing with all of those subjects, but I do not remember ever seeing anything called the CalPERS Harassment, Discrimination, and Retaliation Prevention Policy.

I'm very bothered by the fact that a Board member may not have the right to a public statement of the charges and a public hearing. What will happen is there will be a public finding that the member somehow violated this non-existent policy, and that the following discipline has been imposed. The Board member is left to deny that they are not guilty of this unspecified charge.

I'm very sensitive to this because of my own experience. Bill Slaton publicly accused me of leaking confidential information, but refused to disclose what I

supposedly disclosed.

Roy Cohn -- I'm sorry, Matt Jacobs made up the charges. I believe that in order to protect his own incompetence or complicity, he asserted that the charges were secret and attorney-client privileged. The Board's fiduciary counsel said that the privilege belonged to the board. However, Board members who asked were denied access to the charges. The charges were so secret that the client couldn't even see the attorney-client privileged document.

Why is this dangerous? Let me make up an example. And I won't violate the attorney-client privilege by talking about the specific charge. But let's the Sacramento Bee wrote about an investigation in January of 2012. In May of 2015, a Board member mentioned the investigation. A Board member could be accused and found guilty of discussing confidential information, but prevented from ever disclosing the accusation or showing that it was false or that the information was public and not confidential.

Members of the Board, especially elected members, deserve a fair and public hearing and defense. Removal from a Committee or blocking participation in Board meetings may be more punishment for the CalPERS members and constituents than the actual public official, although

it may make for a more efficient railroad and lead to shorter meetings.

I would encourage greater specificity about the privileges that would -- could be forfeited. Does that includes the catered meals behind the stage, ringing the bell at the London Stock Exchange, meeting with members -- although we've -- Chief Counsel has opined that they don't -- that doesn't cover -- travel to training seems to be in doubt.

I guess it will depend on who's being punished.

I urge you to just reject this policy.

Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Thank you.

The next two who I would invite down to speak -- oh, Ms. Taylor, did you want to say something at this time?

COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: That's fine.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Okay -- are Mr. Darby and Ms. Snodgrass. If you could please take one of these two seats to my left, you'll have four minutes with which to speak. Please identify yourself and your affiliation for the record.

MS. SNODGRASS: Do you want to go first?

MR. DARBY: Go ahead.

MS. SNODGRASS: Good afternoon. Donna Snodgrass,

Retired Public Employees Association.

As an EEO investigator for the State of California, I know that if discipline is decided to be meted out to anyone because of a charge, the case then becomes public. So documents can be -- the secrecy is done at that point. This policy concerns me because of that. Plus, it's specifically written in the language to avoid the Bagley-Keene Act.

Now, you can have a panel to review and determine to investigate without divulging personal information in the beginning. I feel this is one more way to remove transparency of the actions of this Board. But in the case of the elected seats if someone gets accused, constituents need to know more than just, oh, David Miller is on punishment and has been removed from a committee.

Sorry, David.

(Laughter.)

MS. SNODGRASS: We need to know should we reelect this person or not. And plus, in my view, anybody who's been accused has a right to due process and should be able to face their accuser.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Thank you.

Mr. Darby.

MR. DARBY: Committee Chair, Committee members,

Al Darby, President, Retired Public Employees Association.

The issue I want to bring up, I've -- the others speakers have already mentioned most of the other issues that need to be addressed. But the issue I want to bring out is that this policy specifically applies to harassment. And the cited UC policy applies to misconduct, so I would expect that perhaps you want to reword the title of this proposal to misconduct as opposed to harassment, unless you specifically are looking at harassment. So there appears to be a bit of a disconnect there.

And secondly, I want to reiterate what the others have said that there does not seem to be due process in this procedure. It doesn't appear that the accused can face the accuser and get a clear understanding of what the context of the action was that caused the harassment to be charged or misconduct to be charged.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Thank you, Mr. Darby.

Ms. Taylor.

COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: Yes. Thank you. I just want to respond and thank our speakers for coming up and bringing up their concerns about the policy. And I want to share that, in my view, I feel that this policy is necessary in the environment that we are currently in.

And we have expectations of appropriate behavior in the workplace and have every right to expect that, and to put it into policy.

And I believe that there is plenty of discussion on this, and we're bringing back new -- you know, we haven't decided on the language yet. I will say in answer to Mr. Darby's about the misconduct, it does say in our policy the very beginning that we are focusing strictly on harassment. And this Board has made -- since the exposure of some of the incidences that have occurred in public, we take that very seriously, and we do not want this Board or the reputation of Calpers tainted by something like sexual harassment and discrimination.

And I think it's really important that we take a stand, and show that we are not going to tolerate that, and it's -- it's -- I feel that it -- that is that important. Not to disregard anybody's due process. And I think that again, we have discussed that we are going to rework some of this language, and we can come back again, if we need to.

But again, I think it's very important that we show that we are standing up for -- against sexual harassment and discrimination.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Thank you, Ms. Taylor.

We do still have one more member of the public who wishes to speak. There are two Board members who have requested to speak. Would you like to wait until after the public comment or would you like to speak first?

COMMITTEE MEMBER BROWN: No, I just wanted --

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Well, wait, wait, but I'll

COMMITTEE MEMBER BROWN: Speak first.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Okay. Thank you. Ms.

Brown.

COMMITTEE MEMBER BROWN: Based on all the comments we've heard, and I think it's going to be a lot of changes to the policy, I think it needs to come back to Board Governance, not just back to the full Board. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Thank you.

Mr. Juarez, would you like to wait or would you like to --

ACTING COMMITTEE MEMBER JUAREZ: Yeah, if I could, just real quick.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Okay.

ACTING COMMITTEE MEMBER JUAREZ: Just ask Mr. Jacobs, we really haven't proposed any changes with regard to what was raised in terms of due process. And I'm wondering what your reaction is to the points being made by the public speakers relative to the lack of apparent

due process in the document. Do you agree with that, or do you think that it's necessary, or are we likely to see think changes with regard to that?

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Due process is absolutely important and necessary. There are due process protections in here. For example, at the bottom of page two, there's an opportunity to respond to the investigator's findings, and there is a process that's laid out there for doing that.

There are other due process aspects in here, so there are some that already exist. The question of what is the appropriate due process is always a fact-specific determination. And it depends largely on what it is -- what the sanction is that you may be talking about. So, for example, when we're talking about the criminal law and taking away somebody's liberty, that's where you get the utmost in due process.

When you're talking about some of the potential sanctions here that are less significant, the due process that is required is less. And so I would say there is definitely due process already in here that complies with the required due possess. If the Board members are inclined to add some, that -- I'm -- again, I'm agnostic on this. I'm fine.

ACTING COMMITTEE MEMBER JUAREZ: Yeah. I may

have missed it. Just the one that I'm thinking of is just the right of appeal. Is there any possibility that a person who is so accused and who then has a sanction levied against them could come and say to the full Board say, you know, I think this is truly unjust, and I want to appeal it to the full Board?

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Well, let me look at that. Again, the section d on page three says that the -- the General Counsel with the review panel will recommend an appropriate sanction and then Board action. The Board takes it up. So it's not an automatic determination of a sanction by either the General Counsel, or the review panel, or the combination thereof. It's just a forwarding to the Board of the finding. And then it's for the Board. So I think that may encompass what you're talking about.

ACTING COMMITTEE MEMBER JUAREZ: Okay. So the full Board will act on the specific recommended sanction that's being proposed?

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: That's correct.

ACTING COMMITTEE MEMBER JUAREZ: And I think that's wholly appropriate and gives me greater comfort about the fact that the person so accused has an opportunity at least to make their case. And I assume that would be in public?

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Right.

1 ACTING COMMITTEE MEMBER JUAREZ: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Thank you, Mr. Juarez.

ACTING COMMITTEE MEMBER JUAREZ: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Okay. We -- did you -- sorry, for some reason you came on again.

Okay. We do have -- is there anyone else who wishes to speak from the Board or the Committee?

We do have one last member of the public who wishes to speak. Mr. Perez, if you would come up and identify yourself and your affiliation for the record. You'll have four minutes with which to speak.

MR. PEREZ: Good afternoon. Jason Perez of the Corona Police Officers Association. I had planned on not speaking this whole week, but this is kind of a big deal.

I think the Board and maybe everyone is kind of missing the mark, except for Ms. Taylor. We do need to protect people absolutely. And this drawn-out process doesn't talk about how we're going to protect the victim against the suspect at all.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: That's a good point.

MR. PEREZ: So we need to worry about that.

And then another question is the discipline or the sanctions that you guys are recommending, is that the change of behavior or are we -- are you going to discipline like spank. Are you changing behaviors or are

you getting mad and disciplining? Because it always should be changing behavior, right?

And with any kind of sexual harassment, there's likely to be a criminal allegation along with it. So going with an outside agency is just a no-brainer. I'm kind of surprised that it's this sloppy coming to the table to you guys, but I applaud you all for giving push-back on it.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Thank you.

Mr. Lofaso.

ACTING BOARD MEMBER LOFASO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just a suggestion and a question for Mr. Jacobs. The suggestion is I don't know the last time the Sexual Harassment Policy has been circulated. But perhaps circulating that to the Board members might make sense.

Apropos to that, Mr. Jacobs, I wonder if you can clarify, does that policy contain proscriptions against retaliation against anyone who makes an accusation against anyone to whom the policy is subject?

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Yes.

ACTING BOARD MEMBER LOFASO: Thank you.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: I would also, in answer to your first comment, although it wasn't a question, the policy was circulated late last year, and all members of

the Board signed it and returned it.

ACTING BOARD MEMBER LOFASO: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: And we're also obligated to undergo training, I believe, it's every other year?

Sexual harassment training.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: And that I believe all Board members are in compliance with that as well.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: But it might make sense -- I take Mr. Perez's points that it might make sense that, you know, something -- some language, to the extent of during an investigation the har -- you know, the alleged harasser will not communicate or, in any way, contact the person making the allegations or, I don't know, some language to that effect.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Yeah. It's hard to draft language that's going to apply to every situation.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Yeah.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: But let me give that some thought.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Okay.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: And when I bring it back, we'll see if we can't address that in some fashion.

25 CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Thank you very much.

1 We do have a couple more questions. Ms. Taylor.

COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: Sure. So two things.

I think that you just brought up, I think, that can be brought up in the investigatory hearing. I don't know that we need to state it directly in our policy. I think based on the circumstance of each person, we're request -- you know, whoever does the initial investigation can

But then my other concern is if it comes to the full Board for final dispensation, what about the victim, and how embarrassing is that for the victim is my concern. I get that we want to have it in public. I get we want to have due process. I just want to make sure the victim has been protected. I don't know how we do that.

request that, hey, we need you to not contact this person.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: I think with any criminal or civil action, it would -- those types of things require a public process. I don't know we can think.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Yeah, I mean, a lot -CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: I don't know what else -GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: -- of this requires on
judgment as you go along. And I think maybe a statement
about proceeding with the utmost sensitivity to the
alleged -- to the complainant, something of that nature,
to underscore the importance of this concern.

COMMITTEE MEMBER TAYLOR: Sure, I think that

might work, yeah.

2 CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Okay.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Thank you.

Mr. Feckner.

COMMITTEE MEMBER FECKNER: Thank you, Madam

Chair.

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As long as you're going to go back and go through this, Matt, and come up with other language, I do also want to throw out the caveat that if it's a frivolous suit, the victim now changes. The victim is the person that was then reported on. And I think we need to be mindful of that as well. That, you know, as we're talking about protecting the -- which individual --

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Absolutely.

COMMITTEE MEMBER FECKNER: -- we have to look at the other side. If it's frivolous, then that victim, who could very well be harmed as well, because of a frivolous action.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Mr. Gillihan.

BOARD MEMBER GILLIHAN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I just -- some of us deal with these things on a fairly regular basis. And so I -- and perhaps I could

25 | shed some light on this. And one of the concerns was if

somebody is accused of something, you know, protecting the accuser. That's sort of a standard approach when -- and we all have an obligation, by the way, to protect anybody that's a victim of sexual harassment, or discrimination, or any other workplace behavior that's not acceptable.

But it's generally part of the process that when an accusation is made and the person that's accused is noticed that an accusation has been made against them, and that there's going to be some sort of a process to investigate that, they're always admonished on the front end about anything appearing to be retaliation, and that there's a zero tolerance policy for retaliation in the State of California. So that -- and if it's done properly, that's very effective, because anything that appears to be retaliation can be acted on very swiftly and very definitively.

CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Thank you for that.

Okay. I see no further requests to speak, so I think you have your direction. And that actually brings to us -- so we're not doing Agenda Item 7a today, is that right? So agenda Item 7b is a summary of committee direction.

GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Right. And I think it's pretty clear that we -- I will go back and review the transcript and collect all the comments and reflect them

1 as best I can, and we'll bring it back next month to the full Board for further review. 2 3 CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Okay. Thank you very --4 yeah, including the insurance question? GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: 5 Yes. 6 CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Yes. He's going to review 7 the transcript and so -- but all of the comments with 8 respect to the policy that have been made, you will 9 reflect in some fashion or respond to in some fashion. 10 GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: Right, or explain why --11 CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Or explain why it cannot be. GENERAL COUNSEL JACOBS: 12 Right. 13 CHAIRPERSON MATHUR: Okay. Terrific. That 14 brings us to Agenda Item 7c, public comment. I have no 15 requests before me. Are there any members of the public 16 who wish to speak at this time? 17 That brings us to the end of the agenda. Okay. 18 We are adjourned. Thank you. 19 (Thereupon California Public Employees' 20 Retirement System, Board Governance Committee 21 meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.) 22

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I, JAMES F. PETERS, a Certified Shorthand
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That I am a disinterested person herein; that the foregoing California Public Employees' Retirement System,
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I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for any of the parties to said meeting nor in any way interested in the outcome of said meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 19th day of August, 2018.

James 4 Titte

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