

East Tennessee State University

Internal Audit Charter

Introduction

East Tennessee State University is governed by a Board of Trustees, consisting of 10 members (the Board) as determined by state law. The Audit Committee is a standing committee of the Board. The Chief Internal Auditor reports functionally to the Audit Committee of the Board and reports to the President for administrative purposes. This reporting structure assures the independence of the internal audit function.

Purpose

Internal Audit is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve East Tennessee State University management systems. Internal Audit helps East Tennessee State University accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of management's risk management, control, and governance processes. Internal Audit assists East Tennessee State University's management in the effective discharge of their duties and responsibilities by evaluating activities, recommending improvements and providing other information designed to promote effective controls.

Assurance services involve the internal auditor's objective assessment of evidence to provide an independent opinion or conclusions regarding an entity, operation, function, process, system, or other subject matter. The nature and scope of the assurance engagement are determined by the internal auditor. There are generally three parties involved in assurance services: (1) the person or group directly involved with the entity, operation, function, process, system, or other subject matter — the process owner, (2) the person or group making the assessment — the internal auditor, and (3) the person or group using the assessment — the user.

Consulting services are advisory in nature, and are generally performed at the specific request of an engagement client. The nature and scope of the consulting engagement are subject to agreement with the engagement client. Consulting services generally involve two parties: (1) the person or group offering the advice — the internal auditor, and (2) the person or group seeking and receiving the advice — the engagement client. When performing consulting services, the internal auditor should maintain objectivity and not assume management responsibility.

East Tennessee State University's management has the primary responsibility for establishing and maintaining a sufficient system of internal controls as well as the enterprise risk management process.

Authority and Scope

Internal Audit's review of operations may include the examination and evaluation of the effectiveness of all aspects of operations at East Tennessee State University. In the course of its work, Internal Audit has full and complete direct access to all East Tennessee State University books, electronic and manual records, physical properties, and personnel information relative to the performance of duties and responsibilities. All documents and information given to Internal Audit during their work will be handled in the same prudent manner that East Tennessee State University expects of the employees normally accountable for them.

Other than its work performed in conjunction with its quality assurance and improvement program, Internal Audit has neither direct responsibility for, nor authority over, any of the activities, functions, or tasks it reviews nor shall their review relieve others of their responsibilities. The internal auditors must maintain a high degree of independence and not be assigned duties or engage in any operations or decision making in any activities that they would normally be expected to review or evaluate as part of the normal audit function.

Role and Responsibility

The role of Internal Audit is to assist members of the organization in the effective discharge of their responsibilities. Meaningful internal auditing requires cooperation among Internal Audit, East Tennessee State University's administration, and the department being audited. In fulfilling their responsibilities, Internal Audit will:

- Comply with auditing standards established by the Institute of Internal Auditors to ensure the effectiveness and quality of the internal audit effort.
- Develop and implement audit plans after consultation with the President and the Audit Committee that respond to both risk and cost effectiveness criteria.
- Review the reliability and integrity of information, and the information technology processes that produce that information.
- Verify compliance with applicable policies, guidelines, laws, and regulations.
- Suggest policies and procedures or improvements to existing policies and procedures where appropriate.
- Provide audit reports that identify internal control issues and make cost-effective recommendations to strengthen control.

- Facilitate the resolution of audit issues with administrators who have the most direct involvement and accountability.
- Review institutional operations (financial and other) on an advisory basis to inform and assist management in the successful execution of their duties.
- Assist with audits or perform certain agreed upon procedures for external parties. External parties include but are not limited to audit offices of federal and state governments and related agencies.
- Review management's risk assessment process and advise management on the reasonableness and propriety of the assessment.
- Promote and evaluate fraud prevention and identification programs and investigate allegations involving fraud, waste, and abuse.
- Demonstrate and promote appropriate ethics and values within the organization.
- Communicate activities and information among the board, internal auditors, external auditors and the administration.

Organizational Status/Reporting Structure

The Chief Internal Auditor reports functionally to the Audit Committee of the Board and reports to the President for administrative purposes.

The internal auditing services provided by Internal Audit are reported directly to the President and the Audit Committee of the Board. All audit work is summarized in timely written reports distributed to management to ensure that the results are given due consideration. In addition to management, reports or summaries are distributed to all members of the Audit Committee and to the State of Tennessee, Comptroller's Office. Management is provided a discussion draft of the audit report prior to the report being issued. Internal Audit is responsible for following up timely on audit findings to ascertain the status of management's corrective actions.

Audit Standards and Ethics

The Internal Audit function adheres to The Institute of Internal Auditors' mandatory guidance including the Definition of Internal Auditing, the Code of Ethics, and the *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing (Standards)*. This mandatory guidance constitutes principles of the fundamental requirements for the professional practice of internal auditing and for evaluating the effectiveness of the internal audit activity's performance.

Periodic Review of Internal Audit Charter

This charter will be periodically assessed by the Chief Internal Auditor to determine whether the purpose, authority, and responsibilities defined in this charter are adequate to enable the internal auditing activity to accomplish its objectives. The results of the periodic assessment will be communicated to the President and the Audit Committee.



President, East Tennessee State University

12/1/2020

Date



Chair, ETSU Board of Trustees Audit Committee

12/1/2020

Date



Chief Internal Auditor, East Tennessee State University

12/1/2020

Date