



Memorandum

To: Benefits Administrators
From: Michelle Chavanne, General Counsel
Date: June 30, 2016
Subject: Alternative Retirement Plan Transition

Final decisions on the application for entities seeking approval to provide investment options under alternative retirement plans maintained by Ohio public institutions of higher education were released recently.

While eight current entities were approved to continue to provide investment options under alternative retirement plans maintained by Ohio public institutions of higher education, two current entities were not approved.

Approved Vendors: AXA, Fidelity, Lincoln Financial Group, MassMutual Financial Group, Nationwide, TIAA-CREF, VALIC, Voya Financial

Not Approved: Great American Insurance Group and Met Life.

Under section 3305.04 of the Revised Code, public colleges and universities may select with which approved vendor to contract; a minimum of four approved vendors is required under that section.

Each institution has a unique set of facts and characteristics that will determine the timing of its selection process of vendors offering to provide investment options under alternative retirement plans. Yet, in an effort to make sure all participants are enrolled with an approved vendor within a reasonable time, yet not creating too much burden on participants as changes occur on a greater level through the institution's selection process, participants shall be enrolled with an approved

vendor by January 1, 2017. However, some institutions may need more time and may request an extension from the Chancellor.

An institution seeking an extension shall provide such request by October 1, 2016 to the Chancellor by sending the request to mchavanne@highered.ohio.gov. The request shall detail the measures the institution has taken to date related to the selection and contract process of approved vendors and its rationale why the extension is required. Further, any institution seeking a request, must notify it's participants of such request and provide necessary information as to timing and the process of selecting vendors.

As institutions begin the selection and contract process with approved vendors, it is essential that institutions provide participants with notice of the transition, key information and dates about the transition, and inform participants of any changes to prior released information. While there is not a required date to provide such notice, **please notify participants currently enrolled with an entity not approved that their selected entity is no longer approved.** The notice shall also include information regarding the institution's selection process (or plan to continue current providers), a date to enroll with an approved vendor, if determined or that more information will be coming as to the date by which the participant must be enrolled with an approved vendor.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at mchavanne@highered.ohio.gov or (614) 644-1988.