

RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Policy Title: Internal Audit Charter	Effective Date: 2/22/2018
Policy Number: GEN-PO-1005	Date of Last Review: 7/2/2021
Oversight Department: Office of Audit and Advisory Services	Next Review Date: 7/1/2024

1. PURPOSE

The Office of Audit and Advisory Services, serving as the internal audit function for Radford University (University), was established by the Board of Visitors (Board) and the President as an integral part of the overall internal control structure of the University. The *Internal Audit Charter* describes the general purpose, authority, and responsibility of the Office of Audit and Advisory Services.

2. APPLICABILITY

The *Internal Audit Charter* applies to all University employees, departments, and activities.

3. DEFINITIONS

Business Affairs and Audit Committee: Per the *Radford University Board of Visitors Bylaws*, a standing committee of the Board of Visitors that is generally responsible for reviewing and recommending action to the Board regarding the financial and business affairs of the University, including but not limited to, capital projects, grants, contracts, and the naming of facilities. This committee also oversees the internal audit function of the University, receives the annual financial audit report of the Auditor of Public Accounts, and performs studies of financial matters as directed by the Board.

Internal Auditing: An independent and objective assurance and consulting activity that is guided by a philosophy of adding value to improve the operations of an organization. The mission of internal auditing is to enhance and protect organizational value by providing risk-based and objective assurance, advice, and insight.

Internal Control: Based on the *Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013)*, published by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission, internal control is an ongoing process, effected by the Board of Visitors, management, and other University personnel designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the achievement of objectives relating to operations, reporting, and compliance. Internal control consists of five major components: control environment, risk assessment, control activities, information and communication, and monitoring.

Management: The collective body of those who have the authority and responsibility to make decisions in order to manage or direct the various operations and business processes of the University. Management encompasses various levels of the organization including division heads, deans, directors, managers, and supervisors.

University Auditor: The senior position that is responsible for effectively managing the University's internal audit function in accordance with the *Internal Audit Charter* and the mandatory elements of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) International Professional Practices Framework. The University Auditor is the Chief Audit Executive.

University Employee: Any person employed as a teaching faculty, administrative or professional faculty, classified employee, part-time or wage employee, student employee, work/study employee, or any other person paid through the University's payroll process.

4. POLICY

- A. The University's Board of Visitors and the President are dedicated to supporting the internal audit function (i.e. the Office of Audit and Advisory Services), an integral part of the overall internal control structure of the University (see [Internal Control Policy](#)).
- B. As the University's internal audit function, the Office of Audit and Advisory Services must be independent from the University's management to operate effectively. In order to provide for the independence of the Office of Audit and Advisory Services:
 - 1. The Office of Audit and Advisory Services staff will report to the University Auditor who will be administratively responsible to the President and functionally accountable to the Business Affairs and Audit Committee of the Board of Visitors.
 - 2. The University Auditor will be provided unrestricted access to communicate and interact directly with the Business Affairs and Audit Committee.
 - 3. The University Auditor will confirm to the Business Affairs and Audit Committee, at least annually, the organizational independence of the Office of Audit and Advisory Services.
 - 4. Any decision to remove the University Auditor must be approved by the Business Affairs and Audit Committee.
- C. As its mission, the Office of Audit and Advisory Services will assist the Board of Visitors, the President, and senior management in accomplishing the University's strategic objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluating and improving the effectiveness of governance, risk management, and control processes.
- D. The Office of Audit and Advisory Services will be authorized to:
 - 1. have full, free, and unrestricted access to all functions, records, property, and personnel of the University.
 - 2. allocate resources, set frequencies, select subjects, determine scopes of work, and apply the techniques required to accomplish audit objectives and issue reports.
 - 3. obtain assistance from the necessary personnel of the University, as well as other specialized services from within or outside the University, in order to complete their work.
- E. University employees must cooperate with the Office of Audit and Advisory Services in accordance with its authority.

- F. The Office of Audit and Advisory Services will not be authorized to:
1. perform any operational duties for the University or its affiliates.
 2. initiate or approve transactions external to the Office of Audit and Advisory Services.
 3. direct the activities of any University employee not employed by the Office of Audit and Advisory Services, except to the extent that such employees have been appropriately assigned to auditing teams, or to otherwise assist the audit team.
 4. develop or write policies or procedures that they may later be called upon to evaluate. Draft materials developed by management may be reviewed for propriety or completeness; however, ownership of, and responsibility for, these materials remains with management.

5. PROCEDURES

A. Scope of Work

1. The scope of work for the Office of Audit and Advisory Services will be to ascertain that the system of internal control (see [Internal Control Policy](#)), as designed and represented by management, is adequate and functioning in a manner to provide reasonable assurance regarding the following:
 - a. Achievement of the University's strategic objectives
 - b. Effectiveness and efficiency of operations and programs
 - c. Reliability and integrity of financial and operational information
 - d. Safeguarding of assets
 - e. Compliance with policies, standards, procedures, contracts, and applicable laws and regulations
2. Reviews and evaluations of internal control by the Office of Audit and Advisory Services will be advisory in nature. The University's management will continue to be responsible for establishing and maintaining an adequate internal control system.
3. The Office of Audit and Advisory Services may also perform advisory and consulting services, provided the Office of Audit and Advisory Services does not assume management responsibility.

B. Objectivity

1. All work performed by the Office of Audit and Advisory Services will be conducted in an objective manner.
2. The University Auditor will ensure that the Office of Audit and Advisory Services remains free from all conditions that threaten to impair the ability of audit staff to carry out their responsibilities in an unbiased manner, including matters of audit selection, scope, procedures, frequency, timing, and report content.
3. If such an impairment, either in fact or in appearance, is detected, the University Auditor will take the appropriate action to address and, if necessary, disclose the information to the appropriate parties.

4. The Office of Audit and Advisory Services staff will maintain an unbiased mental attitude that allows them to perform their work objectively and in such a manner that they will believe in their work product, that no quality compromises will be made, and that they will not subordinate their judgment on audit matters to others.
5. The Office of Audit and Advisory Services staff will have no direct operational responsibility or authority over any of the activities that they audit, nor will they have had any within the previous year.

C. Responsibility

The University Auditor and the Office of Audit and Advisory Services staff will have responsibility to:

1. develop a flexible annual audit plan, considering the input of senior management and the Business Affairs and Audit Committee. The plan will be developed using an appropriate risk-based methodology and presented to senior management and the Business Affairs and Audit Committee.
2. implement the annual audit plan, reviewing and adjusting it as necessary in response to changes in the University's business, risks, operations, programs, systems, and controls.
3. report to appropriate levels of management significant issues related to the processes for controlling the activities of the University, including potential improvements to those processes.
4. follow up with management to verify that corrective actions are taken on findings and recommendations, and report the results periodically to senior management and the Business Affairs and Audit Committee.
5. evaluate and assess significant merging/consolidating functions and new or changing systems, services, processes, operations, and control processes coincident with their development, implementation, and/or expansion.
6. perform special studies, reviews, or investigations requested by management.
7. perform consulting and advisory services related to governance, risk management, internal controls, or other areas of interest and concern.
8. conduct investigations of fraud, waste, and abuse, including those referred by the Office of the State Inspector General related to State Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Hotline cases. Results of these investigations will be communicated to management and the Business Affairs and Audit Committee, as appropriate.
9. coordinate with other control and monitoring functions and consider the scope of work of external auditors, as appropriate, to provide optimal audit coverage to the University at a reasonable overall cost.
10. periodically provide to the Business Affairs and Audit Committee information on the status and results of the annual audit plan and the results of activities and operations reviewed. Reports from "special request" audits may have more limited distribution.
11. ensure trends and emerging issues that could affect the University are considered and communicated to senior management and the Business Affairs and Audit Committee, as appropriate.

12. maintain a professional audit staff with sufficient knowledge, skills, and experience to meet the requirements of this *Internal Audit Charter*, and ensure that the principles of integrity, objectivity, confidentiality, and competency are applied and upheld. The impact of any resource limitations will be communicated to senior management and the Business Affairs and Audit Committee, as appropriate.
13. ensure emerging trends and successful practices in internal auditing are considered.
14. establish and ensure adherence to policies and procedures designed to guide the Office of Audit and Advisory Services.
15. ensure adherence to the University's relevant policies and procedures, unless such policies and procedures conflict with this *Internal Audit Charter*. Any such conflicts will be resolved or otherwise communicated to senior management and the Business Affairs and Audit Committee, as appropriate.

D. Standards of Practice

The Office of Audit and Advisory Services will conform to the mandatory elements of the Institute of Internal Auditors' International Professional Practices Framework, including the Core Principles for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing, the Code of Ethics, the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing (Standards), and the Definition of Internal Auditing.

E. Quality Assurance and Improvement Program

1. The Office of Audit and Advisory Services will maintain a quality assurance and improvement program that covers all aspects of the internal audit function. The program will include an evaluation of conformance with the Standards and application of the IIA's Code of Ethics.
2. The quality assurance and improvement program will include both internal and external assessments. Internal assessments will include ongoing monitoring and periodic assessments of the internal audit function. An external assessment will be performed at least once every five years by a qualified, independent assessor or assessment team.
3. The University Auditor will communicate results of the assessments to senior management and the Business Affairs and Audit Committee.

6. EXCLUSIONS

None

7. APPENDICES

None

8. REFERENCES

[State Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Hotline](#)

[The Institute of Internal Auditors International Professional Practices Framework \(IPPF\)](#)

[Internal Control – Integrated Framework \(2013\)](#), Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission

9. INTERPRETATION

The authority to interpret this policy rests with the President of the University and is generally delegated to the University Auditor.

10. APPROVAL AND REVISIONS

The *Internal Audit Charter* replaces and expands upon the *Charter* last adopted by the Board of Visitors on September 19, 2014. The newly developed *Internal Audit Charter* was developed in the University Policy Template, and was submitted to and approved by the President's Cabinet at the meeting held on January 8, 2018. The *Internal Audit Charter* was then submitted to and approved by the Radford University Board of Visitors at the meeting held on February 16, 2018. The President signed the *Internal Audit Charter* on February 22, 2018.

Effective July 2, 2021, the *Internal Audit Charter*, was reviewed by the oversight department and no substantive revisions were deemed necessary. Minor editorial changes were made that did not affect the substance or intent of the policy.

For general information concerning University policies, contact the [Office of Policy and Tax Compliance](#) – (540) 831-5794. For questions or guidance on a specific policy, contact the Oversight Department referenced in the policy.