



STATE OF ILLINOIS
**OFFICE OF THE
 AUDITOR GENERAL**

Frank J. Mautino, Auditor General

SUMMARY REPORT DIGEST

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Single Audit / Compliance Examination
 For the Year Ended June 30, 2017

Release Date: March 29, 2018

FINDINGS THIS AUDIT: 13	AGING SCHEDULE OF REPEATED FINDINGS						
	New	Repeat	Total	Repeated Since	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Category 1:	1	0	1	2016		17-3	
Category 2:	6	6	12	2015		17-2, 17-11	
Category 3:	0	0	0	2013		17-8	
TOTAL	7	6	13	2012		17-13	
				2005		17-10	
FINDINGS LAST AUDIT: 12							

INTRODUCTION

This digest covers our federal Single Audit and Compliance Examination of Southern Illinois University (University) for the year ended June 30, 2017. A separate Financial Audit as of and for the year ending June 30, 2017, was previously released on March 20, 2018. In total, this report contains 13 findings, one of which was reported in the Financial Audit.

SYNOPSIS

- (17-2) The University did not have adequate procedures to ensure award accounts were completely closed out timely and the Schedule of Expenditure of Federal Awards expenditures were accurate.
- (17-3) The Edwardsville campus did not accurately complete return of title IV calculations for students.
- (17-8) The Edwardsville campus did not have proper review procedures to determine if the calculated indirect costs on expenditures for the TRIO programs were appropriate.
- (17-9) Controls were inadequate to monitor and maintain the accounts payable master vendor file.
- (17-11) The University did not manage the National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Pilot Plant under the review and guidance of the Illinois Ethanol Research Advisory Board.
- (17-13) The University's annual inventory failed to locate 220 computer equipment items with an original acquisition value of \$306,005 and could not determine if missing computer items were encrypted.

Category 1: Findings that are **material weaknesses** in internal control and/or a **qualification** on compliance with State laws and regulations (material noncompliance).

Category 2: Findings that are **significant deficiencies** in internal control and **noncompliance** with State laws and regulations.

Category 3: Findings that have **no internal control issues but are in noncompliance** with State laws and regulations.

{Expenditures and Activity Measures are summarized on next page.}

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
SINGLE AUDIT AND STATE COMPLIANCE EXAMINATION
For the Year Ended June 30, 2017

COMPARATIVE SCHEDULE OF INCOME FUND REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES	FY 2017	FY 2016
INCOME FUND REVENUES		
Student tuition and fees, net.....	\$ 204,134,070	\$ 209,769,602
Investment income.....	138,065	815,609
Sales and services and other.....	469,393	351,620
Total Revenues.....	<u>204,741,528</u>	<u>210,936,831</u>
INCOME FUND EXPENDITURES		
Personal services.....	272,210,062	208,000,221
Contractual services.....	40,811,765	41,469,993
Awards and grants.....	29,502,809	24,374,632
Commodities.....	5,525,439	6,546,617
Equipment.....	5,074,951	5,578,212
Group insurance.....	5,031,636	601,059
Social security.....	3,926,205	2,494,830
Telecommunications.....	2,415,269	2,530,702
Transfers.....	1,374,786	1,326,051
Travel.....	1,136,374	1,442,815
Other.....	2,483,252	1,407,645
Scholarships, fellowships and waivers.....	(6,253,916)	(6,234,862)
Total Expenditures.....	<u>363,238,632</u>	<u>289,537,915</u>
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures.....	<u>\$ (158,497,104)</u>	<u>\$ (78,601,084)</u>
APPROPRIATIONS & EXPENDITURES		
	FY 2017	FY 2016
General Revenue Fund - 001.....	\$ 67,272,500	\$ 0
Education Assistance Fund - 007.....	132,546,548	57,482,200
General Professions Dedicated Fund - 022.....	1,250,000	0
Fire Prevention Fund - 047.....	155,500	0
State College & University Trust Fund - 417.....	27,000	27,000
Total Expenditures.....	<u>\$ 201,251,548</u>	<u>\$ 57,509,200</u>
Lapsed / Re-appropriated balances.....	0	0
Total Appropriation.....	<u>\$ 201,251,548</u>	<u>\$ 57,509,200</u>
EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS (UNAUDITED)		
	FALL 2016	FALL 2015
Faculty (full-time equivalents).....	2,001	2,063
Graduate assistants (full-time equivalents).....	770	860
Civil service (full-time equivalents).....	3,441	3,700
Administrative and Professional staff (full-time equivalents).....	1,333	1,342
Total Employees (full-time equivalents).....	<u>7,545</u>	<u>7,965</u>
ENROLLMENT STATISTICS (UNAUDITED)		
	FALL 2016	FALL 2015
Fall term enrollment (full-time equivalents).....	25,536	26,764
COST PER STUDENT (UNAUDITED)		
	FY 2017	FY 2016
Cost per full time equivalent student.....	\$ 47,664	\$ 43,499
PRESIDENT		
During Examination Period: Dr. Randy J. Dunn		
Currently: Dr. Randy J. Dunn		

**FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND
RECOMMENDATIONS**

**UNTIMELY AWARD CLOSE-OUT AND
MISSTATEMENTS ON THE SCHEDULE OF
EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS**

**Procedures not in place to ensure
SEFA contained proper information**

The University did not have adequate procedures in place to ensure award accounts were completely closed out on a timely basis and the expenditures reported on the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA) contained the proper information.

**Transactions posted to accounts
after the 90-day required timeframe
expired**

On each campus, federal award accounts were not completely closed out in a timely manner, causing extraneous entries on the SEFA during subsequent years. During our review of the Carbondale and Edwardsville campus SEFAs for fiscal year 2017, we noted expenditures reported for 53 and 20 federal awards, respectively, which were past the award period of performance end date and the 90-day close-out timeframe.

**Subrecipient expenditures were
understated by \$315,548**

We also noted subrecipient expenditure amounts on the Edwardsville campus SEFA for five (36%) grants with subrecipient expenditures differed from the expenditure detail for the fiscal year by \$315,548. (Finding 2, pages 21-25)

We recommended the University review internal policies and procedures regarding SEFA close-out and reporting requirements and implement additional procedures to ensure subrecipient grant award expenditures are properly coded and reconciled to SEFA amounts.

**University implementation of
recommendation is in process**

University officials responded implementation is in process.

RETURN OF TITLE IV ERRORS

The Edwardsville campus did not accurately complete return of title IV calculations for 18 (30%) of the 60 students tested. We noted:

**Inaccurate calculations of grant
funds required to be returned**

- For eighteen students, the incorrect number of days was used to calculate the return of title IV funds which should have been earned by the students.
- For one student, the wrong withdrawal date was used, resulting in erroneous calculation of funds totaling \$209 which should have been returned to the Department of Education. (Finding 3, pages 26-28)

Incorrect withdrawal date

We recommended the University establish a more thorough review to ensure errors are caught before refunds are processed. We also recommended the University update its academic calendar to ensure funds are properly and timely returned.

Recommendation implemented

University officials stated corrective action has been implemented.

INADEQUATE REVIEW PROCEDURES FOR INDIRECT COST CALCULATIONS

The Edwardsville campus did not have proper review procedures in place to determine if the calculated indirect costs on expenditures for the TRIO programs were appropriate. We tested 12 quarterly calculations and noted :

Indirect cost recovery was overstated by \$2,945 for sample

- Four (25%) calculations erroneously included costs, resulting in questioned costs of \$2,945.
- Nine (75%) calculations tested lacked adequate review or approval to identify errors. (Finding 8, pages 39-41)

Calculations lacked adequate review to identify errors

We recommended the University implement procedures to more thoroughly review calculations to ensure the correct spreadsheet was used and enforce compliance with established internal controls, including program management review and approval.

Recommendation implemented

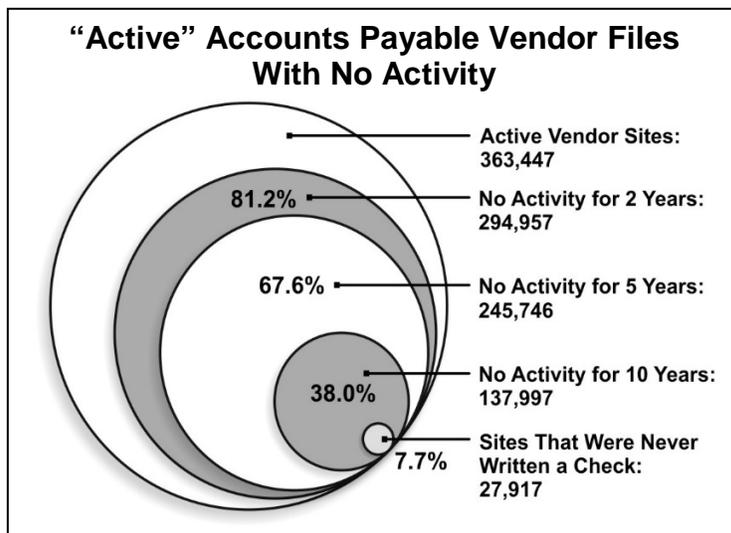
University officials stated corrective action has been implemented.

INADEQUATE PROCEDURES OVER MAINTENANCE OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE MASTER VENDOR FILE

The University had inadequate controls in place to monitor and maintain the accounts payable master vendor file.

The majority of vendor files were inactive and no policy revoked approval to issue payments to non-active vendors

The master file included an excessive number of vendor files with no activity, and the University had no policy to revoke approval to issue payments to non-active vendors in order to prevent inappropriate payments. We noted:



Former employees and students with no business relationship with the University still in active status

We also noted the list of active accounts payable vendors included former employees and former students which no longer had a business relationship with the University. The file included 32,419 vendor sites designated as employees and 185,218 vendor sites designated as students. (Finding 9, pages 42-43)

We recommended the University review and implement stronger internal controls in order to monitor and maintain the accounts payable master vendor file, including adopting a policy to deactivate vendors with no activity over a reasonable period of time.

University agrees with auditors

University officials agreed with the finding and responded they would research and adopt a policy to deactivate inactive vendors.

NONCOMPLIANCE WITH THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT ACT (ILLINOIS ETHANOL RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD)

Ethanol Research Pilot Plant not managed under the guidance of Advisory Board

The University did not manage the National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Pilot Plant (Pilot Plant) under the review and guidance of the Illinois Ethanol Research Advisory Board (Advisory Board).

Advisory Board had not met since 2012

The Advisory Board had not met since 2012 due to lack of a quorum. As a result, the Advisory Board had not performed its duties of providing review and guidance to the University Board of Trustees to assist in operating and managing the Pilot Plant as required by State statute. However, the Edwardsville campus had continued to manage the Pilot Plant under the guidance of a stakeholders group. Six of the thirteen Board members are appointed by the Governor and have expired terms.

Advisory Board reviews budget and advises on research projects and policies and procedures of the Pilot Plant

The Advisory Board is required to meet annually and has the following duties:

- Review of annual operating plans and budget of the National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Pilot Plant,
- Advising on research and development priorities and projects to be carried out at the Pilot Plant,
- Advising on policies and procedures regarding the management and operation of the Pilot Plant,
- Developing bylaws,
- Submitting a final report to the Governor and General Assembly outlining the progress and accomplishments made during the year along with a financial report for the year, and

- Establishing and operating the Pilot Plant with purposes and goals including conducting research, providing training, consulting, developing demonstration projects and serving as an independent resource to the ethanol industry. (Finding 11, pages 46-48)

We recommended University officials continue to work with the seven existing Advisory Board members to schedule an annual meeting that all seven members can attend, thereby achieving a quorum, so the board can perform its duties under the Act. We further recommended the University continue to work with the Governor’s Office of Executive Appointments to fill the vacancies on the Advisory Board.

University agrees with auditors

University officials agreed with the finding and responded they would continue to work with the Advisory Board to achieve a quorum and with the Governor’s Office of Executive Appointments to fill the vacancies in the Board.

WEAKNESSES IN COMPUTER INVENTORY CONTROL

220 computer equipment items could not be located

The University was unable to locate 220 computer equipment items from the Carbondale campus during their annual inventory

The original cost of these items totaled \$306,005. The computers noted as missing represent 0.17% percent of the University’s total computer related inventory at June 30, 2017.

University could not determine if missing computer items were encrypted

Although the University had established procedures for requiring encryption on computers that could have confidential information on them, the University could not determine if the missing computer items were encrypted. Since the University was not able to identify whether the missing items contained confidential information or were encrypted, the auditors could not determine if the items had confidential information exposed. (Finding 13, pages 51-52)

Unable to determine if confidential information was exposed

This finding was first reported in 2012.

We recommended the University:

- Continue to review current practices to determine if enhancements can be implemented to prevent the theft or loss of computers.
- Continue to evaluate and secure new computers as necessary to ensure that confidential information is protected.
- Perform and document an evaluation of data maintained on computers and ensure those containing confidential information are adequately tracked and protected with methods such as encryption.

University is in the process of implementing our recommendation

University officials responded implementation is in process and detailed corrective actions underway. *(For previous University response, see Digest Footnote #1.)*

OTHER FINDINGS

The remaining findings pertain to Single Audit compliance, faculty timesheets, and an unfunded mandate. We will review the University's progress towards the implementation of our recommendations in our next Single Audit and compliance examination.

AUDITOR'S OPINIONS

The financial audit report was previously released. The auditors stated the financial statements of the University as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017, are fairly stated in all material respects.

The auditors also conducted a Single Audit of the University as required by the Uniform Guidance. The auditors stated the University complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on the Agency's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2017.

ACCOUNTANT'S OPINION

The accountants conducted a compliance examination of the University for the year ended June 30, 2017, as required by the Illinois State Auditing Act. The accountants qualified their report on State compliance for Finding 2017-001. Except for the noncompliance described in this finding, the accountants stated the University complied, in all material respects, with the requirements described in the report.

This Single Audit and compliance examination were conducted by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP.

SIGNED ORIGINAL ON FILE

JANE CLARK
Division Director

This report is transmitted in accordance with Section 3-14 of the Illinois State Auditing Act.

SIGNED ORIGINAL ON FILE

FRANK J. MAUTINO
Auditor General

FJM:LKW

DIGEST FOOTNOTES

#1–WEAKNESS IN COMPUTER INVENTORY CONTROL – prior response

2016: Accept. SIU will continue its efforts to improve inventory practices in order to further reduce instances of theft or loss of computers. We will also continue efforts to evaluate and secure new and existing networked computers, as necessary, in order to protect confidential information. Such measures will continue to include communication of applicable user policies, controlled access to confidential information based on user roles, use of available tools to scan network for computers for confidential information, and encryption in situations where it is deemed appropriate. Lastly, we will explore ways to better document our assessment practices, in order to track those containing confidential information and demonstrate they are protected. However, we are limited by our current budget situation and resources, and furthermore, it may be necessary to phase in such efforts as new computers are purchased. Corrective actions will be a joint effort between Information Technology, Property Control and Department staff.