

# MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY MACON, GEORGIA

MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

A Member Institution of the University System of Georgia



# MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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SECTION I

**FINANCIAL** 



# DEPARTMENT OF AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

270 Washington Street, S.W., Suite 4-101 Atlanta, Georgia 30334-8400

Greg S. Griffin STATE AUDITOR (404) 656-2174

The Honorable Brian P. Kemp, Governor of Georgia
Members of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia
Members of the State Board of Regents of the
University System of Georgia
and
Dr. Christopher Blake, President
Middle Georgia State University

#### Ladies and Gentlemen:

This Management Report contains information pertinent to the Middle Georgia State University's compliance with the requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (COC) Standard 13.2 (Financial resources) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021. Additionally, we audited Middle Georgia State University's Federal Student Aid programs for the year ended June 30, 2021 to meet the requirements of COC Standard 13.6. Included in this report is a section on findings and other items for any matters that came to our attention during our engagement, including results of our audit of the Federal Student Aid programs. The other information contained in this report is the representation of management. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance on it.

Additionally, we have performed certain procedures at Middle Georgia State University to support our audit of the basic financial statements of the State of Georgia presented in the State of Georgia Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and the issuance of a State of Georgia Single Audit Report pursuant to the Single Audit Act Amendments, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the management of Middle Georgia State University, members of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully,

Greg S. Griffin State Auditor SELECTED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

35,233,106

#### MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY STATEMENT OF NET POSITION - (GAAP BASIS) JUNE 30, 2021

# **ASSETS**

Total Net Position

Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$	21,955,242
Accounts Receivable, Net		
Federal Financial Assistance		54,728
Affiliated Organizations		405,281
Component Units		3,811
Other		1,543,855
Inventories		791,738
Prepaid Items		199,003
Total Current Assets		24,953,658
Noncurrent Assets		
Accounts Receivable, Net		
Due From USO - Capital Liability Reserve Fund		715,528
Investments		2,558,367
Investments (Externally Restricted)		86,647
Capital Assets, Net	-	227,804,155
Total Noncurrent Assets	_	231,164,697
Total Assets		256,118,355
Deferred Outflows of Resources		26,093,975
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		776,815
Salaries Payable		521,806
Benefits Payable		91,958
Advances (Including Tuition and Fees)		6,116,277
Deposits		1,365,735
Deposits Held for Other Organizations		41,254
Lease Purchase Obligations - Component Units		3,449,671
Compensated Absences		1,564,159
Total Current Liabilities		13,927,675
Noncurrent Liabilities		
Lease Purchase Obligations - Component Units		95,171,994
Compensated Absences		1,045,693
Net Other Post Employment Benefits Liability		72,559,757
Net Pension Liability		50,979,353
Total Noncurrent Liabilities		219,756,797
Total Liabilities		233,684,472
Deferred Inflows of Resources		13,294,752
		10,20 1,102
NET POSITION		
Net Investment in Capital Assets		124,433,680
Restricted for:		
Nonexpendable		35,116
Expendable Communication of the Communication of th		51,531
Unrestricted (Deficit)		(89,287,221)

# MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION - (GAAP BASIS) YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

# OPERATING REVENUES

Student Tuition and Fees (Net of Scholarship Allowance) Grants and Contracts	\$	25,873,196
Federal		67,039
State		124,539
Other		31,107
Sales and Services		107,749
Rents and Royalties		230,318
Auxiliary Enterprises (Net of Scholarship Allowance)		
Residence Halls		8,717,410
Bookstore Food Somings		2,402,072
Food Services Parking / Transportation		3,388,467 138,780
Health Services		187,630
Intercollegiate Athletics		1,213,850
Other Organizations		487,052
Other Operating Revenues		1,205,840
Total Operating Revenues		44,175,049
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Faculty Salaries		24,280,530
Staff Salaries		20,071,178
Employee Benefits		21,944,149
Other Personal Services		163,370
Travel		118,352
Scholarships and Fellowships Utilities		11,560,127
Supplies and Other Services		3,286,558 21,818,977
Depreciation		7,615,690
Doproductor		1,010,000
Total Operating Expenses		110,858,931
Operating Loss		(66,683,882)
NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)		
State Appropriations		36,720,453
Grants and Contracts		
Federal		22,733,663
State		579,514
Other		576,360
Gifts		6,833,524
Investment Income (Endowments, Auxiliary and Other)		634,221
Interest Expense (Capital Assets)		(3,980,054)
Other Nonoperating Expenses		(48,809)
Net Nonoperating Revenues		64,048,872
Loss Before Other Revenues, Expenses, Gains, or Losses		(2,635,010)
Capital Grants and Gifts		
State		12,274,312
Otate		12,214,512
Change in Net Position		9,639,302
Net Position - Beginning of Year		25,593,804
Net Position - End of Year	\$	35,233,106
2 2	_	55,255,100

#### MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS - (GAAP BASIS) YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES Payments from Customers Grants and Contracts (Exchange) Payments to Suppliers Payments to Employees Payments for Scholarships and Fellowships Loans Issued to Students Collection of Loans to Students Other Payments	\$	45,095,003 250,967 (41,810,987) (44,224,582) (11,560,127) (15,921) 14,394 (6,280)
Net Cash Used by Operating Activities		(52,257,533)
CASH FLOWS FROM NON-CAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES State Appropriations Gifts and Grants Received for Other than Capital Purposes		36,720,453 34,350,685
Net Cash Flows Provided by Non-Capital Financing Activities		71,071,138
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES Purchases of Capital Assets Principal Paid on Capital Debt and Leases Interest Paid on Capital Debt and Leases  Net Cash Used by Capital and Related Financing Activities	_	(490,890) (2,935,510) (4,289,019) (7,715,419)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES Investment Income		161,948
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents		11,260,134
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Beginning of Year	_	10,695,108
Cash and Cash Equivalents - End of Year  RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING LOSS TO NET CASH	\$	21,955,242
USED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES:  Operating Loss Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Loss to Net Cash Used by Operating Activities	\$	(66,683,882)
Depreciation Change in Assets and Liabilities: Receivables, Net Inventories Prepaid Items Accounts Payable Salaries Payable Benefits Payable Deposits Advances (Including Tuition and Fees) Funds Held for Others Compensated Absences Net Pension Liability Net Other Post-Employment Benefit Liability Change in Deferred Inflows/Outflows of Resources: Deferred Outflows of Resources	_	7,615,690  480,171 (33,318) (14,400) (451,006) 151,160 301 276,604 713,231 (6,280) 92,935 4,834,267 11,203,763 (2,484,900) (7,951,869)
Net Cash Used by Operating Activities	\$	(52,257,533)
NONCASH INVESTING, NON-CAPITAL FINANCING, AND CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING TRANSACTIONS Current Year Accruals Related to Non-operating Non-capital Grants and Gifts Gift of Capital Assets Loss on Disposal of Capital Assets Capital Assets Acquired by Incurring Capital Lease Obligations Amortization of Deferred Gain of Capital Debt Refunded Unrealized Gain on Investments	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	37,929 12,274,312 (48,807) 20,067,631 308,965 472,273

# MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION - (GAAP BASIS) JUNE 30, 2021

	 CUSTODIAL FUNDS
<u>ASSETS</u>	
Accounts Receivable Other	\$ 1,750,032
<u>LIABILITIES</u>	
Cash Overdraft Accounts Payable	 1,589,117 9,268
Total Liabilities	 1,598,385
NET POSITION	
Restricted for: Individuals, Organizations, and Other Governments	\$ 151,647

### MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION - (GAAP BASIS) YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

		CUSTODIAL FUNDS
ADDITIONS	_	
Federal Financial Aid	\$	30,587,905
State Financial Aid		7,062,532
Other Financial Aid		2,914,720
Clubs and Other Organizations Fund Raising		18,080
Miscellaneous	_	410,542
Total Additions	_	40,993,779
<u>DEDUCTIONS</u>		
Scholarships and Other Student Support		40,580,637
Student Organizations Support		11,034
Other Deductions	_	531,675
Total Deductions	_	41,123,346
Change in Net Position		(129,567)
Net Position - Beginning of Year		281,214
Net Position - End of Year	\$	151,647

#### **NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### **NATURE OF OPERATIONS**

The Middle Georgia State University (Institution) serves the state and national communities by providing its students with academic instruction that advances fundamental knowledge and by disseminating knowledge to the people of Georgia, the nation, and throughout the world.

#### **REPORTING ENTITY**

As defined by Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A) § 20-3-50, the Institution is part of the University System of Georgia (USG), an organizational unit of the State of Georgia (the State) under the governance of the Board of Regents (Board). The Board has constitutional authority to govern, control and manage the USG. The Board is composed of 19 members, one member from each congressional district in the State and five additional members from the state-at-large, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Members of the Board serve a seven year term and members may be reappointed to subsequent terms by a sitting governor.

The Institution does not have the right to sue/be sued without recourse to the State. The Institution's property is the property of the State and subject to all the limitations and restrictions imposed upon other property of the State by the Constitution and laws of the State. In addition, the Institution is not legally separate from the State. Accordingly, the Institution is included within the State's basic financial statements as part of the primary government as defined in Section 2100 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards.

The accompanying basic financial statements are intended to supplement the State's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) by presenting the financial position and changes in financial position and cash flows of only that portion of the business-type activities and fiduciary funds of the State that is attributable to the transactions of the Institution. These financial statements do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of the State as of June 30, 2021, the changes in its financial position or its cash flows for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The accompanying basic financial statements should be read in conjunction with the State's ACFR. The most recent State of Georgia ACFR can be obtained through the State Accounting Office, 200 Piedmont Avenue, Suite 1604 (West Tower), Atlanta, Georgia 30334 or online at sao.georgia.gov/statewide-reporting/acfr.

#### **BASIS OF PREPARATION**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as prescribed by the GASB and are presented as required by these standards to provide a comprehensive, entity-wide perspective of the Institution's assets, deferred outflows, liabilities, deferred inflows, net position, revenues, expenses, changes in net position and cash flows.

The Institution's business-type activities and fiduciary fund financial statements have been presented using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis, revenues are recognized when earned, and expenses are recorded when an obligation has been incurred. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenues in the fiscal year in which eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met. All significant intra-fund transactions have been eliminated.

The Institution reports the following fiduciary fund:

Custodial funds – Accounts for activities resulting from the Institution acting as an agent or fiduciary for various governments, companies, clubs or individuals.

#### **NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS**

For fiscal year 2021, the Institution adopted GASB Statement No. 90, *Majority Equity Interests, an amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and No. 61.* it defines a majority equity interest and specifies that majority equity interest in a legal separate organization should be reported as an investment. A majority equity interest that meets the definition of an investment should be measured using the equity method, unless it is held by a special-purpose government engaged only in fiduciary activities, a fiduciary fund, or an endowment (including permanent and term endowments) or permanent fund. Those governments and funds should measure the majority equity interest at fair value. The adoption of this statement does not have an impact on the Institution's financial statements.

#### **NET POSITION**

The Institution's net position is classified as follows:

Net investment in capital assets represents the Institution's total investment in capital assets, net of outstanding debt obligations related to those capital assets. To the extent debt has been incurred but not yet expended for capital assets, such amounts are not included as a component of net investment in capital assets. The term "debt obligations" as used in this definition does not include debt of the GSFIC.

Restricted - nonexpendable net position includes endowments and similar type funds in which donors or other outside sources have stipulated, as a condition of the gift instrument, that the principal is to be maintained inviolate and in perpetuity, and invested for the purpose of producing present and future income, which may either be expended or added to principal. For institution-controlled, donor-restricted endowments, the by-laws of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia permits each individual institution to use prudent judgment in the spending of current realized and unrealized endowment appreciation. Donor-restricted endowment appreciation is periodically transferred to restricted - expendable accounts for expenditure as specified by the purpose of the endowment. Each institution maintains pertinent information related to each endowment fund including donor; amount and date of donation; restrictions by the source of limitations; limitations on investments, etc.

Restricted - expendable net position includes resources in which the Institution is legally or contractually obligated to spend resources in accordance with restrictions by external third parties.

Unrestricted net position represents resources derived from student tuition and fees, state appropriations, and sales and services of educational departments and auxiliary enterprises. These resources are used for transactions relating to the educational and general operations of the Institution, and may be used at the discretion of the governing board or management to meet current expenses for those purposes, except for unexpended state appropriations (surplus). Unexpended state appropriations must be refunded to the Office of the State Treasurer. These resources also include auxiliary enterprises, which are substantially self-supporting activities that provide services for students, faculty and staff.

When an expense is incurred that can be paid using either restricted or unrestricted resources, the Institution's policy is to first apply the expense towards unrestricted resources, and then towards restricted resources.

# **NOTE 2: DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS**

Cash and cash equivalents and investments as of June 30, 2021 are classified in the accompanying statement of net position as follows:

Statement of Net Position	
Current	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 21,955,242
Noncurrent	
Investments	2,558,367
Noncurrent Investments (Externally Restricted)	86,647
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	 (1,589,117)
	\$ 23,011,139
Cash on hand, deposits and investments as of June 30, 2021 consist of the following:	
Cash on Hand	\$ 4,565
Deposits with Financial Institutions	16,786,225
Investments	 6,220,349
	\$ 23,011,139

# **DEPOSITS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

Deposits include certificates of deposits and demand deposit accounts, including certain interest bearing demand deposit accounts. The custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Institution's deposits may not be recovered. Funds belonging to the State of Georgia (and thus the Institution) cannot be placed in a depository paying interest longer than ten days without the depository providing a surety bond to the State. In lieu of a surety bond, the depository may pledge as collateral any one or more of the following securities as enumerated in the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) § 50-17-59:

- 1. Bonds, bills, notes, certificates of indebtedness, or other direct obligations of the United States or of the State of Georgia.
- 2. Bonds, bills, notes, certificates of indebtedness or other obligations of the counties or municipalities of the State of Georgia.
- 3. Bonds of any public authority created by the laws of the State of Georgia, providing that the statute that created the authority authorized the use of the bonds for this purpose.
- 4. Industrial revenue bonds and bonds of development authorities created by the laws of the State of Georgia.

- 5. Bonds, bills, certificates of indebtedness, notes or other obligations of a subsidiary corporation of the United States government, which are fully guaranteed by the United States government both as to principal and interest and debt obligations issued by the Federal Land Bank, the Federal Home Loan Bank, the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank, the Central Bank for Cooperatives, the Farm Credit Banks, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Association and the Federal National Mortgage Association.
- 6. Letters of credit issued by a Federal Home Loan Bank.
- 7. Guarantee or insurance of accounts provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

The Institution participates in the State's Secure Deposit Program (SDP), a multi-bank pledging pool. The SDP requires participating banks that accept public deposits in Georgia to operate under the policy and procedures of the program. The Georgia Office of State Treasurer (OST) sets the collateral requirements and pledging level for each covered depository. There are four tiers of collateralization levels specifying percentages of eligible securities to secure covered Deposits: 25%, 50%, 75%, and 110%. The SDP also provides for collateral levels to be increased to amount of up to 125% if economic or financial conditions warrants. The program lists the type of eligible collateral. The OST approves authorized custodians.

In accordance with the SDP, if a covered depository defaults, losses to public depositors are first satisfied with any applicable insurance, followed by demands of payment under any letters of credit or sale of the covered depository's collateral. If necessary, any remaining losses are to be satisfied by assessments made against the other participating covered depositories. Therefore, for disclosure purposes, all deposits of the SDP are considered to be fully collateralized.

At June 30, 2021, the bank balances of the Institution's deposits totaled \$18,735,705. This balance includes deposits in fiduciary funds as these balances are not separable from the holdings of the USG. None of these deposits were exposed to custodial credit risk.

#### **INVESTMENTS**

The Institution maintains an investment policy which fosters sound and prudent judgment in the management of assets to ensure safety of capital consistent with the fiduciary responsibility it has to the citizens of Georgia and which conforms to Board of Regents investment policy. All investments are consistent with donor intent, Board of Regents policy and applicable federal and state laws.

The following table summarizes the valuation of the Institution's investments measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of June 30, 2021.

	Fair Value
Investment Pools	
Board of Regents	
Short-Term Fund	\$ 3,575,335
Balanced Income Fund	1,033,119
Diversified Fund	 1,611,895
Total Investments	\$ 6,220,349

#### Board of Regents Pooled Investment Program

The USG serves as fiscal agent for various units of the University System of Georgia and affiliated organizations. The USG pools the monies of these organizations with the USG's monies for investment purposes. The investment pool is not registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission as an investment company. The fair value of the investments is determined daily. The pool does not issue shares. Each participant is allocated a pro rata share of each pooled investment fund balance at fair value along with a pro rata share of the pooled fund's investment returns.

The USG maintains investment policy guidelines for each pooled investment fund that is offered to qualified University System participants. These policies are intended to foster the sound and prudent responsibility each institution has to the citizens of Georgia and which conforms to the Board of Regents investment policy. All investments must be consistent with donor intent, Board of Regents policy, and applicable Federal and state laws. Units of the University System of Georgia and their affiliated organizations may participate in the pooled investment fund program. The overall character of the pooled fund portfolio should be one of above average quality, possessing at most an average degree of investment risk.

The Institution's position in the pooled investment fund options are described below.

#### 1. Short-Term Fund

The Short-Term Fund is available to both University System of Georgia institutions and their affiliated organizations. The Fund provides a current return and stability of principal while affording a means of the overnight liquidity for projected cash needs. Investments are in securities allowed under O.C.G.A. § 50-17-59 and § 50-17-63. The average maturities of investments in this fund will typically range between daily and three years, and the fund will typically have an overall average duration of 3/4 - 1 year. The overall character of the portfolio is of Agency quality, possessing a minimal degree of financial risk. The market value of the Institution's position in the Short-Term Fund at June 30, 2021 was \$3,575,335, of which 100% is invested in debt securities. The Effective Duration of the Fund is 0.89 years.

#### 2. Balanced Income Fund

The Balanced Income Fund is available to both University System of Georgia institutions and their affiliated organizations. The Fund is designed to be a vehicle to invest funds that are not subject to the state regulations concerning investing in equities. This pool is appropriate for investing longer term funds that require a more conservative investment strategy. Permitted investments in the fund are domestic US equities, domestic investment grade fixed income, and cash equivalents.

The equity allocation shall range between 20% and 40%, with a target of 30% of the total portfolio. The fixed income (bond) portion of the portfolio shall range between 60% and 80%, with a target of 70% of the total portfolio. Cash reserves and excess income are invested at all times in the highest quality par stable (A1, P1) institutional money market mutual funds, or other high quality short term instruments. The market value of the University's position in the Balanced Income Fund at June 30, 2021 was \$1,033,119, of which 65% is invested in debt securities. The Effective Duration of the Fund is 7.13 years.

#### 3. Diversified Fund

The Diversified Fund is available to both University System of Georgia institutions and their affiliated organizations. The Fund is designed to provide improved return characteristics with reduced volatility through greater diversification. This pool is appropriate for investing longer term funds such as endowments. Permitted investments in the fund may include domestic, international and emerging market equities, domestic fixed income and global fixed income.

The equity allocation shall range between 60% and 80% of the portfolio, with a target of 70% of the total portfolio. The fixed income (bond) portion of the portfolio shall range between 20% and 40%, with a target of 30% of the total portfolio. Cash reserves and excess income are invested at all times in the highest quality par stable (A1, P1) institutional money market mutual funds, or other high quality short term instruments. The market value of the Institution's position in the Diversified Fund at June 30, 2021 was \$1,611,895, of which 28% is invested in debt securities. The Effective Duration of the Fund is 5.88 years.

#### Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates of debt investments will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The Institution's policy for managing interest rate risk is contained in the investment policy guidelines for the various pooled funds and attempts to match investments with expected cash requirements.

# **NOTE 3: ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE**

Accounts receivable consisted of the following at June 30, 2021:

	Business-Type			
	_	Activities		Fiduciary Fund
Student Tuition and Fees Auxiliary Enterprises and Other Operating Activities	\$	1,681,807 1,708,113	\$	58,550
Federal Financial Assistance		54,728		878,235
Georgia Student Financing Commission		-		636,332
Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission		37,929		-
Due from Other Affiliated Organizations		405,281		-
Due from Other USG Institutions		844,128		-
Due from Component Units		3,811		-
Other	_	484,725		176,915
		5,220,522		1,750,032
Less Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	_	2,497,319		
Net Accounts Receivable	\$	2,723,203	\$	1,750,032

# **NOTE 4: CAPITAL ASSETS**

Following are the changes in capital assets for the year ended June 30, 2021:

	Balance						Balance
_	July 1, 2020		Additions		Reductions	_	June 30, 2021
						_	
\$ .	10,523,189	\$	-	\$	-	\$_	10,523,189
	10,851,156		-		-		10,851,156
	284,845,712		32,341,942		-		317,187,654
	7,264,689		-		-		7,264,689
	18,238,200		481,079		636,747		18,082,532
	4,143,117		9,812		56,956		4,095,973
•						_	,
_	325,342,874		32,832,833		693,703	_	357,482,004
	0.740.555		646.020				0.200.504
	, ,		ŕ		-		9,388,594
	99,062,805		6,205,862		-		105,268,667
	5,871,072		132,663		-		6,003,735
	15,611,100		553,109		587,940		15,576,269
_	3,942,712	_	78,017		56,956		3,963,773
-							
	133,230,244		7,615,690		644,896		140,201,038
•						_	
	192,112,630	_	25,217,143		48,807		217,280,966
-						_	
\$	202,635,819	\$	25,217,143	\$	48,807	\$_	227,804,155
	\$	\$ 10,523,189  10,851,156 284,845,712 7,264,689 18,238,200 4,143,117  325,342,874  8,742,555 99,062,805 5,871,072 15,611,100 3,942,712  133,230,244  192,112,630	July 1, 2020  \$ 10,523,189 \$  10,851,156 284,845,712 7,264,689 18,238,200 4,143,117  325,342,874  8,742,555 99,062,805 5,871,072 15,611,100 3,942,712  133,230,244  192,112,630	\$ 10,523,189 \$ -  10,851,156	\$ 10,523,189 \$ - \$  10,851,156 284,845,712 32,341,942 7,264,689 18,238,200 481,079 4,143,117 9,812  325,342,874 32,832,833   8,742,555 646,039 99,062,805 6,205,862 5,871,072 132,663 15,611,100 553,109 3,942,712 78,017  133,230,244 7,615,690  192,112,630 25,217,143	July 1, 2020       Additions       Reductions         \$ 10,523,189       -       \$       -         10,851,156       -       -       -         284,845,712       32,341,942       -       -         7,264,689       -       -       -         18,238,200       481,079       636,747       636,747         4,143,117       9,812       56,956         325,342,874       32,832,833       693,703         8,742,555       646,039       -         99,062,805       6,205,862       -         5,871,072       132,663       -         15,611,100       553,109       587,940         3,942,712       78,017       56,956         133,230,244       7,615,690       644,896         192,112,630       25,217,143       48,807	July 1, 2020       Additions       Reductions         \$ 10,523,189       -       \$       -       \$         10,851,156       -       -       -       -       -         284,845,712       32,341,942       -

A comparison of depreciation expense for the last three fiscal years is as follows:

	Depreciation
Fiscal Year	 Expense
2021	\$ 7,615,690
2020	\$ 7,521,353
2019	\$ 7,435,228

# **NOTE 5: ADVANCES (INCLUDING TUITION AND FEES)**

Advances, including tuitions and fees, consisted of the following at June 30, 2021:

	_	Current Liabilities
Prepaid Tuition and Fees	\$	2,216,470
Other Advances		3,899,807
Total Advances	\$	6,116,277

# **NOTE 6: LONG-TERM LIABILITIES**

Changes in long-term liability for the year ended June 30, 2021 were as follows:

	_	Balance July 1, 2020	 Additions	 Reductions	_	Balance June 30, 2021	_	Current Portion
Leases Lease Obligations	\$	81,489,544	\$ 20,067,631	\$ 2,935,510	\$	98,621,665	\$	3,449,671
Other Liabilities Compensated Absences	_	2,516,917	 1,570,597	 1,477,662	-	2,609,852		1,564,159
Total Long-Term Obligations	\$	84,006,461	\$ 21,638,228	\$ 4,413,172	\$	101,231,517	\$_	5,013,830

# NOTE 7: DEFERRED OUTFLOWS AND INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

Deferred outflows and inflows of resources reported on the Statement of Net Position as of June 30, 2021 and June 30, 2020 consisted of the following:

	Fiscal Year 2021		Fiscal Year 2020
Deferred Outflows of Resources			
Deferred Loss on Defined Benefit Pension Plans (See Note 11)	\$	14,175,303	\$ 13,340,692
Deferred Loss on OPEB Plan (See Note 14)		11,918,672	4,801,414
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	\$	26,093,975	\$ 18,142,106
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Deferred Gain on Debt Refunding	\$	4,748,810	\$ 5,057,776
Deferred Gain on Defined Benefit Pension Plans (See Note 11)		723,761	1,459,905
Deferred Gain on OPEB Plan (See Note 14)		7,822,181	 9,570,937
		_	 _
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	\$	13,294,752	\$ 16,088,618

### **NOTE 8: NET POSITION**

The breakdown of business-type activity net position for the Institution at June 30, 2021 is as follows:

Net Investment in Capital Assets	\$_	124,433,680
Restricted for		
Nonexpendable		
Permanent Endowment	_	35,116
Circondoblo		
Expendable		
Quasi-Endowments	_	51,531
Unrestricted		
Auxiliary Operations		8,686,840
Reserve for Encumbrances		8,576,284
Capital Liability Reserve Fund		715,528
Other Unrestricted (Deficit)	_	(107,265,873)
Sub-Total (Deficit)	<del>-</del>	(89,287,221)
Total Net Position	\$	35,233,106

Changes in net position for the year ended June 30, 2021 are as follows:

	_	Balance July 1, 2020	Additions	_	Reductions	Balance June 30, 2021
Net Investments in Capital Assets	\$	116,088,499 \$	35,768,343	\$	27,423,162	124,433,680
Restricted Net Position		79,777	36,386,534		36,379,664	86,647
Unrestricted Net Position	_	(90,574,472)	88,140,562	_	86,853,311	(89,287,221)
Total Net Position	\$_	25,593,804 \$	160,295,439	\$	150,656,137	35,233,106

#### **NOTE 9: ENDOWMENTS**

## DONOR RESTRICTED ENDOWMENTS

Investments of the Institution's endowment funds are pooled, unless required to be separately invested by the donor. For Institution controlled, donor-restricted endowments, where the donor has not provided specific instructions, the Board of Regents permits Institutions to develop policies for authorizing and spending realized and unrealized endowment income and appreciation as they determined to be prudent. Realized and unrealized appreciation in excess of the amount budgeted for current spending is retained by the endowments. Current year net appreciation on endowment investments available for authorization for expenditure was \$4,084 and is reflected as part of expendable restricted net position.

For endowment funds where the donor has not provided specific instructions, investment return of the Institution's endowment funds is predicated on the total return concept. Annual payouts from the Institution's endowment funds are based on a spending policy which limits spending between 3.0% and 6.0% of endowment principal market value. To the extent that the total return for the current year exceeds the payout, the excess is added to principal. If current year earnings do not meet the payout requirements, the Institution uses accumulated income and appreciation from restricted expendable net asset endowment balances to make up the difference.

For endowment funds where the donor has not provided specific instructions and the USG member institution has determined not to utilize the total return concept, investment return of the Institution's endowment funds is predicated under classical trust doctrines. Unless the donor has stipulated otherwise, capital gains and losses are accounted for as part of the endowment principal and are not available for expenditure.

For the current year, the Institution did not incur investment losses that exceeded the related endowment's available accumulated income and net appreciation.

### **NOTE 10: LEASES**

The Institution is obligated under various capital and operating leases for the use of real property and equipment.

#### **CAPITAL LEASES**

The Institution acquires certain real property and equipment through multi-year capital leases with varying terms and options. In accordance with O.C.G.A. §50-5-64, these agreements shall terminate absolutely and without further obligation at the close of the fiscal year in which it was executed and at the close of each succeeding fiscal year for which it may be renewed. These agreements may be renewed only by a positive action taken by the Institution. In addition, these agreements shall terminate if the State does not provide adequate funding, but that is considered a remote possibility. The Institution's principal and interest payments related to capital leases for fiscal year 2021 were \$2,935,510 and \$4,289,019, respectively.

The following is a summary of the carrying values of assets held under capital lease at June 30, 2021:

Description		Gross Amount		Accumulated Depreciation		Net Assets Held Under Capital Lease at June 30, 2021	Outstanding Balances per Lease Schedules at June 30, 2021
	-	(+)	_	(-)	_	(=)	
Equipment	\$	1,985,427	\$	1,985,427	\$	-	\$ -
Buildings and Building Improvements		114,513,465		27,306,008		87,207,457	98,621,665
Facilities and Other Improvements		255,000		255,000		-	-
Total Assets Held Under Capital Lease	\$	116,753,892	\$	29,546,435	\$	87,207,457	\$ 98,621,665

The following schedule lists the pertinent information for each of the Institution's capital leases:

Description	Lessor		Original Principal	Lease Term	Begin Month/Year	End Month/Year	_	Outstanding Principal
Anderson Hall/Gateway Hall/Harris	USG Real Estate Foundation VII, LLC	\$	21,500,750	17 yrs	6/2018	6/2035	\$	18,989,274 (1)
Regents Hall	USG Real Estate Foundation VII, LLC		12,344,832	20 yrs	6/2018	6/2038		11,337,234 (1)
Knight Hall	USG Real Estate Foundation VII, LLC		12,548,479	20 yrs	6/2018	6/2038		11,157,848 (1)
Aviation Hall	USG Real Estate Foundation VII, LLC		7,036,195	20 yrs	6/2018	6/2038		6,235,651 (1)
College Station	Macon State College Foundation Real Estate I, LLC		13,345,554	30 yrs	7/2011	6/2040		11,251,211 (1)
Wellness Center	Middle Georgia State College Real Estate Foundation, Inc.		22,940,947	28 yrs	7/2014	6/2042		19,596,742 (1)
Lakeview Pointe	USG Real Estate Foundation IX, LLC	_	20,067,631	30 yrs	7/2020	5/2050	_	20,053,705 (1)
Total Leases		\$_	109,784,388				\$_	98,621,665

<sup>(1)</sup> These capital leases are related party transactions.

Certain capital leases provided for renewal and/or purchase options. Generally, purchase options are bargain prices of one dollar exercisable at the expiration of the lease terms.

#### **OPERATING LEASES**

The Institution leases facilities and office equipment. Some of these leases are considered for accounting purposes to be operating leases. Although lease terms vary, many leases are subject to appropriations from the General Assembly to continue the obligation. Other leases generally contain provisions that, at the expiration date of the original term of the lease, the Institution has the option of renewing the lease on a year-to-year basis. Leases renewed yearly for a specified time period, i.e. lease expires at 12 months and must be renewed for the next year, may not meet the qualification as an operating lease. The Institution's operating lease expense for fiscal year 2021 was \$69,006.

#### **FUTURE COMMITMENTS**

Future commitments for capital leases and for non-cancellable operating leases having remaining terms in excess of one year as of June 30, 2021, are as follows:

		Capital		Operating				
	_	Leases	_	Leases				
Year Ending June 30:								
2022	\$	7,723,274	\$	24,233				
2023		7,724,691		14,992				
2024		7,734,910		-				
2025		7,743,089		-				
2026		7,755,003		-				
2027 - 2031		38,869,896		-				
2032 - 2036		37,306,187		-				
2037 - 2041		21,926,342		-				
2042 - 2046		7,879,662		-				
2047 - 2051	_	5,220,820	_					
Total Minimum Lease Payments		149,883,874	\$	39,225				
Less: Interest	_	51,262,239						
Principal Outstanding	\$.	98,621,635						

#### **NOTE 11: RETIREMENT PLANS**

The significant retirement plans that the Institution participates in are described below. More detailed information can be found in the plan agreements and related legislation. Each plan, including benefit and contribution provisions, was established and can be amended by State law.

### A. Teachers Retirement System of Georgia and Employees' Retirement System of Georgia

#### General Information about the Teachers Retirement System

#### Plan Description

All teachers of the Institution as defined in O.C.G.A. § 47-3-60 are provided a pension through the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia (TRS). TRS, a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan, is administered by the TRS Board of Trustees (TRS Board). Title 47 of the O.C.G.A. assigns the authority to establish and amend the benefit provisions to the State Legislature. TRS issues a publicly available financial report that can be obtained at trsga.com/publications.

## **Benefits Provided**

TRS provides service retirement, disability retirement, and death benefits. Normal retirement benefits are determined as 2% of the average of the employee's two highest paid consecutive years of service, multiplied by the number of years of creditable service up to 40 years. An employee is eligible for normal service retirement after 30 years of creditable service, regardless of age, or after 10 years of service and attainment of age 60. Ten years of service is required for disability and death benefits eligibility. Disability benefits are based on the employee's creditable service and compensation up to the time of disability. Death benefits equal the amount that would be payable to the employee's beneficiary had the employee retired on the date of death. Death benefits are based on the employee's creditable service and compensation up to the date of death.

### **Contributions**

Per Title 47 of the O.C.G.A., contribution requirements of active employees and participating employers, as actuarially determined, are established and may be amended by the TRS Board. Contributions are expected to finance the costs of benefits earned by employees during the year, with an additional amount to finance any unfunded accrued liability. Employees were required to contribute 6% of their annual pay during fiscal year 2021. The Institution's contractually required contribution rate for the year ended June 30, 2021 was 19.06% of the Institution's annual payroll. The Institution's contributions to TRS totaled \$5,138,579 for the year ended June 30, 2021.

#### General Information about the Employees' Retirement System

#### Plan Description

ERS is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan established by the Georgia General Assembly during the 1949 Legislative Session for the purpose of providing retirement allowances for employees of the State of Georgia and its political subdivisions. ERS is directed by a Board of Trustees. Title 47 of the O.C.G.A. assigns the authority to establish and amend the benefit provisions to the State Legislature. ERS issues a publicly available financial report that can be obtained at ers.ga.gov/financials.

# Benefits provided

The ERS Plan supports three benefit tiers: Old Plan, New Plan, and Georgia State Employees' Pension and Savings Plan (GSEPS). Employees under the old plan started membership prior to July 1, 1982 and are subject to plan provisions in effect prior to July 1, 1982. Members hired on or after July 1, 1982 but prior to January 1, 2009 are new plan members subject to modified plan provisions. Effective January 1, 2009, new state employees and rehired state employees who did not retain membership rights under the Old or New Plans are members of GSEPS. ERS members hired prior to January 1, 2009 also have the option to irrevocably change their membership to GSEPS.

Under the old plan, the new plan, and GSEPS, a member may retire and receive normal retirement benefits after completion of 10 years of creditable service and attainment of age 60 or 30 years of creditable service regardless of age. Additionally, there are some provisions allowing for early retirement after 25 years of creditable service for members under age 60.

Retirement benefits paid to members are based upon the monthly average of the member's highest 24 consecutive calendar months, multiplied by the number of years of creditable service, multiplied by the applicable benefit factor. Annually, postretirement cost-of-living adjustments may also be made to members' benefits, provided the members were hired prior to July 1, 2009. The normal retirement pension is payable monthly for life; however, options are available for distribution of the member's monthly pension, at reduced rates, to a designated beneficiary upon the member's death. Death and disability benefits are also available through ERS.

#### Contributions

Member contributions under the old plan are 4% of annual compensation, up to \$4,200, plus 6% of annual compensation in excess of \$4,200. Under the old plan, the State pays member contributions in excess of 1.25% of annual compensation. Under the old plan, these State contributions are included in the members' accounts for refund purposes and are used in the computation of the members' earnable compensation for the purpose of computing retirement benefits. Member contributions under the new plan and GSEPS are 1.25% of annual compensation. The required contribution rate for the year ended June 30, 2021 was 24.66% of annual covered payroll for old and new plan members and 21.57% for GSEPS members. The Institution's contributions to ERS totaled \$84,111 for the year ended June 30, 2021. Contributions are expected to finance the costs of benefits earned by employees during the year, with an additional amount to finance any unfunded accrued liability.

# Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

At June 30, 2021, the Institution reported a liability for its proportionate share of the net pension liability for TRS and ERS. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2020. The total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was based on an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2019. An expected total pension liability as of June 30, 2020 was determined using standard roll-forward techniques. The Institution's proportion of the net pension liability was based on contributions to TRS and ERS during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. At June 30, 2020, the Institution's TRS proportion was 0.20784 %, which was a decrease of 0.003520% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2019. At June 30, 2020, the Institution's ERS proportion was 0.015003%, which was a decrease of 0.001887% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2019.

For the year ended June 30, 2021, the Institution recognized pension expense of \$8,472,502 for TRS and \$13,700 for ERS. At June 30, 2021, the Institution reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	_	-	TRS			ERS	
	_	Deferred Outflows of Resources	_	Deferred Inflows of Resources	Deferred Outflows of Resources	_	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$	2,192,627	\$	-	\$ 7,703	\$	-
Changes of assumptions		5,185,797		-	-		-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments		1,212,615		-	8,932		-
Changes in proportion and differences between contributions and proportionate share of contributions		344,939		666,830	-		56,931
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	_	5,138,579	-	-	84,111	-	
Total	\$ _	14,074,557	\$ _	666,830	\$ 100,746	\$	56,931

The Institution's contributions subsequent to the measurement date are reported as deferred outflows of resources and will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended June 30, 2022. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year Ended June 30:	TRS	 ERS	
2022	\$	1,696,333	\$ (47,996)
2023	\$	2,702,249	\$ (10,478)
2024	\$	2,811,489	\$ 10,366
2025	\$	1,059,077	\$ 7,812

**Actuarial assumptions:** The total pension liability as of June 30, 2020 was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2019 using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

### Teachers Retirement System:

Inflation 2.50%

Salary increases 3.00 – 8.75%, average, including inflation

Investment rate of return 7.25%, net of pension plan investment expense,

including inflation

Post-retirement benefit increases 1.50% semi-annually

Post-retirement mortality rates were based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Headcount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table (ages set forward one year and adjusted 106%) with the MP-2019 Projection scale applied generationally. The rates of improvement were reduced by 20% for all years prior to the ultimate rate. Post-retirement mortality rates for disability retirements were based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Mortality Table for Disabled Retirees (ages set forward one year and adjusted 106%) with the MP-2019 Projection scale applied generationally. The rates of improvement were reduced by 20% for all years prior to the ultimate rate. The Pub-2010 Teachers Headcount Weighted Below Median Employee mortality table with ages set forward one year and adjusted 106% as used for death prior to retirement. Future improvement in mortality rates was assumed using the MP-2019 projection scale generationally. These rates of improvement were reduced by 20% for all years prior to the ultimate rate.

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2019 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2018 with the exception of the long-term assumed rate of return.

# Employees' Retirement System

Inflation 2.75%

Salary increases 3.25 – 7.00%, including inflation

Investment rate of return 7.30%, net of pension plan investment expense,

including inflation

Post-retirement mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Combined Mortality Table with future mortality improvement projected to 2025 with the Society of Actuaries' projection scale BB and set forward 2 years for both males and females for service retirements and dependent beneficiaries. The RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table with future mortality improvement projected to 2025 with Society of Actuaries' projection scale BB and set back 7 years for males and set forward 3 years for females was used for death after disability retirement. There is a margin for future mortality improvement in the tables used by the System. Based on the results of the most recent experience study adopted by the Board on December 17, 2015, the numbers of expected future deaths are 9-12% less than the actual number of deaths that occurred during the study period for service retirements and beneficiaries and for disability retirements. Rates of mortality in active service were based on the RP-2000 Employee Mortality Table projected to 2025 with projection scale BB.

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2019 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2014 with the exception of the assumed investment rate of return.

The long-term expected rate of return on TRS and ERS pension plan investments was determined using a log-normal distribution analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected nominal returns, net of pension plan investment expense and the assumed rate of inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

Asset class	TRS Target allocation	ERS Target allocation	Long-term expected real rate of return*
Fixed income	30.00%	30.00%	(0.10)%
Domestic large equities	51.00%	46.20%	8.90%
Domestic small equities	1.50%	1.30%	13.20%
International developed market equities	12.40%	12.40%	8.90%
International emerging market equities	5.10%	5.10%	10.90%
Alternatives		5.00%	12.00%
Total	100.00%	100.00%	

<sup>\*</sup> Rates shown are net of inflation

**Discount Rate:** The discount rate used to measure the total TRS and ERS pension liability was 7.25 % and 7.30%, respectively. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that employer and State of Georgia contributions will be made at rates equal to the difference between actuarially determined contribution rates and the member rate. Based on those assumptions, the TRS and ERS pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the Institution's proportionate share of the net pension liability to changes in the discount rate: The following presents the Institution's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate, as well as what the Institution's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current rate:

Teachers Retirement System:	1% Decrease (6.25%)		Current Discount Rate (7.25%)	1% Increase (8.25%)
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 79,838,296	\$	50,346,983	\$ 26,172,562
Employees' Retirement System:	1% Decrease (6.30%)		Current Discount Rate (7.30%)	1% Increase (8.30%)
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 889,633	- \$	632,370	\$  412,826

**Pension plan fiduciary net position:** Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued TRS and ERS financial reports which are publicly available at <a href="https://www.trsga.com/publications">www.trsga.com/publications</a> and <a href="https://www.trsga.com/publications">www.trsga.com/publications</a> an

#### **B.** Defined Contribution Plan

#### Regents Retirement Plan

### Plan Description

The Regents Retirement Plan, a single-employer defined contribution plan, is an optional retirement plan that was created/established by the Georgia General Assembly in O.C.G.A. § 47-21-1 et.seq. and administered by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (Board). O.C.G.A. § 47-3-68(a) defines who may participate in the Regents Retirement Plan. An "eligible university system employee" is a faculty member or all exempt full and partial benefit eligible employees, as designated by the regulations of the Board. Under the Regents Retirement Plan, a plan participant may purchase annuity contracts from three approved vendors (VALIC, Fidelity, and TIAA-CREF) for the purpose of receiving retirement and death benefits. Benefits depend solely on amounts contributed to the plan plus investment earnings. Benefits are payable to participating employees or their beneficiaries in accordance with the terms of the annuity contracts.

## **Funding Policy**

The institutions of the USG make monthly employer contributions to the Regents Retirement Plan on behalf of participants at rates determined by the Board. The Board reviews the contribution amount every three (3) years. For fiscal year 2021, the employer contribution was 9.24% for the participating employee's earnable compensation. Employees contribute 6.00% of their earnable compensation. Amounts attributable to all plan contributions are fully vested and non-forfeitable at all times.

The Institution and the covered employees made the required contributions of \$1,128,612 (9.24%) and \$732,866 (6.00%), respectively.

VALIC, Fidelity, and TIAA-CREF have separately issued financial reports which may be obtained through their respective corporate offices.

### **NOTE 12: RISK MANAGEMENT**

The USG offers its employees and retirees under the age of 65 access to three self insured healthcare plan options and one fully insured plan option. For the USG's Plan Year 2021, the following self-insured health care options were available: Blue Choice HMO plan, (Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia) Consumer Choice HSA plan, and the (Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia) Comprehensive Care plan.

The Institution's participating employees and eligible retirees pay premiums into the plan fund to access benefits coverage. All units of the USG share the risk of loss for claims associated with these plans. The plan fund is considered to be a self-sustaining risk fund. The USG has contracted with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, a wholly owned subsidiary of Anthem, Inc., to serve as the claims administrator for the self-insured healthcare plan options. In addition to the self-insured healthcare plan options offered to the employees and eligible retirees of the USG, a fully insured HMO healthcare plan option also is offered through Kaiser Permanente. The Comprehensive Care plan has a carved-out prescription drug plan administered through CVS Caremark. Pharmacy drug claims are processed in accordance with guidelines established for the Board of Regents' Prescription Drug Benefit Program. Generally, claims are submitted by participating pharmacies directly to CVS Caremark for verification, processing and payment. CVS Caremark maintains an eligibility file based on information furnished by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia on behalf of the various organizational units of the University System of Georgia. The self-insured dental plan is administered through Delta Dental.

Retirees age 65 and older participate in a secondary healthcare coverage for Medicare-eligible retirees and dependents provided through a retiree health care exchange option. The USG makes contributions to a health reimbursement account, which can be used by the retiree to pay premiums and out-of-pocket healthcare-related expenses.

The Department of Administrative Services (DOAS) has the responsibility for the State of Georgia of making and carrying out decisions that will minimize the adverse effects of accidental losses that involve State government assets. The State believes it is more economical to manage its risks internally and set aside assets for claim settlement. Accordingly, DOAS processes claims for risk of loss to which the State is exposed, including general liability, property and casualty, workers' compensation, unemployment compensation, and law enforcement officers' indemnification. Limited amounts of commercial insurance are purchased applicable to property, employee and automobile liability, fidelity and certain other risks.

The Institution is part of the State of Georgia reporting entity, and as such, is covered by the State of Georgia risk management program administered by DOAS. Premiums for the risk management program are charged to the various state organizations by DOAS to provide claims servicing and claims payment.

A self-insured program of professional liability for its employees was established by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia under powers authorized by the O.C.G.A § 45-9-1.

The program insures the employees to the extent that they are not immune from liability against personal liability for damages arising out of the performance of their duties or in any way connected therewith. The program is administered by DOAS as a Self-Insurance Fund.

### **NOTE 13: CONTINGENCIES**

Amounts received or receivable from grantor agencies are subject to audit and adjustment by grantor agencies. This could result in refunds to the grantor agency for any expenditure disallowed under grant terms. The amount of expenditures which may be disallowed by the grantor cannot be determined at this time although the Institution expects such amounts, if any, to be immaterial to its overall financial position.

Litigation, claims and assessments filed against the Institution, if any, are generally considered to be actions against the State of Georgia. Accordingly, significant litigation, claims and assessments pending against the State of Georgia are disclosed in the State of Georgia Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021.

# **NOTE 14: POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSION BENEFITS**

# Board of Regents Retiree Health Benefit Plan

# Plan Description and Funding Policy

The Board of Regents Retiree Health Benefit Plan (Plan) is a single-employer, defined-benefit, healthcare plan administered by the University System Office, an organizational unit of the USG. The Plan was authorized pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 47-21-21 for the purpose of accumulating funds necessary to meet employer costs of retiree post-employment health insurance benefits.

Pursuant to the general powers conferred by the O.C.G.A. § 20-3-31, the USG has established group health and life insurance programs for regular employees of the USG. It is the policy of the USG to permit employees of the USG eligible for retirement or who become permanently and totally disabled to continue as members of the group health and life insurance programs. The USG offers its employees and retirees under the age of 65 access to three self-insured healthcare plan options and one fully insured plan option. For the USG's Plan Year 2021, the following self-insured health care options were available: Blue Choice HMO plan, (Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia) Consumer Choice HSA plan, and the (Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia) Comprehensive Care plan. The USG offers a self-insured dental plan administered by Delta Dental.

Retirees age 65 and older participate in a secondary healthcare coverage for Medicare-eligible retirees and dependents provided through a retiree health care exchange option. The USG makes contributions to the retirees' health reimbursement account, which can be used by the retiree to pay premiums and out-of-pocket healthcare related expenses.

The Institution's membership in the Plan consisted of the following at June 30, 2021:

Active Employees	657
Retirees or Beneficiaries Receiving Benefits	264
Retirees Receiving Life Insurance Only	67
Total	988

The contribution requirements of plan members and the employer are established and may be amended by the Board. The Plan is substantially funded on a "pay-as-you-go" basis; however, amounts above the pay-as-you-go basis may be contributed annually, either by specific appropriation or by Board designation.

The Institution pays the employer portion for group insurance for eligible retirees. The employer portion of health insurance for its eligible retirees is based on rates that are established annually by the Board for the upcoming plan year. For the 2021 plan year, the employer rate was approximately 90% of the total health insurance cost for eligible retirees and the retiree rate was approximately 10%. For employees hired on or after January 1, 2013 and retirees after January 1, 2018, the amount the USG contributes is tied to years of service, which ranges from 0% to 100%. With regard to life insurance, the employer covers the total premium cost for \$25,000 of basic life insurance. If an individual elects to have supplemental, and/or, dependent life insurance coverage, such costs are borne entirely by the retiree.

For fiscal year 2021, the Institution contributed \$1,572,771 to the plan for current premiums or claims.

# OPEB Liabilities, OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

At June 30, 2021, the Institution reported a liability for its proportionate share of the net OPEB liability. The net OPEB liability was measured as of June 30, 2020. The total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability was based on an actuarial valuation as of May 1, 2020. An expected total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2020 was determined using standard roll-forward techniques. The Institution's proportion of the net OPEB liability was actuarially determined based on employer contributions during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. At June 30, 2020, the Institution's proportion was 1.360397%, which was a decrease of 0.011739% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2019.

For the year ended June 30, 2021, the Institution recognized OPEB expense of \$3,910,523. At June 30, 2021 the Institution reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

		Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$	3,684,691	\$ 290,699
Changes of assumptions		6,661,210	5,174,319
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments		-	22,584
Changes in proportion and differences between contributions and proportionate share of contributions		-	2,334,579
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	•	1,572,771	 
Total	\$	11,918,672	\$ 7,822,181

The Institution's contributions subsequent to the measurement date of \$1,572,771 are reported as deferred outflows of resources and will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability in the year ended June 30, 2022. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

#### Year Ended June 30:

2022	\$ (261,850)
2023	\$ (228,942)
2024	\$ 401,996
2025	\$ 430,257
2026	\$ 526,006
Thereafter	\$ 1,656,253

### Actuarial assumptions

The total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2020 was determined by an actuarial valuation as of May 1, 2020 using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Cost Method Entry Age Normal

Amortization Method Closed amortization period for initial unfunded and subsequent

actuarial gains/losses.

Asset Method Fair Value

Interest Discounting and Salary Growth Interest Rate as of 6/30/2020 2.21% from Bond Buyer GO 20 -

**Bond Municipal Bond Index** 

Interest Rate as of 6/30/2019 3.50% from Bond Buyer GO 20 -

Bond Municipal Bond Index Long-term Rate of Return 3.75%

General Inflation 2.10% Salary Growth 4.00%

Mortality Rates Pub-2010 for Teachers (headcount weighted) projected with Scale

MP-2019

Initial Healthcare Cost Trend

Pre-Medicare Eligible 6.7% Medicare Eligible 4.5%

**Ultimate Trend Rate** 

Pre-Medicare Eligible 4.5% Medicare Eligible 4.5%

Year Ultimate Trend is Reached Fiscal Year 2031 for Pre-Medicare Eligible, Fiscal Year 2020 for

Medicare Eligible

Experience Study Economic and demographic assumptions are based on the results

of the most recent actuarial experience study over the Plan, which covered a three-year period ending June 30, 2019. All other assumptions are based on the results of the most recent actuarial experience study of the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia,

which cover the five year period ending

June 30, 2014.

## Changes in Assumptions Since Prior Valuation

Expected claims costs were updated to reflect actual claims experience. Trend rate schedule was updated to remove excise tax adjustments. Mortality improvement scale was updated from MP-2018 to MP-2019. The discount rate was update from 3.50% as of June 30, 2019 to 2.21% as of June 30, 2020. The withdrawal rates were updated to better reflect the anticipated future experience as the result of an assumption study. The coverage election assumption was updated to better reflect anticipated future experience as the result of an assumption study. The spousal coverage assumption and the spousal age difference assumption were updated to better reflect anticipated future experience as the result of an assumption study.

### Plan Changes

HRA cost sharing for employees hired on or after January 1, 2013 and retiring after January 1, 2018 is based on a policy that ties years of service to the amount the USG contributes based on 22-tiers ranging from 100% for employees retiring with 30 years of service to 21% for employees retiring with 10 years of service.

The long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class included in the target asset allocation as of June 30, 2020 are summarized in the following table:

	Long-term	
	Expected Real	
	Rate of Return,	
Asset Class	Net of Inflation	Target Allocation
Fixed Income	- %	70%
Equity Allocation	4.51%	30%

#### **Discount Rate**

The Plan's projected fiduciary net position at the end of 2023 is \$0, based on the valuation completed for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. As such, the Plan's fiduciary net position was not projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments for current Plan members. The projected "depletion date" when projected benefits are not covered by projected assets is 2023. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on Plan investments of 3.75% per annum was not applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2020. Instead, a yield or index rate for a 20 year, tax-exempt general obligation municipal bond with an average rating of AA or higher was used. This rate was determined to be 2.21% from the Bond Buyers GO 20-Bond Municipal Bond Index.

### Sensitivity of the net OPEB liability to changes in the discount rate

The following presents the Institution's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability, as well as what the Institution's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1% lower (1.21%) or 1% (3.21%) higher than the current discount rate (2.21%):

	1% Decrease			Current Rate	1% Increase
	1.21%		2.21%		3.21%
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$	88,456,878	\$	72,559,757	\$ 59,837,028

# Sensitivity of the net OPEB liability to changes in the healthcare cost trend rates

The following presents the Institution's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability, as well as what the Institution's proportionate shares of the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are 1% lower or 1% higher than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

	:	1% Decrease		Current Rate	1% Increase			
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$	60,163,337	\$	72,559,757	\$	88,278,370		
Pre-Medicare Eligible Medicare Eligible	5.7% d	5.7% decreasing to 3.5% 3.5%		ecreasing to 4.5% 4.5%	7.7% decreasing to 5.5% 5.5%			

# OPEB plan fiduciary net position:

Detailed information about the Plan's fiduciary net position is available in the USG Consolidated Annual Financial Report which is publicly available at <a href="https://www.usg.edu/fiscal\_affairs/financial\_reporting">www.usg.edu/fiscal\_affairs/financial\_reporting</a>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

#### BUDGET FUND JUNE 30, 2021

**ASSETS** 

Cash and Cash Equivalents Investments Accounts Receivable Federal Financial Assistance Other Prepaid Expenditures Other Assets	\$	11,784,014.07 914,576.07 54,728.29 3,398,140.89 167,824.51 426,394.07
Total Assets	\$ <u></u>	16,745,677.90
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Accrued Payroll	\$	472,329.44
Encumbrances Payable	·	7,738,252.68
Accounts Payable		2,061,341.93
Unearned Revenue		2,485,522.32
Funds Held for Others		41,212.37
Total Liabilities	_	12,798,658.74
Fund Balances		
Reserved		
Department Sales and Services		271,833.32
Indirect Cost Recoveries		231,738.45
Technology Fees		777,538.47
Restricted/Sponsored Funds		768,783.18
Tuition Carry-Over		688,142.41
Uncollectible Accounts Receivable		1,200,660.37
Unreserved		
Surplus	_	8,322.96
Total Fund Balances	_	3,947,019.16
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$ <u></u>	16,745,677.90

Statutory Basis financial information was prepared on a prescribed basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with budgetary statutes and regulations of the State of Georgia, which is a special purpose framework.

# MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY STATEMENT OF FUNDS AVAILABLE AND EXPENDITURES COMPARED TO BUDGET BY PROGRAM AND FUNDING SOURCE (STATUTORY BASIS) BUDGET FUND YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

	_	Original Appropriation	Final Budget	Current Year Revenues	Prior Year Reserve Carry-Over
Teaching State Appropriation					
State Appropriation State General Funds	\$	33.487.952.00 \$	36.844.586.00	\$ 36.844.586.00 \$	_
Federal Coronavirus Relief Funds	<b>~</b>	-	10,074,448.00	8,750,762.15	-
Other Funds		54,597,564.00	58,524,103.00	57,837,591.73	2,043,075.42
Total Operating Activity	\$	88,085,516.00 \$	105,443,137.00	\$ 103,432,939.88 \$	2,043,075.42

	Fun	ds Av	ailable Compared to B	udg	et	Expenditures C		Excess of Funds Available			
	Program Transfers		Total		Variance	_			Variance	-	Over
	or Adjustments		Funds Available	-	Positive (Negative)	_	Actual	_	Positive		Expenditures
\$	-	\$	36,844,586.00	\$	-	\$	36,843,253.99	\$	1,332.01	\$	1,332.01
	=		8,750,762.15		(1,323,685.85)		8,750,762.15		1,323,685.85		Ē
_	-		59,880,667.15	_	1,356,564.15	_	57,180,198.14		1,343,904.86		2,700,469.01
\$	-	\$	105,476,015.30	\$	32,878.30	\$	102,774,214.28	\$	2,668,922.72	\$	2,701,801.02

# MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY STATEMENT OF CHANGES TO FUND BALANCE BY PROGRAM AND FUNDING SOURCE (STATUTORY BASIS) BUDGET FUND YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

	_	Beginning Fund Balance July 1	Fund Balance Carried Over from Prior Year as Funds Available	Return of Fiscal Year 2020 Surplus	Prior Period Adjustments	
Teaching						
State Appropriation State General Funds	\$	28,211.49 \$	- \$	(28,211.49) \$	4,990.73	
Federal Coronavirus Relief Funds		-	-	-	-	
Other Funds	_	2,138,997.15	(2,043,075.42)	(95,921.73)	(214,303.97)	
Total Teaching		2,167,208.64	(2,043,075.42)	(124,133.22)	(209,313.24)	
Prior Year Reserves  Not Available for Expenditure						
Uncollectible Accounts Receivable	_	1,454,531.38	-		-	
Budget Unit Totals	\$_	3,621,740.02 \$	(2,043,075.42) \$	(124,133.22) \$	(209,313.24)	

Statutory Basis financial information was prepared on a prescribed basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with budgetary statutes and regulations of the State of Georgia, which is a special purpose framework.

Other			Early Return Fiscal Year 2021		Excess of Funds Available Over		Ending Fund Balance	An	alys	is of Ending Fund B	alan	ce
	Adjustments		Surplus		Expenditures		June 30	 Reserved		Surplus	_	Total
\$	-	\$	-	\$	1,332.01	\$	6,322.74	\$ -	\$	6,322.74	\$	6,322.74
_	253,871.01	_	-		2,700,469.01		2,740,036.05	 2,738,035.83		2,000.22	_	2,740,036.05
	253,871.01		-		2,701,801.02		2,746,358.79	2,738,035.83		8,322.96		2,746,358.79
_	(253,871.01)	-	-		-		1,200,660.37	 1,200,660.37		-		1,200,660.37
\$	-	\$	-	\$	2,701,801.02	\$_	3,947,019.16	\$ 3,938,696.20	\$	8,322.96	\$_	3,947,019.16
					Department Sales and S Indirect Cost Recoveries Technology Fees Restricted/Sponsored F Tuition Carry-Forward Uncollectible Accounts f Surplus	unds	6	\$ 271,833.32 231,738.45 777,538.47 768,783.18 688,142.41 1,200,660.37	\$	8,322.96	\$	271,833.32 231,738.45 777,538.47 768,783.18 688,142.41 1,200,660.37 8,322.96
				Tot	al Ending Fund Balance	- Jun	e 30	\$ 3,938,696.20	\$	8,322.96	\$	3,947,019.16

# SECTION II

ENTITY'S RESPONSE TO PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

# MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY ENTITY'S RESPONSE SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

# PRIOR YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

No matters were reported.

# PRIOR YEAR FEDERAL AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

No matters were reported.

# SECTION III

FINDINGS, QUESTIONED COSTS AND OTHER ITEMS

# MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS, QUESTIONED COSTS AND OTHER ITEMS YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

### COMMUNICATION OF INTERNAL CONTROL DEFICIENCIES

The auditor is required to communicate to management and those charged with governance control deficiencies identified during the course of the financial statement audit that, in the auditor's judgment, constitute significant deficiencies or material weakness.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Internal control deficiencies identified during the course of this engagement that were considered to be significant deficiencies and/or material weaknesses are presented below:

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

No matters were reported.

### FEDERAL AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

No matters were reported.

## OTHER ITEMS (NOTED FOR MANAGEMENT'S CONSIDERATION)

## Private Purpose Venture not Self-Liquidating

#### Observation:

For fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, an analysis of the financial statement activity for the University's Student Housing public private venture projects, as well as the Recreation Center public private venture, revealed that one of the projects' required capital lease payments and other operating costs exceeded yearly revenues by \$465,585.04. The Institution has reserves of \$715,528.00 to cover this operating deficit.

#### Recommendation:

Management should closely monitor project activity to ensure that revenues are sufficient to service capital lease debt as well as all other associated project costs. Also, management should continue to maintain adequate reserves for the project to protect against potential economic downturns.

#### View of Responsible Officials:

The Institution has sufficient reserves to cover the reported operating deficit and continually monitors related activity to ensure that the reserves remain adequate.

# MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS, QUESTIONED COSTS AND OTHER ITEMS YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

## Student Financial Assistance Awarding Process

### Observation:

A sample of 40 students who received student financial assistance (SFA) was selected for testing to determine if financial assistance was properly calculated and disbursed to eligible students. Two students in the sample received less Federal Direct Student Loan funds than they were eligible to receive. In addition, eight students did not have transfer monitoring performed prior to the start of their first term of enrollment at the Institution. Provisions included in Title 34 CFR Section 668 provide general provisions for administering SFA programs and Title 34 CFR Section 685 provides eligibility and other related program requirements that are specific to the Federal Direct Student Loans Program.

#### Recommendation:

The Institution should review its processes and procedures for determining each student's financial aid eligibility. Where vulnerable, the Institution should develop and/or modify its policies and procedures to ensure that correct amounts will be awarded to students in conformity with federal requirements. Furthermore, the Institution should develop and implement a monitoring process to ensure that controls are functioning properly.

### View of Responsible Officials:

The Institution is reviewing its processes and procedures for determining each student's financial aid eligibility. The institution will modify, as appropriate, policies and procedures to ensure that correct amounts will be awarded to students in conformity with federal requirements. The Institution will also develop and implement a monitoring process to ensure that controls are functioning properly.

#### **Return of Title IV Funds**

#### Observation:

Our review of a sample of 40 Return of Title IV calculations to test the Institution's compliance with regulations reflected in Title 34 CFR Section 668.22 revealed a variance in the refund calculated for one student. This student was requested to return \$272.66 more than the required amount to various student financial aid programs and variances were noted in the proration between the school and student portion of the refund for this student due to the use of the incorrect withdrawal date and amount disbursed in Federal Direct Loan funds.

In addition, our review of a sample of 40 students who did not earn any credit hours but received financial aid revealed that a refund was not calculated for one student who officially withdrew. Based upon withdrawal documentation maintained on-file, Title IV aid totaling \$1,098.90 should have been returned to the U.S. Department of Education for this student. Furthermore, it was noted that five students were omitted from the listing of Return of Title IV calculations provided by the Institution.

### Recommendation:

The Institution should follow established procedures to ensure that R2T4 calculations are accurate and that unearned funds are returned to the appropriate accounts in a timely manner in accordance with federal regulations. Management should also develop and implement a monitoring process to ensure that controls are operating properly.

#### View of Responsible Officials:

The Institution has begun cross-checking a sample of Return to Title IV (R2T4) calculations in Banner with the Department of Education calculations to ensure the calculations are accurate and the appropriate amounts are returned within the timeline set forth by the Department of Education. Management is also reviewing the Institution's current monitoring process to ensure that controls are working properly.

# MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS, QUESTIONED COSTS AND OTHER ITEMS YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

# **Enrollment Reporting**

#### Observation:

Our testing of 40 students who received Federal Pell Grant Program and/or Federal Direct Student Loan funds and had a reduction or increase in attendance level, graduated, withdrew, dropped out, or enrolled but never attended during the audit period revealed that significant data elements reflected under the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) Campus-Level and/or Program-Level Records were not reported accurately for four students. In addition, the incorrect effective dates were reflected in the student information system, and therefore, insignificant variances were noted for the effective dates transferred to NSLDS for most students tested. Regarding the enrollment reporting process, provisions included in Title 34 Section CFR 685.309(b) state that "(1) Upon receipt of an enrollment report from the Secretary, a school must update all information included in the report and return the report to the Secretary – (i) In the manner and format prescribed by the Secretary; and (ii) Within the timeframe prescribed by the Secretary. (2) Unless it expects to submit its next updated enrollment report to the Secretary within the next 60 days, a school must notify the Secretary within 30 days after the date the school discovers that – (i) ... the student has ceased to be enrolled on at least a half-time basis for the period."

#### Recommendation:

The Institution should follow established policies and procedures to ensure that all changes in student enrollment statuses are reported in accordance with timeframes prescribed by the U.S. Department of Education.

#### View of Responsible Officials:

The Institution has updated its student information system (Banner) so that the time status for students when they register for class or when changes are made to their registration will be automatically calculated. The Institution will also continue to run the Time Status Calculation Update process (SFRTMST) in Banner as part of the enrollment reporting process, which will now serve as a backup to the automatic time status calculation. This process will be run prior to the start of the term for each part of term to ensure that all changes in student enrollment statuses are reported in accordance with timeframes prescribed by the U.S. Department of Education.