

Purpose

1. Prudent oversight of a public sector pension plan requires that trustees and staff occasionally travel to business meetings and educational conferences or seminars, held in or outside of the state of California. Travel and related costs incurred in doing so not only represent legitimate expenses of the plan, but are a sound investment in the ongoing success of the organization in meeting the needs of the membership.
2. The purpose of the Travel Policy is to encourage and facilitate the pursuit of relevant educational and business-related initiatives by trustees and staff. The policy is designed to assist them in meeting their fiduciary duties to administer the pension plan, ensure that expenditures incurred in the education and travel process are prudent and cost-effective, and to mitigate the risk of improprieties arising from travel or business-related activities. Exceptions to any provision of this policy for a Board member or the Chief Executive Officer require the pre-approval of the Board Chair or Vice Chair; and require the pre-approval of the Chief Executive Officer in the case of an exception for a staff member.

Content Requirements

3. As a general rule, and with the exception of public retirement system meetings and the conferences listed in paragraphs 10 and 14, unless a conference/seminar agenda contains substantive educational content per day, attendance at the particular conference/seminar will not be approved and related travel expenses will not be reimbursed. Educational forums, conferences and seminars that routinely and consistently satisfy this requirement will automatically qualify for Board approval for attendance. The Chief Executive Officer will screen and determine those conferences or seminars that meet the five (5) hour requirement and provide a list thereof to the Board members and appropriate staff members. Authorization to attend and receive travel expense reimbursement for a client conference organized or sponsored by a single company or firm shall be restricted to those conferences sponsored by firms who have a contractual relationship with OCERS. Board members or staff members who have independent relationships with a conference sponsor are not automatically entitled to attend such conferences at OCERS' expense. The Board of Retirement shall consider each request individually regardless of any Board or staff affiliation.

Board Member

4. The term "Board Member" shall include a designee of the Treasurer, provided such person is designated in writing to act as the designee, has taken the oath of office and has filed the written designation with the County Clerk, County Auditor and OCERS.

Travel Authorization

5. Except as otherwise provided herein, reimbursement of travel expenses for a Board member to attend an educational conference or seminar (or other type of meeting or event) requires the prior approval of the Board of Retirement.

6. All reimbursement of travel expenses for an employee of OCERS to attend an educational conference or seminar (or other type of meeting or event) or for administrative purposes requires the prior approval of the Chief Executive Officer or his or her designee.
7. Travel on OCERS' business within the Southern California region by Board members or staff need not be approved in advance provided that overnight accommodations are not required. The Southern California region shall include the counties of Orange, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego, Imperial, Ventura, Santa Barbara and Kern.

Limitation on Meeting for Business Purpose

8. No more than four members of the Board are authorized to meet together for business purposes within the State of California unless there is appropriate public notice of the meeting. Attendance at educational conferences, seminars and social activities by more than four members of the Board is not a violation of this provision.

Cost of Administration

9. Approved education and travel expenses for Board and staff members shall be direct costs of administration of OCERS (or directly charged to Investments in the case of education, due diligence, and travel expenses for Investments staff) paid by OCERS and shall not be paid through third party contracts or otherwise without express written authorization of the Board of Retirement. All approved travel and education expenses shall be included in the OCERS annual budget approved by the Board of Retirement.

Pre-Approved Conferences and Meetings

10. Board members and the OCERS staff members designated by the Chief Executive Officer are automatically authorized and encouraged to attend the following:
 - a. Regular meetings of the State Association of County Retirement Systems (SACRS);
 - b. Conferences of the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS);
 - c. CALAPRS annual General Assembly and Round Table meetings;
 - d. Conferences of the National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA);
 - e. Conferences of the National Institute on Retirement Security (NIRS);
 - f. Conferences sponsored by the Board of Retirement's retained consultants and/or investment managers;
 - g. Conferences sponsored by the California Retired County Employees Association (CRCEA);
 - h. Conferences sponsored by the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO); and
 - i. Conferences sponsored by a firm that has a contractual relationship with OCERS.

In addition, the OCERS staff members designated by the Chief Executive Officer are automatically authorized and encouraged to attend the following:

- j. Annual Conference of the Public Pension Financial Forum (P2F2);
 - k. Conferences of the National Association of Public Pension Attorneys (NAPPA);
 - l. Conferences sponsored by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA);
 - m. Conferences sponsored by CEM Benchmarking;
 - n. Conferences sponsored by the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO);
 - o. Conferences sponsored by the Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM);
 - p. Conferences sponsored by the Professional in Human Resources Association (PIHRA);
 - q. Conferences sponsored by the Association of Talent and Development (ATD);
 - r. Annual Conference of the California Association of Public Information Officials (CAPIO);
 - s. Conferences sponsored by the California Special Districts Association (CSDA);
 - t. Conferences sponsored by the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA);
 - u. Conferences sponsored by the Society of Corporate Compliance and Ethics (SCCE);
 - v. Conferences sponsored by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE);
 - w. Conferences sponsored by Public Retirement Information Systems Management (PRISM);
 - x. Annual Global Pension CFO Forum; and
 - y. Conferences sponsored by Gartner.
11. Board members and staff members designated by the Chief Executive Officer who are appointed or elected to serve on committees and/or the Board of Directors of the organizations named in paragraph 10 are automatically authorized to attend meetings of the committee(s) to which they have been appointed or elected.
12. Board members and staff members designated by the Chief Executive Officer are automatically authorized to attend each of the following full curriculum pension management programs and courses:
- a. Basic and advance educational programs sponsored by CALAPRS – once during each Board member’s term, and one time only for OCERS staff members;
 - b. Basic and advanced educational programs sponsored by SACRS – once during each Board member’s term, and one time only for OCERS staff members;
 - c. Basic and advanced investment programs sponsored by the Wharton School -- one time only for Board members and staff; provided, however, if the Wharton School does not offer an advanced investment program, the basic program may be taken a second time after three years of initially completing the program; and
 - d. Global Financial Markets Institute, Inc. – various programs are available; Board members and staff may attend each program only once.
13. New Board members, other than those with prior experience administering a public retirement

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system or pension fund, are encouraged to attend one of the courses listed in paragraph 12 within the first year after their election or appointment.

14. The Chief Executive Officer has identified the following conferences/seminars that Board members and designated staff members are automatically authorized to attend, subject to the limits set forth in paragraph 16, at OCERS expense:
 - a. Conferences and Programs (CAPP) sponsored by the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans (IFEBP);
 - b. Conferences sponsored by the Pension Real Estate Association (PREA);
 - c. Conferences sponsored by Pension and Investments;
 - d. Conferences sponsored by the Pacific Pension Institute (PPI);
 - e. Forums sponsored by Institutional Investor;
 - f. Conferences sponsored by the Council of Institutional Investors (CII);
 - g. Conferences sponsored by Institutional Real Estate, Inc. (IREI);
 - h. Conferences sponsored by the Opal Financial Group;
 - i. Conferences sponsored by WithIntelligence and all of its subsidiaries;
 - j. Conferences sponsored by the Investment and Wealth Institute;
 - k. Conferences sponsored by SuperReturn;
 - l. Conferences sponsored by Global ARC;
 - m. Conferences sponsored by Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS) Media Solutions and all of its subsidiaries;
 - n. Conferences sponsored by the Institutional Limited Partners Association; and
 - o. Conferences sponsored by the Markets Group.
15. The Chief Executive Officer shall provide newly elected or appointed Board members with a list of approved conferences scheduled to take place within the current calendar year.

Limitation on Attendance at Conferences and Seminars

16. A Board member is authorized to attend up to three events (e.g., conferences, seminars, meetings, or courses) that require overnight lodging at OCERS' expense each calendar year. Attendance at the pre-approved events listed in paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 are not subject to the three-event limit imposed by this paragraph even if they require overnight travel.
17. Board members who want to attend events (i.e., conferences, seminars, meetings or courses) that require overnight lodging and that are not automatically authorized under paragraphs 10, 11, 12 or 14 require advance approval by the Board. Staff members who want to attend events (i.e., conferences, seminars, meetings or courses) that require overnight lodging and that are not automatically authorized under paragraphs 10, 11, 12 or 14 require advance approval by the Chief Executive Officer or his or her designee.

18. OCERS will not reimburse overnight lodging for travel within Orange County, regardless of whether the event is pre-approved under any of the provisions of this policy. An exception to this provision may be granted by the Board Chair or Vice Chair upon the request of, and showing of good cause by, a Board member or the Chief Executive Officer; and by the Chief Executive Officer upon the request of, and showing of good cause by, a staff member.
19. In cases where attendance at a particular conference, seminar or other event is limited, the CEO will identify those trustees who will be authorized to attend as follows:
 - a. first, by giving priority to those trustees who have not previously attended the specific conference, seminar or other event and, if needed, make selections by lottery of the interested trustees in this group;
 - b. second, if additional opportunities to attend remain available, make selections by lottery of other interested trustees, and
 - c. third, designate the remaining interested trustees as alternate attendees, who may attend in the event the trustees originally selected are unable to attend.

International Travel and Travel Outside the Continental United States

20. Travel by Board members to a destination outside the continental United States requires pre-approval by the Board, regardless of whether the event is pre-approved under any of the provisions of this policy. Travel by staff to a destination outside the continental United States requires pre-approval by the Chief Executive Officer and notification to the Board Chair. Travel to attend a conference, seminar or meeting held outside the continental United States shall not be reimbursed by OCERS unless it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Board (for travel by a Board member or the Chief Executive Officer) or the Chief Executive Officer (for travel by a staff member) that there is significant value to OCERS in attending, and comparable value cannot be obtained within the continental United States within a reasonable period of time.

Travel Reports

21. The Chief Executive Officer shall submit a quarterly report on conference, seminar and educational course attendance by Board members and staff and OCERS' costs related to such events. Such reports shall identify the individual (Board Member or staff), location, purpose and cost of travel. The Board of Retirement will review these reports quarterly. The report will also include known scheduled travel that has incurred costs for the ensuing quarters.

Report on Conference or Seminar

22. Board Members and staff who travel to conferences or seminars that are not automatically authorized in paragraphs 10, 11, 12 or 14 shall file with the Chief Executive Officer a report that briefly summarizes the information and knowledge gained that may be relevant to other Board Members or staff, provides an evaluation of the conference or seminar, and provides a recommendation concerning future participation. Reports by a Board Member or staff will be made on the Conference/Seminar Report form shown in the appendix. A copy of the report will be

included in the materials for the next meeting of the Board.

Claims for Reimbursement

23. Reimbursement for travel by a Board member or staff shall be submitted through OCERS expense management application accompanied by all supporting receipts or documentation of the expense incurred. The Board or staff member must provide an itemized receipt including evidence of payment. In the event an itemized receipt is lost or is not available, a Missing Receipt Form must be completed and submitted with the expense reimbursement claim. The Missing Receipt Form includes a certification that only allowable items are included in the request for reimbursement. Overuse of the Missing Receipt Form could result in non-reimbursement of expense at OCERS discretion. All expense claim forms will be reviewed and approved (or disapproved) in accordance with the provisions of this policy. The Board Chair shall approve expense claims for Board members and the Chief Executive Officer. The Vice Chair will approve expense claims for the Chair. The Chief Executive Officer or his or her designee will approve all expense claims for staff. All approvals are subject to ultimate review and concurrence by the Board of Retirement as part of the quarterly report process required in paragraph 21.

Agency-Issued Corporate Credit Card

24. Board members and eligible OCERS staff members may request a Corporate Credit Card. In accordance with the Corporate Credit Card Policy, the Corporate Credit Card may be used only for official OCERS' business, including, but not limited to, travel costs such as parking, air travel, hotel accommodations, ground transportation and car rental, or meals in conjunction with official OCERS' business.

Cash Advances

25. Cash advances will be provided upon request only for those conferences, seminars, meetings, and courses identified in paragraphs 10, 11, 12 or 14 of this policy as pre-approved by the Board and Chief Executive Officer. Any and all cash advances for travel and training shall be requested through the Chief Executive Officer. Cash advances are subject to approval by the Chair of the Board of Retirement and the Chief Executive Officer. Notice of all cash advances for travel and training shall be placed on the Consent Agenda for the next Regular Meeting of the Board of Retirement as an informational item.

Time Limit for Expense Claims

26. Claims for reimbursement pursuant to this policy must be submitted within 30 days following return to Orange County. In no event will a claim for reimbursement be approved if submitted 90 days after the end of the calendar year in which the expense was incurred.

Expenses for Traveling Companions

27. Expenses of family members and/or traveling companions are not reimbursable by OCERS.

Limitation on Time and Expense Allowance

28. Board and staff members will be reimbursed for daily travel expenses, such as meals as outlined in paragraph 30, and gratuities as outlined in paragraph 43, for each day of travel when such travel is outside Orange County. Allowance for time and expense shall not exceed that which is reasonable and necessary as claimed by others to that precise destination whether by private automobile or common carrier. Expense reimbursements are limited to those items and amounts considered to be non-taxable income to the recipient by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Whenever feasible, Board and staff members are encouraged to travel on the same day of a one-day event and on the first and last days of a multiple-day event, rather than the day before or after, in order to save the System lodging and meal costs.

Travel and Lodging Cancellations

29. Board members and staff are responsible for the timely cancellation of registration fees, travel and lodging reservations made on his/her behalf that will not be used, so that no unnecessary expense will be incurred by OCERS.

Meals

30. **Meals While Attending Events that Require Overnight Travel.** Meals purchased by a Board or staff member while attending an event (i.e., conference, seminar, meeting or course) that requires overnight travel will be reimbursed at the actual and reasonable cost of the meals, including non-alcoholic beverages, tax and tip, provided that any meals included and already paid for by OCERS (such as through the conference registration fee) and meals paid for by a third party and subject to reporting requirements under the Political Reform Act will not be reimbursed. If an itemized receipt is not submitted, OCERS will reimburse the Board or staff member up to the GSA rate for each purchased meal, upon request.
31. **Reimbursement for Meals Consumed and Purchased During a Business-Purpose Meeting Where Travel is Not Involved.** Board and staff members will be reimbursed for the actual and reasonable expense of meals, including non-alcoholic beverages, tax and a reasonable tip, consumed and purchased during meetings where business is conducted during the course of the meal, and no overnight travel is required to attend the meeting. (See paragraph 30 for meal reimbursement during trips with overnight travel.) The names of the people who attended the business-purpose meeting and a brief description of the business discussed or conducted shall be submitted with the reimbursement request. If an itemized receipt is not submitted, OCERS will reimburse the Board or staff member up to the GSA rate for each purchased meal, upon request.

Hotels

32. Actual expenses for economical and practical lodging will be reimbursed. Reimbursement will be limited to a room considered to be in a standard class. Whenever possible, a request for a government or conference rate will be made.
33. If, at the conclusion of a business-related trip, it would be impractical for a Board member or staff member to return home the same day, the Board member or staff member will be entitled to be reimbursed for one additional night of lodging.

Airline Travel

34. OCERS' Board members and staff will use good judgment to obtain airline tickets at competitive prices. OCERS will not reimburse a Board or staff member to fly business class (or the equivalent) except in the case of international travel that exceeds six (6) hours, or first class except in extraordinary circumstances, and then only with the approval of the Board Chair or Vice Chair where the traveler is a Board member or the Chief Executive Officer, or the approval of the Chief Executive Officer where the traveler is a staff member. In addition, for total travel that exceeds four (4) hours in length, or to accommodate special travel needs, additional legroom seats or premium economy fees will be reimbursed. An individual may, at his or her own expense, pay to upgrade travel to business or first class.
35. If a significant savings can be realized on the airline fare by having a Board member or staff member extend their stay to include a Saturday night, the Board or staff member, at his or her option, may extend his or her stay in order to realize such savings. OCERS will reimburse the additional lodging and meal costs resulting from an extended itinerary, not to exceed the savings in airline fare.

Automobile Mileage

36. A Board member or staff member who uses his/her personal automobile for transportation on OCERS business will keep records of the actual mileage driven on business and will report such mileage through OCERS expense management application and will use the mileage calculator in the application or attach documentation of the miles driven (e.g., copy of map and route). Reimbursement will be made at the per-mile rate allowed by the IRS. Mileage will be reimbursed for only those miles incurred beyond the staff member's normal commute to his or her regular worksite (i.e., if an employee departs from or returns to his or her home instead of the regular worksite, only the mileage in excess of the normal daily commute will be reimbursed). In accordance with the County of Orange Memorandum of Understanding for the County General Unit and OCERS Direct Employee Policy Handbook, a staff member shall receive a minimum of \$10.00 in any month in which a staff member used his/her personal automobile but the actual mileage reimbursement would otherwise be less than \$10.00.
37. Board members who use their personal automobiles for transportation to OCERS (or to OCERS' offsite meeting locations) to attend meetings of the Board or committees of the Board or for the purpose of conducting other OCERS business will be reimbursed for actual mileage driven at the per-mile rate allowed by the IRS. The Board member will report such mileage to the CEO's Executive Assistant who will submit the claim through the OCERS expense management application and will use the mileage calculator in the application or attach documentation of the miles driven (e.g., copy of map and route).
38. A Board member or staff member who elects to use his/her personal automobile for travel will be reimbursed for mileage and parking fees up to an amount that does not exceed the cost of traveling by air, which will be calculated to include the most economical (least expensive) round-trip ticket between Orange County and the destination city, airline baggage fees, transportation to/from and parking fees at the local airport, and transportation between the destination airport

and hotel/conference site.

Parking and Tolls

39. Parking and tolls will be reimbursed.

Transportation

40. Use of taxis, hired cars, shared ride services (e.g., Uber, Lyft, Sidecar) and public transportation for OCERS business (including attendance by a Board member at meetings of the Board or committees of the Board) will be reimbursed. The most economical mode of transportation should be used whenever practicable; however, use of a transportation provider with multiple stops (e.g., shuttle) is not required.

Car Rentals

41. The use of a rental car by a Board member or staff will be reimbursed when it is economically reasonable to rent a vehicle rather than use taxis, hired cars, shared ride services or public transportation. Board members and staff are required to obtain and purchase (and OCERS will reimburse) Loss Damage Waiver and Supplemental Liability Insurance when renting vehicles on OCERS' business. Rental car discounts must be used whenever possible and appropriate. If available, a compact vehicle will be requested, unless several Board members and/or staff will be using the vehicle together.

Incidental Business Expenses

42. Incidental business expenses reasonably incurred in connection with OCERS business, such as telephone, fax, Internet access, and similar business expenses, will be reimbursed.

Porterage/Housekeeping/Other

43. OCERS will reimburse a maximum of \$15 per day of travel for porterage, housekeeping and non-meal related gratuities. Receipts are not required for these expenses.

Excluded Expenses

44. The following expenses will not be reimbursed: Alcoholic beverages, tobacco, in-room movies, barber shop, beauty shop, gifts, magazines, personal telephone calls and mini-bar charges. In the case of a trip longer than five business days or an emergency situation, laundry and dry-cleaning expenses will be reimbursed.
45. OCERS will not reimburse or pay for charges for attendance at or participation in networking, social or entertainment type events (e.g., golf, cocktail parties, excursions, outings, etc.) that are in addition to or not included in the general conference registration fee, except that OCERS will pay for NASRA-sponsored networking events that take place during, and are included in the agenda for, NASRA-sponsored conferences.

Staff Travel

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46. In furtherance of this policy, the Chief Executive Officer shall have discretionary authority to approve staff travel as necessary to carry out the administrative responsibilities of OCERS, such as attendance at legislative meetings or hearings, conducting on-site visits as part of due diligence evaluation of existing and proposed service providers, participating in continuing education programs, and other duties as directed.

Policy Review

47. This policy shall be reviewed every three years by the Governance Committee and may be amended by the Board of Retirement at any time.

Policy History

48. The Retirement Board adopted this policy on December 16, 2002, and last revised on April 15, 2024

Secretary's Certificate

I, the undersigned, the duly appointed Secretary of the Orange County Employees Retirement System, hereby certify the adoption of this policy.



4/15/2024

Steve Delaney
Secretary of the Board

Date

Report of Attendance at Conference or Seminar

Name of Member Attending: _____

Name of Conference/Seminar: _____

Location of Conference/Seminar: _____

Conference/Seminar Sponsor: _____

Dates of Attendance: _____

Total Cost of Attendance: _____

Brief Summary of Information and Knowledge Gained:

Evaluation of the Conference or Seminar:

Recommendation Concerning Future Attendance:

Signature

Return to: Executive Assistant

Copies to: Board Members
Chief Executive Officer
Assistant Chief Executive Officers