

## **GOOD GOVERNANCE** Better Returns or Bigger Costs

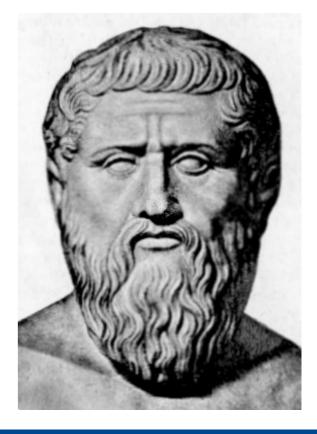
### Joseph O'Dea IAPF Investment Committee Watson Wyatt







## κυβερνάω to steer







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"I have hardly ever known a mathematician who was capable of reason." Plato.



### Judging outcomes...

- At time zero  $(t_0)$  you have capital of 100.
- One unit of time later (t<sub>1</sub>) you have capital of:
  100
  - or

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• Which do you prefer?

"A good decision is based on knowledge and not on numbers." Plato.

### ...more information



- The time unit was ten minute
- The increase in capital was achieved at a casino
- (not a strong analogy for investment)

"Better a little which is done well than a great deal imperfectly." Plato.



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## **Summary guidelines**

1.Annual consideration

### 2.Seek advice

### 3. Comply with regulations

"Jhere is no harm in repeating a good thing." Plato.



## Summary guidelines DC

4. Appropriate options – review every 3 years

5.Member objectives

6.Communications

7.Trustees own strategic design but may delegate all other tasks.

"Jhere is no harm in repeating a good thing."

Plato.



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## Summary guidelines DB

4. Risk relative to liabilities (not peers)

5.Cost & covenant – consult sponsor!

6. Review strategy at least every 3 years

7.Trustees own "Risk & Return" objectives but may delegate all other tasks.

"There is no harm in repeating a good thing."

Plato.



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## What does this mean?

- Guidelines are principle based
- Who is responsible for what?
- Advice on pension fund investment is fully regulated activity
- What would constitute compliance?

"Necessity, the mother of invention."

Plato.



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### 1. Carry out an investment strategy review at least every three years.

I. Include analysis of long term objectives (for example, "self sufficiency" or target funding level on a "buy-out" or bond basis).

### 2. High level return and risk objectives should be set by the trustees;

- I. monitoring and implementation can be delegated to an investment committee or other such arrangement;
- II. for complex structures including multiple asset classes and manager appointments trustee boards should ensure that a structure is in place to allow real time investment decision making in terms of changing asset allocation (within parameters permitted by the trustees' objectives) and removing and appointing managers; a well resourced investment committee is likely to be necessary.
- 3. Annual risk review including analysis of current and alternative strategies:
  - I. Could include Value at Risk ("VaR") analysis of current and alternative strategies;
  - II. more frequent risk monitoring may be desired especially if a wide range of asset classes and managers are employed;





#### 4. Managers should be monitored on an ongoing basis:

- I. trustees should monitor performance to ensure that it is line with expectations for the mandate.;
- II. Managers should also be monitored from a qualitative point of view;
- III. where multiple managers are employed the trustees or delegated subcommittee are likely to rely on expert advisers for ongoing advice in this area.

#### 5. At least triennial review of SIPP, more frequent as required.

#### 6. Annual review of compliance with investment regulations:

I. the trustees should go through the attached checklist with their advisers and managers to ensure that they remain compliant.

### 7. Annual review of compliance with the IAPF Investment Guidelines:

- I. trustees should review their compliance with the actions set out on this page.
- 8. Triennial assessment of expert advisers.

#### 9. At least one meetings per annum:

I. possibly quarterly or more frequent meetings will be necessary to monitor active managers and complex investment structures with sufficient time set aside to cover all of the above actions.

#### 10. Trustees should properly record their deliberations.





## Out put & time frame

- Issues for trustees, sponsors, managers, and advisers.
- Specific actions and activities.
- DB & DC
- 6 weeks
- Input from industry participants



"*"The penalty for too much haste is too little speed.*" Plato.



### **Feedback & Questions**

# "*Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.*" Plato.





### **Feedback & Questions**

#### **"I shall assume that your silence gives consent."** Plato.

