#### **SA FUNDS – Investment Trust**

#### STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

October 28, 2023

Fund Fund	Ticker Symbol
SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund	SAUFX
SA Global Fixed Income Fund	SAXIX
SA U.S. Core Market Fund	SAMKX
SA U.S. Value Fund	SABTX
SA U.S. Small Company Fund	SAUMX
SA International Value Fund	SAHMX
SA International Small Company Fund	SAISX
SA Emerging Markets Value Fund	SAEMX
SA Real Estate Securities Fund	SAREX
SA Worldwide Moderate Growth Fund	SAWMX

This Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") provides supplementary information pertaining to each of the 10 no-load mutual funds listed above (each a "Fund" and together, the "Funds"), which are series of SA Funds - Investment Trust (the "Trust"). This SAI is not a prospectus and should be read only in conjunction with the SA Worldwide Moderate Growth Fund's prospectus dated October 28, 2023 and the SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund, SA Global Fixed Income Fund, SA U.S. Core Market Fund, SA U.S. Value Fund, SA U.S. Small Company Fund, SA International Value Fund, SA International Small Company Fund, SA Emerging Markets Value Fund and SA Real Estate Securities Fund's prospectus dated October 28, 2023 (each a "Prospectus" and together, the "Prospectuses"). The financial statements and financial highlights for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, including the independent registered public accounting firm's report thereon, are included in the Trust's Annual Report and are incorporated herein by reference. Copies of the Prospectuses, Annual Report or Semi-Annual Report may be obtained by calling (844) 366-0905.

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No person has been authorized to give any information or to make any representations not contained in this SAI or in the Prospectuses in connection with the offering made by the Prospectuses, and, if given or made, such information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized by the Funds. The Prospectuses do not constitute an offering by the Funds in any jurisdiction in which such offering may not lawfully be made.

#### HISTORY AND GENERAL INFORMATION

The Trust, a Delaware statutory trust, was organized on June 16, 1998.

The Trust is an open-end, management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"). The Trust's Agreement and Declaration of Trust (the "Declaration of Trust") permits the Trust to offer separate portfolios of shares of beneficial interest and different classes of shares. The Trust currently offers shares of beneficial interest, in each case of a single class, of the following ten separate portfolios (each, a "Fund" and collectively, the "Funds"). Prior to October 26, 2022, the Trust offered Select Class shares and Investor Class shares of each Fund, with the exception of SA Worldwide Moderate Growth Fund, which only offered a single share class. The Trust may create additional series and classes from time to time.

SA Worldwide Moderate Growth Fund (an "Allocation Fund")

SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund

SA Global Fixed Income Fund

SA U.S. Core Market Fund

SA U.S. Value Fund

SA U.S. Small Company Fund

SA International Value Fund

SA International Small Company Fund

SA Emerging Markets Value Fund

SA Real Estate Securities Fund

(each, an "SA Fund" and collectively, the "SA Funds")

Buckingham Strategic Partners, LLC (the "Adviser") serves as the investment adviser to the Funds and provides administrative and certain other services to each of the Funds.

Dimensional Fund Advisors LP ("Dimensional" or the "Sub-Adviser"), a Delaware limited partnership, serves as the sub-adviser to each of the Funds except the Allocation Fund.

Foreside Financial Services, LLC (the "Distributor") is the distributor of shares of the Funds.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE FUNDS AND THEIR INVESTMENTS AND RISKS

# INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISKS

The Allocation Fund operates under a "fund of funds" structure, under which the Fund employs different asset allocation strategies by purchasing shares of the SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund, SA Global Fixed Income Fund, SA U.S. Core Market Fund, SA U.S. Value Fund, SA U.S. Small Company Fund, SA International Value Fund, SA Emerging Markets Value Fund, and SA Real Estate Securities Fund in different proportions in accordance with the Allocation Fund's investment objective and strategies set forth in its Prospectus.

Each of the SA Funds is diversified under the federal securities laws and regulations. Although the Allocation Fund is not diversified, it invests mainly in the SA Funds (except the SA International Small Company Fund).

In general, the investment strategies, investments and risks described below directly apply to the SA Funds. They indirectly apply to the Allocation Fund through its investments in the SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund, SA Global Fixed Income Fund, SA U.S. Core Market Fund, SA U.S. Value Fund, SA U.S. Small Company Fund, SA International Value Fund, SA Emerging Markets Value Fund, and SA Real Estate Securities Fund and may apply directly in the event the Allocation Fund engages in such investment strategies or makes such investments directly. Throughout this "Investment Strategies and Risks" section, references to the Adviser refer to the Adviser as adviser to the Allocation Fund and references to the Sub-Adviser refer to the Sub-Adviser to the SA Funds.

Each Fund's investment objective (goal) is a non-fundamental policy and may be changed without the approval of the Fund's shareholders. There can be no assurance that a Fund will achieve its investment objective (goal).

**Borrowing.** Each Fund is authorized to borrow money in amounts up to 5% of the value of its total assets at the time of such borrowings for temporary purposes, and is authorized to borrow money in excess of the 5% limit as permitted by the 1940 Act. This borrowing may be unsecured. The Funds do not borrow for investment purposes. The 1940 Act requires the Funds to maintain continuous asset coverage of at least 300% of the amount borrowed. If the 300% asset coverage declines as a result of market fluctuations or other reasons, a Fund may be required to sell some of its portfolio holdings within three days to reduce the debt and restore the 300% asset coverage, even though it may be disadvantageous from an investment standpoint to sell securities at that time. Borrowed funds are subject to interest costs that may or may not be offset by amounts earned on the borrowed funds. A Fund may also be required to maintain minimum average balances in connection with such borrowing or to pay commitment or other fees to maintain a line of credit; either of these requirements would increase the cost of borrowing over the stated interest rate. Each Fund may, in connection with permissible borrowings, transfer as collateral securities it owns.

Covered Bonds. The SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund, SA Global Fixed Income Fund and the Allocation Fund may invest in covered bonds, which are debt securities issued by banks or other financial institutions that provide recourse to both the issuing financial institution and a segregated pool of financial assets (a "cover pool"). The cover pool, which is intended to pay covered bond holders principal and interest when due, is typically comprised of mortgage loans or loans to public sector institutions. In the event of a default, if the cover pool assets are insufficient to satisfy the amounts owed in respect of the bonds, bondholders also have a senior, unsecured claim against the issuer of the covered bond. Market practices surrounding the maintenance of a cover pool, including custody arrangements, vary based on the jurisdiction in which the covered bonds are issued. Certain jurisdictions may provide fewer protections regarding the amount cover pools are required to maintain or the manner in which such assets are held. The value of a covered bond is affected by similar factors as other types of mortgage-backed securities, and a covered bond may lose value if the credit rating of the issuer is downgraded or the quality of the assets in the cover pool declines.

Cybersecurity Risk. Cybersecurity breaches are either intentional or unintentional events that allow an unauthorized party to gain access to Fund assets, customer data, or proprietary information, or cause a Fund or Fund service provider to suffer data corruption or lose operational functionality. Intentional cybersecurity incidents may include unauthorized access to systems, networks or devices (such as through "hacking" activity), infection from computer viruses or other malicious software code, and attacks that shut down, disable, slow, or otherwise disrupt operations, business processes or website access or functionality. In addition, unintentional incidents can occur, such as the inadvertent release of confidential information.

A cybersecurity breach could result in the loss or theft of customer data or funds, the inability to access electronic systems ("denial of services"), cyber extortion, including exfiltration of data held for ransom and/or "ransomware" attacks that renders systems inoperable until ransom is paid, loss or theft of proprietary information or corporate data, physical damage to a computer or network system, or costs associated with system repairs, any of which could have a substantial impact on the Funds. For example, in a denial of service, Fund shareholders could lose access to their electronic accounts indefinitely, and employees of the Adviser or the Funds' other service providers may not be able to access electronic systems to perform critical duties for the Funds, such as trading, net asset value ("NAV") calculation, shareholder accounting, or fulfillment of Fund share purchases and redemptions. Cybersecurity incidents could cause a Fund, the Adviser, other service providers or trading counterparties to incur regulatory penalties, reputational damage, compliance costs associated with corrective measures, significant financial loss and/or otherwise disrupt normal business operations. They may also cause a Fund to violate applicable privacy and other laws. Similar adverse consequences could result from cybersecurity breaches affecting issuers of securities in which a Fund invests; counterparties with which a Fund engages in transactions; governmental and other regulatory authorities; exchange and other financial market operators, banks, brokers, dealers, insurance companies, and other financial institutions (including financial intermediaries and service providers for the Fund's shareholders); and other parties. In addition, substantial costs may be incurred by these entities in order to prevent any cybersecurity breaches in the future. Cyber-attacks affecting a Fund, any of its service providers or any issuer in which the Fund invests may adversely impact the Fund.

Like with operational risk in general, the Funds have established business continuity plans and risk management systems designed to reduce the risks associated with cyber security. However, there are inherent limitations in these plans and systems, including that certain risks may not have been identified, in large part because different or unknown threats may emerge in the future. As such, there is no guarantee that such efforts will succeed, especially because the Funds do not directly control the cyber security systems of issuers in which the Funds may invest, trading counterparties or service providers to the Funds. Such entities have experienced cyber attacks and other attempts to gain unauthorized access to systems from time to time, and there is no guarantee that efforts to prevent or mitigate the effects of such attacks or other attempts to gain unauthorized access will be successful. There is also a risk that

cyber security breaches may not be detected. A Fund and its shareholders may suffer losses as a result of a cyber security breach related to the Fund, its service providers, trading counterparties or the issuers in which the Fund invests.

In addition, the Adviser and its affiliates have established risk management systems that seek to reduce cybersecurity risks, and business continuity plans in the event of a cybersecurity breach. However, there are inherent limitations in such plans, including that certain risks have not been identified, and there is no guarantee that such efforts will succeed, especially since the Adviser does not control the cybersecurity systems of the Funds' third-party service providers (including the Funds' transfer agent and custodian), or those of the issuers of securities in which the Funds invest. There is also a risk that cybersecurity breaches may not be detected.

Depositary Receipts. Each Fund (other than SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund and SA Global Fixed Income Fund) may purchase American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs"), which are U.S. dollar-denominated receipts representing shares of foreign-based corporations. The SA International Value Fund, the Underlying DFA Funds (as defined below), SA Emerging Markets Value Fund and the Allocation Fund may also purchase International Depositary Receipts ("IDRs"), European Depositary Receipts ("EDRs"), Global Depositary Receipts ("GDRs"), Non-Voting Depositary Receipts ("NVDRs") and other types of depositary receipts or multi-listed securities. IDRs are receipts typically issued by a foreign bank or trust company evidencing its ownership of the underlying foreign securities. EDRs, which are sometimes called Continental Depositary Receipts, are receipts issued in Europe, typically by foreign banks or trust companies, that evidence ownership of either foreign or domestic underlying securities. GDRs and other types of depositary receipts are typically issued by foreign banks or trust companies, although they also may be issued by U.S. financial institutions, and evidence ownership interests in a security or pool of securities issued by either a foreign or a United States corporation. NVDRs are typically issued by an exchange or its affiliate and do not have voting rights. Depositary receipts are generally subject to the same risks as the foreign securities they evidence or into which they may be converted, including currency risk and risks of foreign investing.

**Exchange-Traded Funds.** Each Fund may invest in exchange-traded funds ("ETFs") and similarly structured pooled investments for the purpose of gaining exposure to the equity markets while maintaining liquidity. ETFs in which the Funds invest are investment companies registered as an open-end management company, unit investment trust or other pooled investment vehicle that generally have a principal investment strategy to track or replicate a desired index, such as a sector, market or global segment ("index ETFs"). Index ETFs are primarily passively managed and traded similar to a publicly traded company. The goal of such ETFs is to correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of its reference index. The risk of not correlating to the index is an additional risk to the investors of index ETFs. The share price of an ETF may not track its specified market index, if any, and may trade below its NAV. An active secondary market in the shares of an ETF may not develop or be maintained and may be halted or interrupted due to actions by its listing exchange, unusual market conditions, or other reasons. When a Fund invests in an ETF, shareholders of the Fund indirectly bear their proportionate share of the ETF's fees and expenses.

A Fund may investment in other investment companies to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act, the rules, regulations and interpretations thereunder. As a shareholder of an investment company or other pooled vehicle, a Fund may indirectly bear investment advisory fees, supervisory and administrative fees, service fees and other fees which are in addition to the fees the Fund pays its service providers.

Foreign Currency Transactions. The Funds will conduct their foreign currency exchange transactions either on a spot (*i.e.*, cash) basis at the spot rate prevailing in the foreign currency exchange market, or through entering into forward contracts to purchase or sell foreign currencies. A foreign currency forward contract ("forward contract") involves an obligation to purchase or sell a specific currency at a future date, which may be any fixed number of days from the date of the contract agreed upon by the parties, at a price set at the time of the contract. These contracts are principally traded in the interbank market conducted directly between currency traders (usually large commercial banks) and their customers. A forward contract generally has no deposit requirement, and no commissions are charged at any stage for trades. Although foreign exchange dealers do not charge a fee for conversion, they do realize a profit based on the difference (the spread) between the price at which they are buying and selling various currencies.

Each Fund may enter into forward contracts in connection with the management of the foreign currency exposure of its portfolio. When a Fund enters into a contract for the purchase or sale of a security denominated in a foreign currency, it may desire to "lock in" the U.S. dollar price of the security. In addition, a Fund may, from time to time,

enter into a forward contract to transfer balances from one currency to another currency. The S.A. Global Fixed Income Fund may also enter into foreign currency forward contracts to hedge against fluctuations in currency exchange rates. This Fund may enter into a forward contract to buy or sell the amount of foreign currency approximating the value of some or all of the portfolio securities quoted or denominated in such foreign currency. The precise matching of the forward contract amounts and the value of the securities involved will not generally be possible since the future value of such securities in foreign currencies will change as a consequence of market movements in the value of those securities between the date the forward contract is entered into and the date it expires. The projection of short-term currency market movement is extremely difficult, and the successful execution of a short-term hedging strategy is highly uncertain. Under normal circumstances, consideration of the prospect for currency parities will be incorporated into the longer-term investment decisions made with regard to overall diversification strategies. However, the Adviser and Sub-Adviser each believe that it is important to have the flexibility to enter into such forward contracts when it determines that the best interests of a Fund will be served.

Each Fund may enter into forward contracts for any other purpose consistent with its investment objective and program.

At the maturity of a forward contract used for hedging purposes, a Fund may sell the portfolio security and make delivery of the foreign currency, or it may retain the security and either extend the maturity of the forward contract (by "rolling" that contract forward) or initiate a new forward contract.

If a Fund enters into a forward contract transaction, the Fund will realize a gain or a loss (as described below) to the extent that there has been movement in foreign exchange prices since the time the contract was entered into. Should a foreign currency depreciate during the period between a Fund's entering into a forward contract for the sale of the foreign currency, the Fund will realize a gain. Should a foreign currency appreciate during that period, the Fund will suffer a loss.

A Fund's dealing in forward contracts will generally be limited to the transactions described above. However, each Fund reserves the right to enter into forward contracts for different purposes and under different circumstances. Of course, no Fund is required to enter into forward contracts with regard to its foreign currency denominated securities and will not do so unless deemed appropriate by the Adviser or Sub-Adviser. It also should be noted that this method of hedging against a decline in the value of a currency does not eliminate fluctuations in the underlying prices of the securities. It simply establishes a rate of exchange at a future date. Not all of the notional amount of currency exposure may be hedged at any given time. Additionally, although forward contracts tend to minimize the risk of loss due to a decline in the value of the hedged currency, at the same time, they tend to limit any potential gain that might result from an increase in the value of that currency.

Although each Fund values its assets daily in terms of U.S. dollars, it does not intend to convert its holdings of foreign currencies into U.S. dollars on a daily basis. It may do so from time to time, however, and investors should be aware of the costs of currency conversion. Although foreign exchange dealers do not charge a fee for conversion, they do realize a profit based on the difference (the "spread") between the prices at which they are buying and selling various currencies. Thus, a dealer may offer to sell a foreign currency to a Fund at one rate, while offering a lesser rate of exchange should the Fund desire to resell that currency to the dealer.

The federal tax treatment of a Fund's investments in forward contracts is discussed in the section entitled "Taxes – Taxation of other Fund Investments – Hedging Transactions."

**Foreign Securities**. The SA Global Fixed Income Fund, SA International Small Company Fund, SA International Value Fund, SA Emerging Markets Value Fund and the Allocation Fund may invest directly or indirectly in foreign securities. Investors should consider carefully the substantial risks involved in securities of companies and governments of foreign nations, which are in addition to the usual risks inherent in domestic investments.

There may be less publicly available information about foreign companies comparable to the reports and ratings published about companies in the United States. Foreign companies are not generally subject to uniform accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards, and auditing practices and requirements may not be comparable to those applicable to U.S. companies. Foreign markets have substantially less volume than U.S. markets, and securities of some foreign companies are less liquid and more volatile than securities of comparable U.S. companies. In many foreign countries, there is less government supervision and regulation of stock exchanges, brokers, and listed companies than in the United States. It is possible that the U.S., other nations or other governmental entities

(including supranational entities) could impose sanctions against issuers in various sectors of certain foreign countries. This could limit a Fund's investment opportunities in such countries, impairing the Fund's ability to invest in accordance with its investment strategy and/or to meet its investment objective. In addition, an imposition of sanctions upon such issuers could result in an immediate freeze of the issuers' securities, impairing the ability of a Fund to buy, sell, receive or deliver those securities. Further, current sanctions or the threat of potential sanctions may also impair the value or liquidity of affected securities and negatively impact a Fund.

The Adviser and Sub-Adviser each endeavor to buy and sell foreign currencies on as favorable a basis as practicable; however, price spreads on currency exchange will be incurred each time currencies are sold or bought including when a Fund changes investments from one country to another or when proceeds of the sale of Fund shares in U.S. dollars are used for the purchase of securities in foreign countries. Also, some countries may adopt policies that would withhold portions of interest and dividends at the source or prevent a Fund from transferring cash out of the country. There is the possibility of expropriation, nationalization or confiscatory taxation, withholding and other foreign taxes on income or other amounts, foreign exchange controls (which may include suspension of the ability to transfer currency from a given country), default in foreign government securities, political or social instability or diplomatic developments that could affect investments in securities of issuers in foreign nations.

Foreign securities markets have different clearance and settlement procedures, and in certain markets there have been times when settlements have been unable to keep pace with the volume of securities transactions, making it difficult to conduct such transactions. Delays in settlement could result in temporary periods when assets of a Fund are uninvested and no return is earned thereon. The inability of a Fund to make intended security purchases due to settlement problems could cause the Fund to miss attractive investment opportunities. Inability to dispose of portfolio securities due to settlement problems could result in losses to a Fund due to subsequent declines in value of the portfolio security or, if the Fund has entered into a contract to sell the security, could result in possible liability to the purchaser.

A Fund may be affected either unfavorably or favorably by fluctuations in the relative rates of exchange between the currencies of different nations, by exchange control regulations and by indigenous economic and political developments. Changes in foreign currency exchange rates will influence values within a Fund from the perspective of U.S. investors and may also affect the value of dividends and interest earned, gains and losses realized on the sale of securities, and net investment income and gains, if any, to be distributed to its shareholders by a Fund. The exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and other currencies is determined by the forces of supply and demand in the foreign exchange markets. These forces are affected by the international balance of payments and other economic and financial conditions, government intervention, speculation and other factors.

Certain Funds may invest in China, and investments in Chinese companies may be made through a special structure known as a variable interest entity ("VIE"). In a VIE structure, foreign investors, such as a Fund, will only own stock in a shell company rather than directly in the Chinese company, known as the VIE. The VIE must be owned by Chinese nationals (and/or Chinese companies), which are typically the VIE's founders, to obtain the licenses and/or assets required to operate in certain restricted and/or prohibited sectors in China. The value of the shell company is therefore derived from its ability to consolidate the VIE into its financials pursuant to contractual arrangements that allow the shell company to exert a degree of control over, and obtain economic benefits arising from, the VIE without formal legal ownership. The shell company is typically set up in an offshore jurisdiction, such as the Cayman Islands, and enters into the service and other contracts with the VIE through a wholly foreign-owned enterprise based in China. The VIE structure is designed to provide foreign investors with exposure to Chinese companies that operate in certain sectors in which China restricts and/or prohibits foreign investments, such as internet, media, education and telecommunications.

While VIEs are a longstanding industry practice that is well known to Chinese officials and regulators, historically they have not been formally recognized under Chinese law and regulations regarding the structure are evolving. For example, in late December 2021, the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) released draft rules that would permit the use of VIE structures, provided they abide by Chinese laws and register with the CSRC. The new draft rules, however, may cause Chinese companies to undergo greater scrutiny and may make the process to create and/or operate VIEs more difficult and costly. It is uncertain whether Chinese officials or regulators will withdraw their acceptance of the VIE structure generally, or with respect to certain industries, or limit VIEs' ability to pass through economic and governance rights to foreign individuals and entities. The contractual arrangements with the VIE also may not be as effective in providing operational control as direct equity ownership. The Chinese equity owner(s) of a VIE could decide to breach the contractual arrangements and may have conflicting interests and fiduciary duties as compared to foreign investors in the shell company. Further, any breach or dispute under these contracts will likely fall under Chinese jurisdiction and law. Prohibitions of these structures by the Chinese

government, or the inability to enforce such contracts through Chinese courts and/or arbitration bodies, would likely cause the VIE-structured holding(s) to suffer significant, detrimental, and possibly permanent losses, and in turn, adversely affect a Fund's returns and NAV. In addition, foreign companies with securities listed on U.S. securities exchanges, including those that utilize VIE structures, may be delisted if they do not meet the requirements of the listing exchange, the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board or the U.S. government, which could significantly decrease the liquidity and value of such investments.

Futures Contracts and Options on Futures Contracts. The Funds may purchase or sell futures contracts and options on futures contracts to gain market exposure on their uninvested cash pending investment in securities or to maintain liquidity to pay redemptions or purchase or sell futures contracts or options on futures contracts for equity securities and indices of its approved markets or other equity market securities or indices. The Funds, however, do not intend to sell futures contracts to establish short positions in individual securities or to use derivatives for purposes of speculation or leveraging investment returns. Futures contracts provide for the future sale by one party and purchase by another party of a specified amount of defined securities at a specified future time and at a specified price. Futures contracts that are standardized as to maturity date and underlying financial instrument are traded on national futures exchanges. A Fund will be required to make a margin deposit in cash or government securities with a broker or custodian to initiate and maintain positions in futures contracts. Initial margin requirements are established by the futures exchange, and brokers may establish margin requirements that are higher than the exchange requirements. After a futures contract position is opened, the value of the contract is marked to market daily. If the futures contract price changes, to the extent that the margin on deposit does not satisfy margin requirements, payment of additional "variation" margin will be required. Conversely, changes in the contract value could reduce the required margin, resulting in a repayment of excess margin to a Fund. Variation margin payments are made to and from the futures broker for as long as the contract remains open. The Funds expect to earn income on their margin deposits.

Positions in futures contracts may be closed out only on an exchange that provides a secondary market. However, there can be no assurance that a liquid secondary market will exist for any particular futures contract at any specific time. Therefore, it may not be possible to close a futures position and, in the event of adverse price movements, a Fund would continue to be required to make variation margin deposits. In such circumstances, if a Fund has insufficient cash, it may have to sell portfolio securities to meet daily margin requirements at a time when it may be disadvantageous to do so. Management intends to minimize the possibility that it will be unable to close out a futures contract by only entering into futures contracts that are traded on national futures exchanges and for which there appears to be a liquid secondary market.

A Fund may purchase and sell options on the same types of futures in which it may invest.

Options on futures are similar to options on underlying instruments except that options on futures give the purchaser the right, in return for the premium paid, to assume a position in a futures contract (a long position if the option is a call and a short position if the option is a put), rather than to purchase or sell the futures contract, at a specified exercise price at any time during the period of the option. Upon exercise of the option, the delivery of the futures position by the writer of the option to the holder of the option will be accompanied by the delivery of the accumulated balance in the option writer's futures margin account that represents the amount by which the market price of the futures contract, at exercise, exceeds (in the case of a call) or is less than (in the case of a put) the exercise price of the option on the futures contract. Purchasers of options who fail to exercise their options prior to the exercise date suffer a loss of the premium paid.

As an alternative to writing or purchasing call and put options on stock index futures, a Fund may write or purchase call and put options on stock indices. Such options would be used in a manner similar to the use of options on futures contracts.

Special Risks of Transactions in Options on Futures Contracts. The risks described above for futures contracts are substantially similar to the risks of using options on futures. In addition, where a Fund seeks to close out an option position by writing or buying an offsetting option covering the same underlying instrument, index or contract and having the same exercise price and expiration date, its ability to establish and close out positions on such options will be subject to the maintenance of a liquid secondary market. Reasons for the absence of a liquid secondary market on an exchange include the following: (i) there may be insufficient trading interest in certain options, (ii) restrictions may be imposed by an exchange on opening transactions or closing transactions or both, (iii) trading

halts, suspensions or other restrictions may be imposed with respect to particular classes or series of options, or underlying instruments, (iv) unusual or unforeseen circumstances may interrupt normal operations on an exchange, (v) the facilities of an exchange or a clearing corporation may not at all times be adequate to handle current trading volume, or (vi) one or more exchanges could, for economic or other reasons, decide or be compelled at some future date to discontinue the trading of options (or a particular class or series of options), in which event the secondary market on that exchange (or in the class or series of options) would cease to exist, although outstanding options on the exchange that had been issued by a clearing corporation as a result of trades on that exchange would continue to be exercisable in accordance with their terms. There is no assurance that higher than anticipated trading activity or other unforeseen events will not, at times, render certain of the facilities of any of the clearing corporations inadequate and thereby result in the institution by an exchange of special procedures that may interfere with the timely execution of customers' orders.

<u>Additional Futures and Options Contracts</u>. Although the Funds have no current intention of engaging in futures or options transactions other than those described above, they reserve the right to do so. Such futures and options trading may involve risks that differ from those involved in the futures and options described above.

Inflation and Deflation. The Funds are subject to inflation and deflation risk. Inflation risk is the risk that the present value of assets or income of a Fund will be worth less in the future as inflation decreases the present value of money. A Fund's dividend rates or borrowing costs, where applicable, may also increase during periods of inflation. This may further reduce Fund performance. The rate of inflation in many countries worldwide has increased in recent years due to supply chain disruptions, fiscal or monetary stimulus, energy price increases, wage inflation and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, among other factors. The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the "Federal Reserve") in the United States has raised the federal funds rate from historically low levels and may continue to do so over the near to medium term. There is no guarantee that actions taken by the Federal Reserve and other governmental bodies to reduce inflation will be effective. Deflation risk is the risk that prices throughout the economy decline over time creating an economic recession, which could make issuer default more likely and may result in a decline in the value of a Fund's assets. Generally, securities issued in emerging markets are subject to a greater risk of inflationary or deflationary forces, and more developed markets are better able to use monetary policy to normalize markets.

Liquidity Risk Management. Many factors may influence the price at which a Fund could sell an investment at a given time. Investments are subject to liquidity risk when they are difficult to purchase or sell under favorable conditions. Investments in certain securities or other assets may be particularly subject to liquidity risk. A Fund's ability to sell an instrument may be negatively impacted as a result of various market events or circumstances or characteristics of the particular instrument. In addition, market participants attempting to sell the same or similar instruments at the same time as the relevant Fund may increase such Fund's exposure to liquidity risk. Investments in less liquid or illiquid investments may reduce the returns of the Fund because it may be unable to sell the investments at an advantageous time or price. Thus, a Fund may be forced to accept a lower sale price for the security, sell other investments or forego another more attractive investment opportunity. Liquid investments purchased by a Fund may subsequently become less liquid or illiquid, and harder to value.

Pursuant to Rule 22e-4 under the 1940 Act, a Fund may not acquire any "illiquid investment" if, immediately after the acquisition, the relevant Fund would have invested more than 15% of its net assets in illiquid investments that are assets. An "illiquid investment" is any investment that a Fund reasonably expects cannot be sold or disposed of in current market conditions in seven calendar days or less without the sale or disposition significantly changing the market value of the investment. The Trust has implemented a written liquidity risk management program and related procedures ("Liquidity Program") that is reasonably designed to assess and manage each Fund's "liquidity risk" (defined by the SEC as the risk that a Fund could not meet requests to redeem shares issued by the relevant Fund without significant dilution of remaining investors' interests in such Fund). Liquidity classifications will be made after reasonable inquiry and taking into account, among other matters, market, trading and investment-specific considerations deemed to be relevant to the liquidity classification of a Fund's investments in accordance with the Liquidity Program.

**Investment Company Securities.** Each Fund may invest in the securities of other investment companies, including ETFs, to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act and the rules, regulations and interpretations thereunder. The 1940 Act generally permits a Fund to purchase securities of other investment companies where no more than 10% of the value of the Fund's total assets would be invested in such securities, no more than 5% of the Fund's total assets would be invested in shares of any one investment company, and the Fund would hold no more than 3% of the outstanding voting securities of any investment company. Fund of fund arrangements must comply with the

provisions of the 1940 Act, Rule 12d1-4 under the 1940 Act, or another rule. Pursuant to Rule 12d1-4, a Fund is permitted to exceed the limits of Section 12 of the 1940 Act, described above, if the Fund complies with Rule 12d1-4's conditions, which contain elements from the SEC's prior exemptive orders permitting fund of funds arrangements, including (i) limits on control and voting; (ii) required evaluations and findings; (iii) required fund of funds investment agreements; and (iv) limits on complex structures. The Sub-Adviser may be deemed to have a conflict of interest when determining whether to invest or maintain a Fund's assets in an affiliated underlying fund. To prevent duplication of advisory fees paid to the Sub-Adviser, the Sub-Adviser has agreed that it will not receive a sub-advisory fee for certain Funds as further described herein. The Sub-Adviser and its affiliates may derive indirect benefits such as increased assets under management from investing Fund assets in an affiliated underlying fund, which benefits would not be present if investments were made in unaffiliated underlying funds. In addition, the Fund, and by extension the Fund's shareholders, will indirectly bear its pro rata share of an affiliated underlying fund's other fees and expenses, and such fees and expenses may be paid to the Sub-Adviser or its affiliates or a third party.

Investment company securities are securities of other open-end or closed-end investment companies, ETFs or unit investment trusts. However, there are statutory and regulatory exemptions from these restrictions under the 1940 Act on which a Fund may rely to invest in other investment companies in excess of these limits, subject to certain conditions. The SA International Small Company Fund and the Allocation Fund invest substantially all of their assets in the securities of other investment companies in a manner consistent with relevant provisions of and rules under the 1940 Act that allow them to do so. Investing in other investment companies involves substantially the same risks as investing directly in the underlying instruments, but the total return on such investments at the acquiring investment company level may be reduced by the operating expenses and fees of the acquired investment companies, including advisory fees. In addition, certain types of investment companies, such as closed-end investment companies and ETFs, may trade on a stock exchange or over the counter at a premium or a discount to their NAV per share. Such a premium or discount may impact the performance of the Fund's investment. Further, the securities of closed-end funds may be leveraged. As a result, a Fund may be indirectly exposed to leverage through an investment in such securities. An investment in securities of closed-end funds that use leverage may expose a Fund to higher volatility in the market value of such securities and the possibility that the Fund's long-term returns on such securities will be diminished.

Lending of Portfolio Securities. To enhance the return on its portfolio, each Fund may lend up to 33<sup>1/3</sup>% of its total assets to securities firms and financial institutions. Each loan will be secured continuously by collateral in the form of cash and/or securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities or such other collateral as may be agreed to in writing by the Funds and the securities lending agent from time to time. Depending on the type of securities loaned, a Fund will receive initial collateral valued at 100%, 102% or 105% of the market value of the loaned securities. The value of the collateral will be monitored on a daily basis, and the borrower of the securities will be required to deliver additional collateral if the market value of the collateral is less than a specified minimum percentage (in the range of 100% to 105%, depending on the type of securities loaned) of the market value of the loan. The borrower pays to the lending Fund an amount equal to any interest, dividends or other distributions received on loaned securities. The Fund retains a portion of the interest received on the investment of cash collateral and/or receives a fee from the borrower; however, the lending Fund may pay certain administrative and custodial fees in connection with each loan.

Each Fund has a right to recall a loan at any time. The Fund does not have the right to vote securities while they are on loan, but the Fund may, in its discretion, recall a loan in anticipation of voting those proxies that the Fund has determined are material to its interests.

The risk in lending portfolio securities, as with other extensions of credit, consists of the possibility of loss to a Fund due to (i) the inability of the borrower to return the securities, (ii) a delay in receiving additional collateral to adequately cover any fluctuations in the value of securities on loan, (iii) a delay in recovery of the securities, or (iv) the loss of rights in the collateral should the borrower fail financially. In addition, each Fund is responsible for any loss that might result from its investment of the borrower's collateral.

The Board of Trustees (the "Board" or the "Trustees") has appointed State Street Bank and Trust Company as securities lending agent for the Funds' securities lending activity. The securities lending agent maintains a list of broker-dealers, banks or other institutions that it has determined to be creditworthy. The Funds will only enter into loan arrangements with borrowers on this list.

**Money Market Instruments.** Each Fund may invest from time to time in "money market instruments," a term that includes, among other instruments, bank obligations, commercial paper, variable amount master demand notes and corporate bonds with remaining maturities of 397 days or less.

Bank obligations include bankers' acceptances, negotiable certificates of deposit and non-negotiable time deposits, including U.S. dollar-denominated instruments issued or supported by the credit of U.S. or foreign banks or savings institutions. Although the Funds will invest in obligations of foreign banks or foreign branches of U.S. banks only where the Adviser or Sub-Adviser deems the instrument to present minimal credit risks, such investments may nevertheless entail risks that are different from those of investments in domestic obligations of U.S. banks due to differences in political, regulatory and economic systems and conditions. All investments in bank obligations are limited to the obligations of financial institutions having more than \$1 billion in total assets at the time of purchase.

The Funds may also purchase variable amount master demand notes, which are unsecured instruments that permit the indebtedness thereunder to vary and provide for periodic adjustments in the interest rate. Although the notes are not normally traded and there may be no secondary market in the notes, a Fund may demand payment of the principal of the instrument at any time. The notes are not typically rated by credit rating agencies, but issuers of variable amount master demand notes must satisfy the same criteria as set forth above for issuers of commercial paper. If an issuer of a variable amount master demand note defaults on its payment obligation, a Fund might be unable to dispose of the note because of the absence of a secondary market and might, for this or other reasons, suffer a loss to the extent of the default. The Funds invest in variable amount master demand notes only when the Adviser or Sub-Adviser deems the investment to involve minimal credit risk.

Mortgage-Backed Securities. The SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund, SA Global Fixed Income Fund and the Allocation Fund may each invest in mortgage-backed securities. Mortgage-backed securities represent direct or indirect participations in, or are secured by and payable from, pools of mortgage loans. Those securities may be guaranteed by a U.S. government agency or instrumentality (such as Government National Mortgage Association ("Ginnie Mae")) or may be issued and guaranteed by a government-sponsored stockholder-owned corporation, though not backed by the full faith and credit of the United States (such as Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae") or Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ("Freddie Mac"), as described in greater detail below). There can be no assurance that the U.S. government will provide financial support to its agencies or instrumentalities where it is not obliged to do so. Mortgage-backed securities may also be issued by fully private issuers. Private issuers are generally originators of and investors in mortgage loans and include savings associations, mortgage bankers, commercial banks, investment bankers and special purpose entities. Private mortgage-backed securities may be backed by U.S. government agency-supported mortgage loans or some form of non-governmental credit enhancement.

Government-related guarantors (*i.e.*, not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government) include Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Fannie Mae is a government-sponsored corporation owned by stockholders. It is subject to general regulation by the Federal Housing Finance Authority ("FHFA"). Fannie Mae purchases residential mortgages from a list of approved seller/servicers that include state and federally chartered savings and loan associations, mutual savings banks, commercial banks, credit unions and mortgage bankers. Fannie Mae guarantees the timely payment of principal and interest on pass-through securities that it issues, but those securities are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government.

Freddie Mac is a government-sponsored corporation formerly owned by the twelve Federal Home Loan Banks and now owned by stockholders. Freddie Mac issues Participation Certificates ("PCs"), which represent interests in mortgages from Freddie Mac's national portfolio. Freddie Mac guarantees the timely payment of interest and ultimate collection of principal on the PCs it issues, but those PCs are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government.

Mortgage-backed securities may have either fixed or adjustable interest rates. Mortgage-backed securities are subject to prepayment risk, which is the risk that during periods of falling interest rates, an issuer of mortgages and other securities may be able to repay principal prior to the security's maturity, causing a Fund to have to reinvest in securities with a lower yield, which in turn results in a decline to the Fund's income. Because many mortgages are repaid early, the actual maturity and duration of mortgage-backed securities are typically shorter than their stated final maturity and their duration calculated solely on the basis of the stated life and payment schedule. In calculating its dollar-weighted average maturity and duration, a Fund may apply certain industry conventions regarding the maturity and duration of mortgage-backed instruments. If this determination is not borne out in practice, it could positively or negatively affect the value of a Fund when market interest rates change. Mortgage-backed securities are also subject to extension risk, which is the risk that when interest rates rise, certain mortgage-backed securities

will be paid off substantially more slowly than originally anticipated, and the value of those securities may fall sharply, resulting in a decline to the Fund's income.

Because of prepayment and extension risk, mortgage-backed securities react differently to changes in interest rates than other bonds. Small movements in interest rates (both increases and decreases) may quickly and significantly reduce the value of certain mortgage-backed securities. Tax or regulatory changes may also adversely affect the mortgage securities market. In addition, changes in the market's perception of the issuer may affect the value of mortgage-backed securities.

Mortgage-backed securities may be issued in the form of collateralized mortgage obligations ("CMOs") or collateralized mortgage-backed bonds ("CBOs"). CMOs are obligations that are fully collateralized, directly or indirectly, by a pool of mortgages; payments of principal and interest on the mortgages are passed through to the holders of the CMOs, although not necessarily on a pro rata basis, on the same schedule as they are received. CBOs are general obligations of the issuer that are fully collateralized, directly or indirectly, by a pool of mortgages. The mortgages serve as collateral for the issuer's payment obligations on the bonds, but interest and principal payments on the mortgages are not passed through either directly (as with mortgage-backed "pass-through" securities issued or guaranteed by U.S. government agencies or instrumentalities) or on a modified basis (as with CMOs). Accordingly, a change in the rate of prepayments on the pool of mortgages could change the effective maturity or the duration of a CMO but not that of a CBO (although, like many bonds, CBOs may be callable by the issuer prior to maturity). To the extent that rising interest rates cause prepayments to occur at a slower than expected rate, a CMO could be converted into a longer-term security that is subject to greater risk of price volatility.

Governmental, government-related, and private entities (such as commercial banks, savings institutions, private mortgage insurance companies, mortgage bankers, and other secondary market issuers, including securities broker-dealers and special purpose entities that generally are affiliates of the foregoing established to issue such securities) may create mortgage loan pools to back CMOs and CBOs. Such issuers may be the originators and/or servicers of the underlying mortgage loans, as well as the guarantors of the mortgage-backed securities. Pools created by non-governmental issuers generally offer a higher rate of interest than governmental and government-related pools because of the absence of direct or indirect government or agency guarantees. Various forms of insurance or guarantees, including individual loan, title, pool, and hazard insurance and letters of credit, may support timely payment of interest and principal of non-governmental pools. Governmental entities, private insurers, and mortgage poolers issue these forms of insurance and guarantees. The Adviser and Sub-Adviser consider such insurance and guarantees, as well as the creditworthiness of the issuers thereof, in determining whether a mortgage-backed security meets a Fund's investment quality standards. There can be no assurance that private insurers or guarantors can meet their obligations under insurance policies or guarantee arrangements. A Fund may buy mortgage-backed securities without insurance or guarantees, if the Adviser or Sub-Adviser determines that the securities meet the Fund's quality standards. The Adviser or Sub-Adviser will, consistent with a Fund's investment objective, policies and limitations and quality standards, consider making investments in new types of mortgage-backed securities as such securities are developed and offered to investors.

The U.S. Treasury historically has had the authority to purchase obligations of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (collectively, the "GSEs"). However, in 2008, due to capitalization concerns, Congress provided the U.S. Treasury with additional authority to lend the GSEs emergency funds and to purchase their stock. In September 2008, those capital concerns led the U.S. Treasury and the FHFA to announce that the GSEs had been placed in conservatorship. Since that time, the GSEs have received significant capital support through U.S. Treasury preferred stock purchases as well as U.S. Treasury and Federal Reserve purchases of their mortgage backed securities ("MBS"). While the MBS purchase programs ended in 2010, the U.S. Treasury announced in December 2009 that it would continue its support for the entities' capital as necessary to prevent a negative net worth. Since 2010, the U.S. Treasury has provided such support, however, no assurance can be given that the U.S. government will continue to provide support to GSEs, and these entities' securities are neither issued nor guaranteed by the U.S. Treasury. In addition, the future of GSEs remains uncertain. Congress continues to evaluate proposals to reduce the U.S. government's role in the mortgage market of GSEs, including proposals as to whether GSEs should be nationalized, privatized, restructured or eliminated altogether. Should the federal government adopt any such proposal, the value of a Fund's investments in securities issued by GSEs would be impacted. GSEs are also the subject of continuing legal actions and investigations, which may have an adverse effect on these entities. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that the GSEs will continue to be successful in meeting their obligations with respect to the debt and MBS they issue.

**Non-Domestic Bank Obligations.** The SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund, SA Global Fixed Income Fund and the Allocation Fund may each invest in non-domestic bank obligations. The SA Global Fixed Income Fund may invest in Eurodollar Certificates of Deposit, which are U.S. dollar-denominated certificates of deposit issued by offices of

foreign and domestic banks located outside the United States; Eurodollar Time Deposits ("ETDs"), which are U.S. dollar-denominated deposits in a foreign branch of a U.S. bank or a foreign bank; Canadian Time Deposits, which are essentially the same as ETDs except that they are issued by Canadian offices of major Canadian banks; and Schedule Bs, which are obligations issued by Canadian branches of foreign or domestic banks. The SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund and SA Global Fixed Income Fund may each invest in Yankee Certificates of Deposit, which are U.S. dollar-denominated certificates of deposit issued by a U.S. branch of a foreign bank and held in the United States; and Yankee Bankers' Acceptances, which are U.S. dollar-denominated bankers' acceptances issued by a U.S. branch of a foreign bank and held in the United States. Eurodollar and Yankee dollar obligations are subject to the same risks that pertain to domestic issues; notably credit risk, market risk and liquidity risk. Eurodollar and Yankee dollar obligations may also be subject to certain sovereign risks, including the possibility that a sovereign country might prevent capital from flowing across its borders. Other risks include adverse political and economic developments; changes in the extent and quality of government regulation of financial markets and institutions; the imposition of foreign withholding taxes; and the expropriation or nationalization of foreign issuers.

Government Intervention in Financial Markets. Governmental and quasi-governmental authorities may take a number of actions designed to support local and global economies and the financial markets in response to economic disruptions. Such actions may include a variety of significant fiscal and monetary policy changes, including, for example, direct capital infusions into companies, new monetary programs and significantly lower interest rates. These actions may result in significant expansion of public debt and may result in greater market risk. Additionally, an unexpected or quick reversal of these policies, or the ineffectiveness of these policies, could negatively impact overall investor sentiment and further increase volatility in securities markets. In addition, Federal, state, and other governments, their regulatory agencies, or self-regulatory organizations may take actions in response to future events that affect the regulation of the instruments in which a Fund invests, or the issuers of such instruments, in ways that are unforeseeable. Legislation or regulation may also change the way in which a Fund itself is regulated. Such legislation or regulation could limit or preclude a Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective.

The value of each Fund's holdings is also generally subject to the risk of future local, national, or global economic disturbances based on unknown weaknesses in the markets in which the Fund invests. In the event of such a disturbance, issuers of securities held by a Fund may experience significant declines in the value of their assets and even cease operations, or may receive government assistance accompanied by increased restrictions on their business operations or other government intervention. Future events may cause governments or their agencies to acquire distressed assets from financial institutions and acquire ownership interests in those institutions. The implications of government ownership and disposition of these assets are unclear, and such a program may have positive or negative effects on the liquidity, valuation and performance of a Fund's portfolio holdings. In addition, it is not certain whether the U.S. government or any other governments will intervene in response to a future market disturbance and the effect of any such future intervention cannot be predicted. It is difficult for issuers to prepare for the impact of future financial downturns, although companies can seek to identify and manage future uncertainties through risk management programs.

Political, Social and Economic Uncertainty Risk. Social, political, economic and other conditions and events (such as natural disasters, epidemics and pandemics, terrorism, sanctions, conflicts and social unrest) that occur from time to time will create uncertainty and may have significant impacts on issuers, industries, governments and other systems, including the financial markets, to which a Fund and the issuers in which it invests are exposed. As global systems, economies and financial markets are increasingly interconnected, events that once had only local impact are now more likely to have regional or even global effects. Events that occur in one country, region or financial market will, more frequently, adversely impact issuers in other countries, regions or markets, including in established markets such as the United States. These impacts can be exacerbated by failures of governments and societies to adequately respond to an emerging event or threat.

Uncertainty can result in or coincide with: increased volatility in the global financial markets, including those related to equity and debt securities, loans, credit, derivatives and currency; a decrease in the reliability of market prices and difficulty in valuing assets; greater fluctuations in currency exchange rates; increased risk of default (by both government and private issuers); further social, economic, and political instability; nationalization of private enterprises; greater governmental involvement in the economy or in social factors that impact the economy; greater, less or different governmental regulation and supervision of the securities markets and market participants and increased, decreased or different processes for and approaches to monitoring markets and enforcing rules and regulations by governments or self-regulatory organizations; limited, or limitations on the, activities of investors in such markets; controls or restrictions on foreign investment, capital controls and limitations on repatriation of invested capital; inability to purchase and sell assets or otherwise settle transactions (i.e., a market freeze); unavailability of

currency hedging techniques; substantial, and in some periods extremely high rates of inflation, which can last many years and have substantial negative effects on markets as well as the economy as a whole; recessions; and difficulties in obtaining and/or enforcing legal judgments.

For example, the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) resulted in significant disruptions to global business activity. The impact of a health crisis and other epidemics and pandemics that may arise in the future could affect the global economy in ways that cannot necessarily be foreseen at the present time. In addition to widespread disease, including COVID-19 and other pandemics and epidemics, natural or environmental disasters, such as earthquakes, fires, floods, hurricanes, tsunamis and other severe weather-related phenomena, generally have been, and can be, highly disruptive to economies and markets, adversely impacting individual companies, sectors, industries, markets, currencies, interest and inflation rates, credit ratings, investor sentiment, and other factors affecting the value of each Fund's investments. The impact of infectious diseases and natural or environmental disasters in developing or emerging market countries may be greater due to limited health care and other resources. Given the increasing interdependence among global economies and markets, conditions in one country, market, or region are increasingly likely to adversely affect markets, issuers, and/or foreign exchange rates in other countries, including the United States. These disruptions could prevent each Fund from executing advantageous investment decisions in a timely manner and negatively impact each Fund's ability to successfully execute its investment strategy or achieve its investment objectives. Any such event(s) could have a significant adverse impact on the value and risk profile of each Fund.

In addition, U.S. and global markets recently have experienced increased volatility, including as a result of the recent failures of certain U.S. and non-U.S. banks, which could be harmful to the Funds and issuers in which they invest. For example, if a bank at which the Funds or issuer has an account fails, any cash or other assets in bank or custody accounts, which may be substantial in size, could be temporarily inaccessible or permanently lost by the Funds or issuers. If a bank that provides a subscription line credit facility, asset-based facility, other credit facility and/or other services to an issuer or to a fund fails, the issuer or fund could be unable to draw funds under its credit facilities or obtain replacement credit facilities or other services from other lending institutions with similar terms. Issuers in which the Funds may invest can be affected by volatility in the banking sector. Even if banks used by issuers in which the Funds invests remain solvent, continued volatility in the banking sector could contribute to, cause or intensify an economic recession, increase the costs of capital and banking services or result in the issuers being unable to obtain or refinance indebtedness at all or on as favorable terms as could otherwise have been obtained. Conditions in the banking sector are evolving, and the scope of any potential impacts to the Funds and issuers, both from market conditions and also potential legislative or regulatory responses, are uncertain. Such conditions and responses, as well as a changing interest rate environment, can contribute to decreased market liquidity and erode the value of certain holdings, including those of U.S. and non-U.S. banks. Continued market volatility and uncertainty and/or a downturn in market and economic and financial conditions, as a result of developments in the banking sector or otherwise (including as a result of delayed access to cash or credit facilities), could have an adverse impact on the Funds and issuers in which they invest.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February 2022, the resulting responses by the United States and other countries, and the potential for wider conflict, have increased and may continue to increase volatility and uncertainty in financial markets worldwide. The United States and other countries have imposed broad-ranging economic sanctions on Russia and Russian entities and individuals, and may impose additional sanctions, including on other countries that provide military or economic support to Russia. These sanctions, among other things, restrict companies from doing business with Russia and Russian issuers, and may adversely affect companies with economic or financial exposure to Russia and Russian issuers. The extent and duration of Russia's military actions and the repercussions of such actions are not known. The invasion may widen beyond Ukraine and may escalate, including through retaliatory actions and cyberattacks by Russia and other countries. These events may result in further and significant market disruptions and may adversely affect regional and global economies. Certain industries and markets, such as those involving oil, natural gas and other commodities, as well as global supply chains, may be particularly adversely affected. Whether or not a Fund invests in securities of issuers located in Russia, Ukraine and adjacent countries or with significant exposure to issuers in these countries, these events could negatively affect the value and liquidity of the Fund's investments.

Real Estate Investments. The SA Real Estate Securities Fund and the Allocation Fund may invest in securities issued by real estate companies. In addition to the risks associated with investing in equity securities, investments in real estate companies are also subject to the risks associated with the direct ownership of real estate. These risks include declines in the value of real estate, risks associated with general and local economic conditions, possible lack of availability of mortgage funds, overbuilding, extended vacancies of properties, increased competition, increases in property taxes and operating expenses, changes in zoning laws, losses due to costs resulting from the clean-up of environmental problems, liability to third parties for damages resulting from environmental problems, casualty or condemnation losses, limitations on rents, changes in neighborhood values and the appeal of properties to tenants and changes in interest rates. In addition, certain real estate valuations, including residential real estate values, are influenced by market sentiments, which can change rapidly and could result in a sharp downward adjustment from current valuation levels.

Real estate-related instruments include securities of real estate investment trusts ("REITs"), commercial and residential MBS, and real estate financings. Those instruments are sensitive to factors such as real estate values and property taxes, interest rates, cash flow of underlying real estate assets, overbuilding and the issuer's management skill and creditworthiness. Real estate-related instruments also may be affected by tax and regulatory requirements, such as those relating to the environment.

REITs are sometimes informally characterized as equity REITs, mortgage REITs and hybrid REITs. An equity REIT invests primarily in the fee ownership or leasehold ownership of land and buildings, and derives its income primarily from rental income. An equity REIT may also realize capital gains (or losses) by selling real estate properties in its portfolio that have appreciated (or depreciated) in value. A mortgage REIT invests primarily in mortgages on real estate, which may secure construction, development or long-term loans, and derives its income primarily from interest payments on the credit it has extended. A hybrid REIT combines the characteristics of equity REITs and mortgage REITs, generally by holding both ownership interests and mortgage interests in real estate.

REITs (especially mortgage REITs) are subject to interest rate risk. Rising interest rates may cause REIT investors to demand a higher annual yield, which may, in turn, cause a decline in the market price of the equity securities issued by a REIT. Rising interest rates also generally increase the costs of obtaining financing, which could cause the value of a Fund's REIT investments to decline. During periods when interest rates are declining, mortgages are often refinanced. Refinancing may reduce the yield on investments in mortgage REITs. In addition, because mortgage REITs depend on payment under their mortgage loans and leases to generate cash to make distributions to their shareholders, investments in such REITs may be adversely affected by defaults on such mortgage loans or leases.

REITs are dependent on management skill, are not diversified, and are subject to heavy cash flow dependency, defaults by borrowers, self-liquidation, and the possibility of failing to qualify for conduit income tax treatment under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and failing to maintain exemption from the 1940 Act.

REITs are subject to management fees and other expenses. Therefore, investments in REITs will cause a Fund to indirectly bear its proportionate share of the costs of the REITs' operations. At the same time, that Fund will continue to pay its own management fees and expenses with respect to all of its assets, including any portion invested in the shares of REITs.

Repurchase Agreements. Each Fund may agree to purchase securities from financial institutions such as member banks of the Federal Reserve or any foreign bank or any domestic or foreign broker/dealer that is recognized as a reporting government securities dealer, subject to the seller's agreement to repurchase the securities at an agreed-upon time and price ("repurchase agreements"). Repurchase agreements generally are for a short period of time, usually less than a week. The Adviser or Sub-Adviser will review and continuously monitor the creditworthiness of the seller under a repurchase agreement. Repurchase agreements carry certain risks, including risks that are not associated with direct investments in securities. If a seller under a repurchase agreement were to default on the agreement and be unable to repurchase the security subject to the repurchase agreement, a Fund would look to the collateral underlying the seller's repurchase agreement, including the securities or other obligations subject to the repurchase agreement in the event of a default by the seller could involve certain costs and delays and, to the extent that proceeds from any sale upon a default of the obligation to repurchase are less than the repurchase price (e.g., due to transactions costs or a decline in the value of the collateral), the Fund could suffer a loss. In addition, if bankruptcy proceedings are commenced with respect to the seller, realization of the collateral may be delayed or limited and a loss may be incurred. Repurchase agreements involving obligations

other than U.S. government securities (such as commercial paper and corporate bonds) may be subject to special risks and may not have the benefit of certain protections in the event of the counterparty's insolvency.

The repurchase price under a repurchase agreement generally equals the price paid by a Fund plus interest negotiated on the basis of current short-term rates (which may be more or less than the rate on the securities underlying the repurchase agreement).

Securities subject to repurchase agreements will be held, as applicable, by a Fund's custodian in the Federal Reserve/Treasury bookentry system or by another authorized securities depository. Repurchase agreements are considered to be loans by a Fund under the 1940 Act.

Certain repurchase agreements that a Fund may enter into may or may not be subject to an automatic stay in bankruptcy proceedings. As a result of the automatic stay, to the extent applicable, a Fund could be prohibited from selling the collateral in the event of a counterparty's bankruptcy unless a Fund is able to obtain the approval of the bankruptcy court. Regulations adopted by prudential regulators (i.e. Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Farm Credit Administration and the Federal Housing Finance Agency) will require certain bank-regulated counterparties and certain of their affiliates to include in certain financial contracts, including many repurchase agreements and purchase and sale contracts, terms that delay or restrict the rights of counterparties, such as a Fund, to terminate such agreements, take foreclosure action, exercise other default rights or restrict transfers of credit support in the event that the counterparty and/or its affiliates are subject to certain types of resolution or insolvency proceedings. It is possible that these new requirements, as well as potential additional government regulation and other developments in the market, could adversely affect a Fund's ability to terminate existing repurchase agreements and purchase and sale contracts or to realize amounts to be received under such agreements.

**Reverse Repurchase Agreements.** Each Fund may borrow funds for temporary or emergency purposes by selling portfolio securities to financial institutions such as banks and broker/dealers and agreeing to repurchase them at a mutually specified date and price ("reverse repurchase agreements"). Reverse repurchase agreements involve the risk that the market value of the securities sold by a Fund may decline below the repurchase price. A Fund will pay interest on amounts obtained pursuant to a reverse repurchase agreement.

China A-Shares Stock Connect Risk. A Fund investing in China A-shares (equity securities of companies listed in China) that are accessible through the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect program or the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect program (together, "Stock Connect") is subject to trading, clearance, settlement, and other procedures, which could pose risks to the Fund. Trading through the Stock Connect program is subject to daily quotas that limit the maximum daily net purchases on any particular day, each of which may restrict or preclude a Fund's ability to invest in China A-shares through the Stock Connect program. Trading through Stock Connect may require pre-validation of cash or securities prior to acceptance of orders. This requirement may limit a Fund's ability to dispose of its A-shares purchased through Stock Connect in a timely manner.

A primary feature of the Stock Connect program is the application of the home market's laws and rules applicable to investors in China A-shares. Therefore, a Fund's investments in Stock Connect China A-shares are generally subject to the securities regulations and listing rules of the People's Republic of China ("PRC"), among other restrictions. Stock Connect can only operate when both PRC and Hong Kong markets are open for trading and when banking services are available in both markets on the corresponding settlement days. As such, the Shanghai and Shenzhen markets may be open at a time when Stock Connect is not trading, with the result that prices of China A-shares may fluctuate at times when a Fund is unable to add to or exit its position, which could adversely affect the Fund's performance.

Only certain China A-Shares are eligible to be accessed through Stock Connect. Such securities may lose their eligibility at any time, in which case they could be sold but could no longer be purchased through Stock Connect. Stock Connect is subject to regulations by both Hong Kong and PRC, and regulators in both jurisdictions may suspend Stock Connect trading. Stock Connect transactions are not covered by investor protection programs of either the Hong Kong, Shanghai or Shenzhen Stock Exchanges, although any default by a Hong Kong broker should be subject to established Hong Kong law.

Changes in the operation of the Stock Connect program may restrict or otherwise affect a Fund's investments or returns. Furthermore, any changes in laws, regulations and policies of the China A-shares market or rules in relation to Stock Connect may affect China A-share prices. These risks are heightened generally by the developing state of the PRC's investment and banking systems and the uncertainty about the precise nature of the rights of equity

owners and their ability to enforce such rights under Chinese law. In addition to the risks of investing through Stock Connect, significant portions of the Chinese securities markets may become rapidly illiquid, as the Chinese regulatory authorities and Chinese issuers have the ability to suspend the trading of equity securities, and have shown a willingness to exercise that option in response to market volatility and other events. The liquidity of Chinese securities may shrink or disappear suddenly and without warning as a result of adverse economic, market or political events, or adverse investor perceptions, whether or not accurate. The liquidity of a suspended security may be significantly impaired, and may be more difficult to value accurately. An investment in China A-Shares is also generally subject to the risks identified under "Foreign Securities," and foreign investment risks such as price controls, expropriation of assets, confiscatory taxation, and nationalization may be heightened when investing in China.

**Supranational Bank Obligations.** The SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund, SA Global Fixed Income Fund and the Allocation Fund may invest in the obligations of supranational banks. Supranational banks are international banking institutions designed or supported by national governments to promote economic reconstruction, development or trade between nations (*e.g.*, The World Bank). Obligations of supranational banks may be supported by appropriated but unpaid commitments of their member countries, and there is no assurance these commitments will be undertaken or met in the future.

**U.S. Government Obligations.** Each Fund may purchase obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or U.S. government agencies or instrumentalities. U.S. government securities are obligations of the U.S. Treasury backed by the full faith and credit of the United States.

U.S. government agency securities are issued or guaranteed by U.S. government agencies, or by instrumentalities of the U.S. government, such as Ginnie Mae, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Sallie Mae (also known as SLM Corp. and, formerly, the Student Loan Marketing Association), the Federal Home Loan Banks and the Tennessee Valley Authority. Some U.S. government agency securities are supported by the full faith and credit of the United States, while others may be supported by the issuer's ability to borrow from the U.S. Treasury, subject to the U.S. Treasury's discretion in certain cases, or only by the credit of the issuer. U.S. government agency securities include U.S. government agency MBS (see "Mortgage-Backed Securities" above). The market prices of U.S. government agency securities are not guaranteed by the U.S. government and generally fluctuate inversely with changing interest rates.

A high national debt and/or uncertainty regarding the status of negotiations in the U.S. government to increase the statutory debt ceiling or to approve government funding could increase the risk of default on obligations issued by the U.S. government and its agencies or instrumentalities, cause the credit rating of the U.S. government to be downgraded, increase volatility in the stock and bond markets, result in higher interest rates, reduce prices of U.S. Treasury securities, and/or increase the costs of various kinds of debt. If the U.S. government or any of its agencies or instrumentalities is negatively impacted by legislative or regulatory action (or lack thereof), is unable to meet its obligations, or its creditworthiness declines, the performance of a Fund that holds securities of the entity will be adversely impacted.

In the past, the U.S. sovereign credit rating has experienced downgrades and there can be no guarantee that it will not experience further downgrades in the future by rating agencies. The rating market, prices and yields of securities supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government may be adversely affected by a rating agency's decision to downgrade the U.S. sovereign credit rating. The foregoing risks could adversely affect the value of the Funds' investments.

Variable and Floating Rate Instruments. Each Fund may invest in variable and floating rate instruments, which provide for automatic adjustment of the interest rate at fixed intervals (e.g., daily, weekly, monthly, or semi-annually) or automatic adjustment of the interest rate whenever a specified interest rate or index changes. Debt instruments may also be structured to have variable or floating interest rates. The interest rate on variable and floating rate instruments ordinarily is determined by reference to a particular bank's prime rate, the 90-day U.S. Treasury Bill rate, the rate of return on commercial paper or bank CDs, an index of short-term tax-exempt rates or some other objective measure. To the extent applicable, variable and floating rate obligations purchased by a Fund may have stated maturities in excess of its maturity limitation if the Fund can demand payment of the principal of the instrument at least once during such period on not more than thirty days' notice. This demand feature is not required if the instrument is guaranteed by the U.S. government or an agency or instrumentality thereof. These instruments may include variable amount master demand notes that permit the indebtedness to vary in addition to providing for periodic adjustments in the interest rates. The Adviser or Sub-Adviser will consider the earning power, cash flows and other liquidity ratios of the issuers and guarantors of such instruments and, if an instrument is subject to a demand feature, will continuously monitor the financial ability of the issuer or guarantor of such instrument to meet payment on demand. Where necessary to ensure that a variable or floating rate instrument is equivalent to the

quality standards applicable to a Fund, the issuer's obligation to pay the principal of the instrument will be backed by an unconditional bank letter or line of credit, guarantee or commitment to lend.

The absence of an active secondary market for certain variable and floating rate notes could make it difficult to dispose of the instruments, and a Fund could suffer a loss if the issuer defaults or during periods the Fund is not entitled to exercise its demand rights.

Variable and floating rate instruments held by a Fund, absent a reliable trading market, will be subject to the Fund's limitation on illiquid investments if the Fund may not demand payment of the principal amount within seven days.

Warrants and Rights. Each Fund may purchase warrants or rights and also may acquire warrants or rights as a result of corporate actions involving holdings of other securities. Warrants and rights are privileges issued by corporations enabling the holders to subscribe to and purchase a specified number of shares of the corporation at a specified price during a specified period of time. Warrants and rights involve the risk that a Fund could lose the purchase price of such instruments if the right to subscribe to additional shares is not exercised prior to the warrant's expiration. Also, the purchase of warrants or rights involves the risk that the effective price paid for the warrant or right added to the subscription price of the related security may exceed the subscribed security's market price, such as when there is no movement in the level of the underlying security.

When-Issued Purchases and Forward Commitments (Delayed-Delivery Transactions). Each Fund may purchase securities on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis. When-issued purchases and forward commitments (delayed-delivery transactions) are commitments by a Fund to purchase or sell particular securities with payment and delivery to occur at a future date (usually one or two months later). These transactions permit the Fund to lock in a price or yield on a security, regardless of future changes in interest rates.

A Fund will purchase securities on a when-issued or forward commitment basis only with the intention of completing the transaction and actually purchasing the securities. If deemed advisable as a matter of investment strategy, however, a Fund may dispose of or renegotiate a commitment after it is entered into and may sell securities it has committed to purchase before those securities are delivered to the Fund on the settlement date. In these cases, the Fund may realize a taxable capital gain or loss.

When a Fund engages in when-issued and forward commitment transactions, it relies on the other party to consummate the trade. Failure of such party to do so may result in the Fund's incurring a loss or missing an opportunity to obtain a price considered to be advantageous.

The market value of the securities underlying a when-issued purchase or a forward commitment to purchase securities, and any subsequent fluctuations in their market value, are taken into account when determining the market value of a Fund starting on the day the Fund agrees to purchase the securities. The Fund does not earn interest on the securities it has committed to purchase until they are paid for and delivered on the settlement date.

Yields and Ratings. The yields on certain debt obligations, including the money market instruments in which the Funds may invest, are dependent on a variety of factors, including general money market conditions, conditions in the particular market for the obligation, the financial condition of the issuer, the size of the offering, the maturity of the obligation and the ratings of the issue. The ratings of S&P Global Ratings ("S&P"), Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's"), Fitch Ratings Ltd. ("Fitch"), Duff & Phelps Credit Rating Co., Thomson Bank Watch, Inc., and other nationally recognized statistical rating organizations (each an "NRSRO") represent their respective opinions as to the quality of the obligations they undertake to rate. Ratings, however, are general and are not absolute standards of quality. Consequently, obligations with the same rating, maturity and interest rate may have different market prices. Rating agencies may fail to make timely changes in credit ratings, and an issuer's current financial condition may be better or worse than a rating indicates.

Except as otherwise provided in the Prospectuses and this SAI, the Funds will only invest in fixed income securities rated at least "investment grade" at the time of purchase by at least one NRSRO. Investment grade debt securities are securities of medium to high quality that are rated BBB- or higher by S&P, Baa3 or higher by Moody's, or within one of the four highest ratings classes of another NRSRO or, if unrated, determined by the Adviser or Sub-Adviser to be of comparable quality. A complete list of ratings of corporate bonds and commercial paper by S&P, Moody's and Fitch is attached hereto as Appendix B.

# **Derivatives Regulatory Matters.**

**Commodity Pool Operator Exemption.** Pursuant to a claim for exemption filed with the National Futures Association on behalf of each Fund, as of the date of this SAI, the Adviser is not deemed to be "commodity pool operator" under the Commodity Exchange Act and are not subject to registration or regulation as such under the Commodity Exchange Act. Neither the Adviser nor the Sub-Adviser is deemed to be a "commodity pool operator" with respect to its service to the Funds.

**Rule 18f-4.** The 1940 Act generally limits the extent to which each Fund is able to use borrowings, together with any other senior securities representing indebtedness, to 33 1/3% of the Fund's assets under management at the time used.

Each Fund may also enter into derivative and similar transactions for hedging or investment purposes that may represent a form of economic leverage and will create risks. The SEC rule related to the use of derivatives, reverse repurchase agreements and certain other transactions by registered investment companies requires each Fund to trade derivatives and other transactions that create future payment or delivery obligations (except reverse repurchase agreements and similar financing transactions) subject to value-at-risk ("VaR") leverage limits and derivatives risk management program and reporting requirements. Generally, these requirements apply unless the Fund satisfies a "limited derivatives users" exception. When each Fund trades reverse repurchase agreements or similar financing transactions, including certain tender option bonds, it needs to aggregate the amount of indebtedness associated with the reverse repurchase agreements or similar financing transactions with the aggregate amount of any other senior securities representing indebtedness when calculating the Fund's asset coverage ratio as discussed above or treat all such transactions as derivatives transactions. Reverse repurchase agreements or similar financing transactions aggregated with other indebtedness do not need to be included in the calculation of whether a Fund satisfies the limited derivatives users exception, but for Funds subject to the VaR testing requirement, reverse repurchase agreements and similar financing transactions must be included for purposes of such testing whether treated as derivatives transactions or not. The SEC also provided guidance in connection with the new rule regarding the use of securities lending collateral that may limit each Fund's securities lending activities. In addition, each Fund is permitted to invest in a security on a whenissued or forward-settling basis, or with a non-standard settlement cycle, and the transaction will be deemed not to involve a senior security, provided that (i) the Fund intends to physically settle the transaction and (ii) the transaction will settle within 35 days of its trade date (the "Delayed-Settlement Securities Provision"). Each Fund may otherwise engage in such transactions that do not meet the conditions of the Delayed-Settlement Securities Provision so long as the Fund treats any such transaction as a "derivatives transaction" for purposes of compliance with the rule. Furthermore, under the rule, each Fund will be permitted to enter into an unfunded commitment agreement, and such unfunded commitment agreement will not be subject to the asset coverage requirements under the 1940 Act, if the Fund reasonably believes, at the time it enters into such agreement, that it will have sufficient cash and cash equivalents to meet its obligations with respect to all such agreements as they come due. These requirements may limit the ability of each Fund to use derivatives and reverse repurchase agreements and similar financing transactions as part of its investment strategies. These requirements may increase the cost of each Fund's investments and cost of doing business.

European Economic Risk. The European Union's (the "EU") Economic and Monetary Union requires member countries to comply with restrictions on interest rates, deficits, debt levels, inflation rates and other factors, each of which may significantly impact every European country. The economies of EU member countries and their trading partners may be adversely affected by changes in the Euro's exchange rate, changes in EU or governmental regulations on trade, and the threat of default or default by an EU member country on its sovereign debt, which could negatively impact the Fund's investments and cause it to lose money. The EU continues to face certain risks, including high government debt levels and possible default on or restructuring of sovereign debt in certain EU countries which may adversely impact European financial markets. A European country's default or debt restructuring would adversely affect the holders of the country's debt and sellers of credit default swaps linked to the country's creditworthiness and could negatively impact equity markets in Europe as well as global markets more generally. Recent events in Europe have adversely affected the Euro's exchange rate and value and may continue to impact the economies of every European country.

In June 2016, the United Kingdom (the "UK") approved a referendum to leave the EU (commonly known as "Brexit"). On January 31, 2020, the UK formally withdrew from the EU. Following a transition period during which the EU and the UK Government engaged in a series of negotiations regarding the terms of the UK's future relationship with the EU, the EU and UK Government signed an agreement on December 30, 2020 regarding the economic relationship between the UK and the EU. There remains significant market uncertainty regarding Brexit's ramifications, and the range and implications of potential political, regulatory, economic, and market outcomes are difficult to predict. Potential negative long-term effects could include, among others, greater market volatility and illiquidity, disruptions

to world securities markets, currency fluctuations, deterioration in economic activity, a decrease in business confidence, and an increased likelihood of a recession in the UK. Given the size and importance of the UK's economy, uncertainty about its legal, political, and economic relationship with the remaining member states of the EU may continue to be a source of instability. Moreover, other countries may seek to withdraw from the EU and/or abandon the euro, the common currency of the EU. Certain countries have applied to become new member countries of the E.U., and these candidate countries' accessions may become more controversial to the existing E.U. members. Some member states may repudiate certain candidate countries joining the E.U. upon concerns about the possible economic, immigration and cultural implications. Also, Russia may be opposed to the expansion of the EU to members of the former Soviet bloc and may, at times, take actions that could negatively impact EU economic activity.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February 2022 has resulted in sanctions and market disruptions, including declines in regional and global stock markets, unusual volatility in global commodity markets and significant devaluations of Russian currency. The extent and duration of the military action are impossible to predict but could be significant. Market disruption caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and any countermeasures or responses thereto (including international sanctions, a downgrade in the country's credit rating, purchasing and financing restrictions, boycotts, tariffs, changes in consumer or purchaser preferences, cyberattacks and espionage) could have severe adverse impacts on regional and/or global securities and commodities markets, including markets for oil and natural gas. These impacts may include reduced market liquidity, distress in credit markets, further disruption of global supply chains, increased risk of inflation, and limited access to investments in certain international markets and/or issuers. These developments and other related events could negatively impact Fund performance.

The ultimate effects of these events and other socio-political or geopolitical issues are not known but could profoundly affect global economies and markets. Whether or not a Fund invests in securities of issuers located in Europe or with significant exposure to European issuers or countries, these events could negatively affect the value and liquidity of a Fund's investments.

# TAX MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES OF SA EQUITY FUNDS

The Sub-Adviser may attempt to minimize the impact of federal income tax on the shareholders of the SA Equity Funds by managing these Funds' portfolios in a manner that may defer the realization of net capital gains and minimize ordinary income where possible.

When selling the shares of a particular issuer on behalf of one of these Funds, the Sub-Adviser may select the shares with the highest tax basis to reduce the amount of realized capital gains. In certain cases, the highest basis shares may produce a short-term capital gain. Because a Fund's net short-term capital gains are taxed as ordinary income (which is taxed at higher rates than its net long-term capital gains) when distributed to its individual shareholders, the highest basis shares with a long-term holding period for tax purposes (more than one year) may be disposed of instead. The Sub-Adviser may also seek not to dispose of a security on behalf of any of these Funds until the long-term holding period has been satisfied. Additionally, the Sub-Adviser may, when consistent with all other tax management policies for a particular Fund, sell securities to realize capital losses. Realized capital losses can be used to offset realized capital gains, thus reducing capital gain distributions. However, realization of capital gains is not entirely within the Sub-Adviser's control. Capital gain distributions may vary considerably from year to year.

The timing of purchases and sales of securities may be managed to minimize dividends to the extent possible. These Funds may not be eligible to flow through "qualified dividend income" ("QDI") to their individual shareholders or for the dividends-received deduction to their corporate shareholders with respect to certain dividends they receive if, because of timing activities, the requisite holding period for that income or deduction is not met. See "Taxes – Taxation of Fund Distributions."

These Funds are expected to deviate from their market capitalization weightings to a greater extent than the other Funds. For example, the Sub-Adviser may exclude the stock of a company that meets applicable market capitalization criteria in order to avoid dividend income, and the Sub-Adviser may sell the stock of a company that meets applicable market capitalization criteria to realize a capital loss. Additionally, while these Funds are managed so that securities will generally be held for longer than one year, they may dispose of any securities whenever the Sub-Adviser determines that such disposition would be in the best interests of their shareholders.

Although the Sub-Adviser may manage each of these Funds to attempt to reduce the realization of capital gains and taxable dividend distributions (especially non-QDI distributions) during a particular taxable year, these Funds may nonetheless distribute taxable net gains and investment income to their shareholders from time to time. Furthermore,

shareholders will be required to pay taxes on capital gains realized, if any, upon redemption of shares of any of these Funds.

# INVESTMENT LIMITATIONS

**Fundamental Limitations.** Each Fund is subject to the fundamental investment limitations enumerated in this section, which may be changed with respect to a particular Fund only by a vote of the holders of a majority of such Fund's outstanding shares. As used in this SAI, a "majority of the outstanding shares" of a Fund means the lesser of (a) 67% of the shares of the particular Fund represented at a meeting at which the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding shares of such Fund are present in person or by proxy, or (b) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of such Fund.

- 1. No Fund may invest more than 25% of its total assets in any one industry (securities issued or guaranteed by the United States government or its agencies or instrumentalities are not considered to represent industries); except that (a) SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund shall invest more than 25% of its total assets in obligations of U.S. and foreign banks and bank holding companies in the circumstances described in its Prospectus under "Principal Investment Strategies;" and (b) SA Real Estate Securities Fund shall invest more than 25% of its total assets in securities of companies in the real estate industry.
- 2. No SA Fund may, with respect to 75% of the Fund's assets, invest more than 5% of the Fund's assets (taken at a market value at the time of purchase) in the outstanding securities of any single issuer or own more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any one issuer, in each case other than securities issued or guaranteed by the United States government or its agencies or instrumentalities.
- 3. No Fund may borrow money or issue senior securities (as defined in the 1940 Act), except that a Fund may borrow (i) amounts not exceeding 33 1/3% of its total assets (including the amount borrowed) valued at the lesser of cost or market, less liabilities (not including the amount borrowed) valued at the time the borrowing is made and (ii) additional amounts for temporary or emergency purposes not exceeding 5% of its total assets.
- 4. No Fund may pledge, mortgage or hypothecate its assets other than to secure borrowings permitted by investment limitation 3 above (collateral arrangements with respect to margin requirements for options and futures transactions are not deemed to be pledges or hypothecations for this purpose).
- 5. No Fund may make loans of securities to other persons in excess of 33 1/3% of a Fund's total assets, provided that the Funds may invest without limitation in short-term debt obligations (including repurchase agreements) and publicly-distributed debt obligations.
- 6. No Fund may underwrite securities of other issuers, except insofar as a Fund may be deemed an underwriter under the 1933 Act in selling portfolio securities.
- 7. No Fund (except SA Real Estate Securities Fund) may purchase or sell real estate or any interest therein, including interests in real estate limited partnerships, except securities issued by companies (including real estate investment trusts) that invest in real estate or interests therein.
- 8. No Fund may purchase securities on margin, except for the use of short-term credit necessary for the clearance of purchases and sales of portfolio securities, but the Funds may make margin deposits in connection with transactions in options, futures and options on futures.
- 9. No Fund may invest in commodities or commodity futures contracts, provided that this limitation shall not prohibit the purchase or sale by a Fund of foreign currency forward exchange, financial futures contracts and options on financial futures contracts, foreign currency futures contracts, and options on securities, foreign currencies and securities indices, as permitted by the Funds' Prospectuses.

**Non-Fundamental Limitations.** Additional investment limitations adopted by each Fund, which may be changed by the Board of Trustees without shareholder approval, provide that a Fund may not:

- 1. Invest more than 15% of its net assets (taken at market value at the time of purchase) in securities, which cannot be readily sold or disposed of within the ordinary course of business within seven days at approximately the value at which the Fund has valued the investment;
- 2. Make investments for the purpose of exercising control or management; or
- 3. Invest in other investment companies, except as permitted under the 1940 Act and the rules, regulations, and exemptive orders thereunder.

Below are additional non-fundamental policies adopted by the Funds:

The SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund must under normal circumstances invest at least 80% of its net assets (taken at market value at the time of purchase) in U.S. issued fixed income securities.

The SA Global Fixed Income Fund must under normal circumstances invest at least 80% of its net assets (taken at market value at the time of purchase) in fixed income securities.

The SA U.S. Core Market Fund and SA U.S. Value Fund must under normal circumstances invest at least 80% of their respective net assets (taken at market value at the time of purchase) in U.S. securities.

The SA U.S. Small Company Fund must under normal circumstances invest at least 80% of its net assets (taken at market value at the time of purchase) in the securities of U.S. small cap companies.

The SA International Small Company Fund must under normal circumstances invest, through its investments in the International Small Company Portfolio of DFA Investment Dimensions Group Inc. (the "DFA Portfolio"), and indirectly, each investment company series in which the DFA Portfolio invests (each, an "Underlying DFA Fund"), at least 80% of its net assets (taken at market value at the time of purchase) in securities of small companies.

The SA Emerging Markets Value Fund must under normal circumstances invest at least 80% of its net assets (taken at market value at the time of purchase) in emerging markets investments that are defined in its Prospectus as Approved Market Securities.

The SA Real Estate Securities Fund must under normal circumstances invest at least 80% of its net assets (taken at market value at the time of purchase) in the securities of companies in the real estate industry.

None of the above fundamental or non-fundamental limitations is intended to prevent any Fund from investing all or substantially all of its investable assets in the shares of another registered, open-end investment company in a master-feeder relationship in accordance with the terms and conditions of the 1940 Act and the rules thereunder.

If a percentage limitation is satisfied at the time of investment, a later increase or decrease in such percentage resulting from a change in the value of a Fund's assets will not constitute a violation of such limitation, except that any borrowing by a Fund that exceeds the fundamental investment limitations stated above must be reduced to meet such limitations within the period required by the 1940 Act (currently three days). Otherwise, a Fund may continue to hold a security even though it causes the Fund to exceed a percentage limitation because of fluctuation in the value of the Fund's assets.

# POLICIES ON DISCLOSURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS

The Adviser and the Trust's Board of Trustees have adopted a Policy on Disclosure of Portfolio Holdings (the "Disclosure Policy"), which is intended to protect the confidentiality of the Funds' portfolio holdings information and to prevent the selective disclosure and misuse of such information. Divulging non-public portfolio holdings information to third parties is permissible only when a Fund has a legitimate business purpose for doing so and only if the recipients of such information are subject to a duty of confidentiality, including a duty not to trade on the non-public information.

#### **General Rule**

No information concerning the portfolio holdings of any Fund may be disclosed to any third party except as provided below.

# **Individuals Empowered to Authorize Disclosure**

The Trust's Chief Compliance Officer may authorize the disclosure of non-public information concerning the portfolio holdings of the Funds as further provided below.

The Adviser is responsible for administering the release of the Funds' portfolio holdings information. Until particular portfolio holdings information has been made publicly available, and except as otherwise permitted by the Disclosure Policy, no such information may be provided to any party without the written approval of the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer, which approval is subject to the conditions described below. It is prohibited for the Trust, the Adviser, the Adviser's affiliates or any other person to receive compensation in connection with their disclosure of the Funds' portfolio holdings information.

# Disclosure to Service Providers

Any and all current non-public portfolio information as frequently as daily as part of the legitimate business activities of the Funds may be disclosed to the Trust's service providers who generally need access to such information in the performance of their contractual duties and responsibilities, subject to duties of confidentiality imposed by law and/or contract. Such service providers may include, without limitation, the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser, distributor, custodian, fund accountants, administrator, sub-administrator, securities lending agent, transfer agent, independent public accountants, redemption liquidity provider, proxy voting firm, financial printer and counsel to the Trust and the non-interested Trustees of the Board. The Board of Trustees has determined that disclosure of portfolio holdings information to such service providers fulfills a legitimate business purpose and is in the best interest of the Funds' shareholders. The Trust's Chief Compliance Officer may determine to add authorized recipients only if he or she first determines that the standards under the Disclosure Policy have been met prior to such disclosure. The Adviser will monitor a recipient's use of non-public portfolio holdings information and, when appropriate, use its best efforts to enforce any agreements or law relating to the use of such information.

# Publicly Available Information

Each Fund will publicly disclose its portfolio holdings in accordance with regulatory requirements, such as the requirement to file periodic portfolio disclosure with the SEC. A Fund's portfolio holdings information is publicly available at the time such information is filed with the SEC.

The Adviser may publicly disclose all month-end portfolio holdings of all Funds after a 30-day delay. For example, the December 31<sup>st</sup> portfolio holdings may be publicly disclosed on January 30<sup>th</sup>. Any period of delay that ends on a weekend or other non-business day may be extended to the next following business day (but may not be accelerated to an earlier day). It is the responsibility of the Adviser to monitor regulatory guidance to ensure it uses permissible means to publicly disclose the Funds' portfolio holdings information.

The Adviser may provide portfolio holdings information to rating agencies such as Broadridge Financial Solutions, and the independent financial advisors that utilize the Adviser's services, through a password-protected website. These arrangements to provide information to the rating agencies and financial representatives must be in accordance with the minimum 30-day disclosure delay.

#### **Analytical Information**

The Adviser may distribute the following information concerning each Fund's month-end portfolio holdings prior to the 30-day delay period for disclosure of portfolio holdings; provided that (a) at least 15 calendar days have elapsed since the month-end to which the information relates and (b) the information has been made publicly available via the Funds' website or otherwise (but not earlier than the 15 calendar day restriction).

- <u>Top Ten Holdings</u>. Top ten holdings and the percentage of the Fund's total net assets that such aggregate holdings represent.
- <u>Sector Holdings</u>. Sector information and the percentage of the Fund's total net assets held in each sector.

• Other Portfolio Characteristic Data. Any other analytical data that does not identify any specific portfolio holding. Examples of permitted data include total net assets, number of holdings, market capitalization, P/E ratio, R<sup>2</sup> and beta.

#### Press Interviews, Broker Discussions, etc.

Officers or employees of the Adviser or the Trust may disclose or confirm portfolio holdings information, including the ownership of any individual portfolio holding position to the media, brokers, shareholders, consultants or other interested persons only if such information previously has been made publicly available in accordance with the Disclosure Policy.

# **Confidential Dissemination of Portfolio Holdings**

There are individuals and entities that may request information regarding the Funds' portfolio holdings earlier than the information becomes publicly available. The Trust's Chief Compliance Officer may, on a case-by-case basis, determine to permit such non-public disclosure of portfolio holdings information before the expiration of the applicable disclosure delay periods identified above; provided that (a) there is a legitimate business purpose for such disclosure and (b) the party receiving such information is subject to a duty to treat such information confidentially and a duty not to trade on such information. In determining whether there is a legitimate business purpose for making disclosure of a Fund's non-public portfolio holdings information, the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer should consider whether the disclosure is in the best interests of Fund shareholders and whether any conflicts of interest exist. The recipient must sign a written confidentiality agreement, or the Adviser must provide a written notice to the recipient, providing that the non-public portfolio holdings information (a) must be kept confidential, (b) may not be used to trade such portfolio holdings or to purchase or redeem shares of the Fund and (c) may not be disseminated or used for any purpose other than that referenced in the written agreement or notice.

#### **Additional Restrictions**

Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer may, on a case-by-case basis, impose additional restrictions on the dissemination of the Funds' portfolio holdings information beyond the restrictions found in the Disclosure Policy.

#### Waivers of Restrictions

The Disclosure Policy may not be waived, and no exceptions to the Disclosure Policy may be made, without the consent of the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer. Any such consents to waivers or exceptions shall be documented.

#### **Conflicts of Interest**

The Trust's Chief Compliance Officer and the Adviser will monitor and review any potential conflicts of interest between the Funds' shareholders and affiliated persons of the Trust or the Adviser, including any of the Funds' service providers, that may arise from the potential release of the Funds' non-public portfolio holdings information. Such potential conflicts of interest will be addressed by the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer based on the best interests of the Funds' shareholders.

#### **Board of Trustees Review**

The Board of Trustees oversees the implementation of the Disclosure Policy and shall receive reports from the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer relating to (1) the addition of any new service provider or other third party as an authorized recipient of a Fund's non-public portfolio holdings, (2) any material violations of the Disclosure Policy (3) any waivers of or exceptions to the Disclosure Policy, and (4) any potential conflicts of interest and the resolution of such matters.

# **Disclosures Required by Law**

Nothing contained in the Disclosure Policy is intended to prevent the disclosure of portfolio holdings information as may be required by applicable law. For example, the Adviser, the Trust, or any of their affiliates or service providers may file any report required by applicable law (such as Schedules 13D, 13G and 13F), respond to requests from regulators and comply with any valid subpoena.

#### MANAGEMENT OF THE TRUST

# **BOARD OF THE TRUST**

Board Composition and Leadership Structure. The Board is responsible for managing the business and affairs of the Trust. The Board meets at least quarterly to review the investment performance of each Fund and other matters, including policies and procedures with respect to compliance with regulatory and other requirements. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the Board held six meetings, and each Board member attended 100% of such meetings and of meetings of the committees on which he served during the periods that he served.

The Board has four members, one of whom is an interested person of the Adviser (the "Interested Trustee") and three of whom are not "interested persons" of the Adviser, including its affiliates, the Sub-Adviser or the Trust (the "Independent Trustees"). The Interested Trustee and the Independent Trustees interact directly with the senior management of the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser at scheduled meetings and at special meetings as appropriate. The Independent Trustees regularly discuss matters outside of the presence of management and are advised by their own experienced independent legal counsel. The Board's independent legal counsel participates in Board meetings and interacts with the Adviser. Each Independent Trustee is also a member of the Audit Committee and the Governance and Nominating Committee, and from time to time one or more Independent Trustees may be designated, formally or informally, to take the lead in addressing with management or the Board's independent legal counsel matters or issues of concern to the Board. The Board and its committees have the ability to engage other experts as appropriate.

The Board has appointed Bryan W. Brown to act as Chairman of the Board. The Chairman's primary responsibilities are (i) to participate in the preparation of the agenda for meetings of the Board; (ii) to preside at all meetings of the Board; (iii) to act as the Board's liaison with management between meetings of the Board; and (iv) to act as the primary contact for Board communications. The Chairman may perform such other functions as may be requested by the Board from time to time. Except for any duties specified herein or pursuant to the Trust's Declaration of Trust or By-laws, the designation as Chairman does not impose on such Independent Trustee any duties, obligations or liability that is greater than the duties, obligations or liability imposed on such person as a member of the Board generally.

The Board has determined that its leadership structure is appropriate in light of the services that the Adviser, the Adviser's affiliates and the Sub-Adviser provide to the Trust and potential conflicts of interest that could arise from these relationships. The Board evaluates its performance on an annual basis.

Board's Oversight Role in Management. The Board's role in management of the Trust is oversight. As is the case with virtually all investment companies (as distinguished from operating companies), service providers to the Trust have the responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Funds, which includes the responsibility for risk management (including management of investment performance and investment risk, valuation risk, issuer and counterparty credit risk, compliance risk and operational risk). As part of its oversight, the Board, acting at its scheduled meetings, or the Chairman, acting between Board meetings, regularly interacts with and receives reports from senior personnel of the Adviser, Sub-Adviser and other service providers, the Trust's and the Adviser's Chief Compliance Officer and portfolio management personnel. The Board also receives periodic presentations from senior personnel of the Adviser or its affiliates and the Sub-Adviser regarding risk management generally, as well as periodic presentations regarding specific operational, compliance or investment areas. The Board also receives reports from counsel to the Trust or counsel to the Adviser and the Board's own independent legal counsel regarding regulatory compliance and governance matters. The Board has adopted policies and procedures designed to address certain risks to the Funds. In addition, the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser and other service providers to the Funds have adopted a variety of policies, procedures and controls designed to address particular risks to the Funds. Different processes, procedures and controls are employed with respect to different types of risks. However, it is not possible to eliminate all of the risks applicable to the Funds. The Board's oversight role does not make the Board a guarantor of the Funds' investments or activities.

<u>Information About Each Board Member's Experience, Qualifications, Attributes or Skills</u>. Board members of the Trust, together with information as to their positions with the Trust, principal occupations and other board memberships for the past five years, are shown below.

# **Independent Trustees**

Name, Address <sup>(1)</sup> and Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with Trust and Length of Time Served <sup>(2)</sup>	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee	Other Trusteeships/ Directorships Held
<u>Trustees:</u>				
Bryan W. Brown Year of Birth: 1945	Trustee (since April 1999)  Chairman (since December 2004)	Self-Employed Management Consultant (financial and technological systems) (since 1992).	10	Director/Officer, Kilohana Martial Arts Association (since June 2018).
Charles M. Roame Year of Birth: 1965	Trustee (since June 2012)	Managing Partner, Tiburon Strategic Advisors (advisor to and investor in financial service companies) & Tiburon CEO Summits (conference events for C-suite executives) (since 1998).	10	Director, Edelman Financial Engines (provider of financial planning & investment advisory services) (since January 2014); Director, FacetWealth (provider of financial planning services) (since February 2018); Director, DPL Financial Partners (insurance management platform) (since February 2022). Director, Allspring Global Investments (financial services) (since May 2022).
II11M Cl. C.	Т	Frankrau I. a. C. a.	10	Т
Harold M. Shefrin Year of Birth: 1948	Trustee (since April 1999)	Faculty member, Santa Clara University (since 1978).	10	Trustee, Litman Gregory Funds Trust (11 portfolios) (since February 2005).

# INTERESTED TRUSTEE AND OFFICERS OF THE TRUST

Name, Address <sup>(1)</sup> and Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with Trust and Length of Time Served <sup>(2)</sup>	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee	Other Trusteeships/ Directorships Held
Jonathan Scheid Year of Birth: 1976	Trustee (since September 2023) and President and Chief Executive Officer (since June 2023).	President, Buckingham Strategic Partners (since 2023); Managing Director, Buckingham Wealth Partners (2022 - September 2023); Managing Director, Buckingham Strategic Partners (2019 – 2021); Vice President, Buckingham Strategic Partners (2018 – 2019).	10	None
Dan Anderson Year of Birth: 1976	Chief Financial and Accounting Officer and Treasurer (since April 2023).	Chief Financial Officer, Buckingham Strategic Wealth, LLC and Buckingham Strategic Partners, LLC (since January 2018; Chief Financial Officer, BAM Management LLC (since January 2018).	N/A	None
Jeff Yorg Year of Birth: 1977	Chief Compliance Officer and Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer (since July 1, 2022).	Chief Compliance Officer and Associate General Counsel, Buckingham Strategic Partners, LLC (since October 2019); Chief Compliance Officer, Head of Compliance Legal and Risk, and Deputy Chief Risk Officer, Gurtin Municipal Bond Management, LLC (2014 – 2019).	N/A	None
Marcy Tsagarakis Year of Birth: 1971	Secretary (since June 2006).	Director, Fund Administration, Buckingham Strategic Partners, LLC (since November 2018); Vice President, Fund Administration, LWI Financial Inc. (2005 – 2018).	N/A	None

<sup>(1)</sup> The address of each Trustee and officer is: Buckingham Strategic Partners, LLC, 8182 Maryland Avenue, Suite 500, St. Louis, Missouri 63105.

The Board believes that the significance of each Board member's experience, qualifications, attributes or skills is an individual matter (meaning that experience that is important for one Board member may not have the same value for another) and that these factors are best evaluated at the board level, with no single Board member, or particular factor, being indicative of Board effectiveness. However, the Board believes that Board members need to have the

Each Trustee serves for the lifetime of the Trust or until he dies, resigns, or is removed. The Trust's officers are appointed annually by the Board.

ability to critically review, evaluate, question and discuss information provided to them, and to interact effectively with Trust management, service providers and counsel, in order to exercise effective business judgment in the performance of their duties; the Board believes that its members satisfy this standard. Information about each Board member below describes some of the specific experiences, qualifications, attributes or skills that each Board member possesses, which the Board believes has prepared them to be effective Board members.

- <u>Bryan W. Brown</u> Mr. Brown is a self-employed management consultant for financial and technological systems since 1992. In addition to that role he has served as the Chief Financial Officer for various companies in the biotechnology, pharmaceutical and life science industries.
- <u>Charles M. Roame</u> Mr. Roame has worked as a strategic consultant to financial service companies for approximately 35 years. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Edelman Financial Engines, FacetWealth, DPL Financial Partners and Allspring Global Investments, and has served on the boards of other financial services companies.
- <u>Harold M. Shefrin</u> Mr. Shefrin has served as a Professor of Finance at Santa Clara University since 1978. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of another mutual fund complex.
- <u>Jonathan Scheid</u> Mr. Scheid has been employed by Buckingham Strategic Partners, LLC in a variety of roles since its merger with LWI Financial Inc. in 2018.

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE BOARD AND ITS COMMITTEES

The Board has an Audit Committee consisting of all of the Independent Trustees. The Audit Committee operates pursuant to a written Audit Committee Charter. The principal functions of the Audit Committee are to: oversee the Trust's accounting and financial reporting processes and its internal control over financial reporting; oversee the quality and integrity of the Trust's financial statements and the independent audit thereof; approve prior to appointment the Trust's independent auditors, and in connection therewith, evaluate the independence of the independent auditors; review with the independent auditors the scope and results of the annual audit; and review the performance and approve all fees charged by the independent auditors for audit, audit-related and other professional services. The Audit Committee held three meetings during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

The Board has a Governance and Nominating Committee consisting of all of the Independent Trustees. The Governance and Nominating Committee operates pursuant to a written Governance and Nominating Committee Charter. The principal functions of the Governance and Nominating Committee are to: annually evaluate the performance of the Board and its various committees; periodically review the composition, responsibilities and functions of the Board and each Board committee; recommend the selection and nomination of candidates for Independent Trustees, whether proposed to be appointed by the Board or to be elected by shareholders; nominate candidates for Chairman of the Board and for the various committees for selection by the Board; and review at least every two years the compensation paid to Independent Trustees. The Governance and Nominating Committee does not consider nominees recommended by the Funds' shareholders. The Governance and Nominating Committee held two meetings during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

# **COMPENSATION TABLE**

For their services as Trustees, each Independent Trustee receives a \$118,000 annual retainer fee, as well as reimbursement for expenses incurred in connection with attendance at Board and Committee meetings. The Chairman of the Board receives an additional \$11,800 per year in compensation from the Trust. Trustees who are "interested persons" of the Trust and the executive officers of the Trust receive no compensation from the Trust for their respective services as trustees and officers. The following table summarizes the compensation paid by the Trust to each Independent Trustee in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

Name of Trustee	Compensation from the Trust	Pension or Retirement Benefits	Aggregate Compensation from the Fund Complex <sup>(1)</sup>
Bryan W. Brown	\$132,000	None	\$132,000
Harold M. Shefrin	\$120,000	None	\$120,000
Charles M. Roame	\$120,000	None	\$120,000
Jonathan Scheid	None	None	None

<sup>(1)</sup> At June 30, 2023, the Fund Complex consisted of the ten Funds.

#### TRUSTEE OWNERSHIP OF FUND SHARES

As of September 30, 2023, the Trustees and officers of the Trust, as a group, owned less than 1% of the outstanding shares of each of the Funds.

The tables below show the dollar range of shares of each Fund as well as the dollar range of shares of all of these Funds beneficially owned by each Trustee as of December 31, 2022.

# **Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Funds**

Name of	SA U.S. Fixed	<b>SA Global Fixed</b>	SA U.S. Core	SA U.S.	SA U.S. Small
Trustee	<b>Income Fund</b>	<b>Income Fund</b>	Market Fund	Value Fund	Company Fund
Bryan W. Brown	None	\$10,001-\$50,000	Over \$100,000	\$50,001-\$100,000	\$10,001-\$50,000
Harold M. Shefrin	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000
Charles M. Roame	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000
Jonathan Scheid	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

		SA International	SA Emerging		SA Worldwide
Name of	SA International	Small Company	Markets Value	SA Real Estate	<b>Moderate Growth</b>
Trustee	Value Fund	Fund	Fund	Securities Fund	Fund
Bryan W. Brown	\$50,001-\$100,000	\$10,001-\$50,000	\$10,001-\$50,000	\$10,001-\$50,000	None
Harold M. Shefrin	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000	\$50,001-\$100,000	\$50,001-\$100,000	None
Charles M. Roame	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000
Jonathan Scheid	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Trust and All Registered Investment Companies in the Family of

Name of Trustee	Investment Companies Overseen by the Trustees
Bryan W. Brown	Over \$100,000
Harold M. Shefrin	Over \$100,000
Charles M. Roame	Over \$100,000
Jonathan Scheid	N/A

As of December 31, 2022, no Independent Trustee or any of their immediate family members owned beneficially or of record any securities of, or had any direct or indirect material interest in, the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser or the Distributor or any person controlling, controlled by or under common control with such persons. Mr. Roame is the managing partner of Tiburon Strategic Advisors ("Tiburon"). The Adviser has purchased off-the-shelf research reports from and attended conferences sponsored by Tiburon. The aggregate fees paid by the Adviser to Tiburon during the two most recently completed calendar years did not exceed \$120,000.

#### **CODES OF ETHICS**

The Trust, the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser have each adopted a code of ethics under Rule 17j-1 of the 1940 Act. These codes of ethics permit, subject to certain conditions, personnel of each of those entities to invest in securities that may be purchased or held by the Funds. The Distributor relies on the principal underwriters exception under Rule 17j-1(c)(3), specifically where the Distributor is not affiliated with the Trust or the Adviser, and no officer, director or general partner of the Distributor serves as an officer, director or general partner of the Trust or the Adviser. Each code of ethics, filed as an exhibit to the registration statement, of which this SAI is a part, may be examined at the office of the SEC in Washington, D.C. or on the Internet at the SEC's website at http://www.sec.gov.

#### PROXY VOTING POLICIES

# **Allocation Fund**

As owners of certain of the SA Funds, the Allocation Fund, the Adviser, or the Trust (on behalf of the Allocation Fund) will vote proxies in the same proportion as the vote of all other holders of such SA Funds.

# **SA Funds**

The Trust has adopted proxy voting policies and procedures that delegate to the Sub-Adviser (Dimensional) the authority to vote proxies for the SA Funds, subject to the oversight of the Trustees. A copy is provided in Appendix A to this SAI.

The Sub-Adviser has adopted certain Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures (the "Voting Policies") and Proxy Voting Guidelines (the "Voting Guidelines") for voting proxies on behalf of its clients. A copy is provided in Appendix B to this SAI.

When applicable, information regarding how the Funds voted proxies relating to their portfolio securities during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 is available on or about August 31<sup>st</sup> (1) without charge, upon request, by calling the Funds at (844) 366-0905 and (2) on the SEC's website at <a href="http://www.sec.gov">http://www.sec.gov</a>.

#### CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS OF SECURITIES

As of October 1, 2023, the persons shown in the table below were known to the SA Funds to own, beneficially or of record, more than 5% of the outstanding shares of a SA Funds. The nature of ownership for each position listed is "of record."

NAME AND ADDRESS	PERCENTAGE OF OWNERSHIP
Pershing LLC (1)	41.20%
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. (2)	44.30%
Pershing LLC (1)	41.04%
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. (2)	44.37%
Pershing LLC (1)	38.78%
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. (2)	45.85%
Pershing LLC (1)	42.38%
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. (2)	43.42%
Pershing LLC (1)	42.88%
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. (2)	43.98%
Pershing LLC (1)	41.89%
	Pershing LLC <sup>(1)</sup> Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. <sup>(2)</sup> Pershing LLC <sup>(1)</sup> Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. <sup>(2)</sup> Pershing LLC <sup>(1)</sup> Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. <sup>(2)</sup> Pershing LLC <sup>(1)</sup> Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. <sup>(2)</sup> Pershing LLC <sup>(1)</sup> Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. <sup>(2)</sup>

FUND	NAME AND ADDRESS	PERCENTAGE OF OWNERSHIP
	Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. (2)	44.38%
	TD Ameritrade, Inc. (3)	
SA International Small Company Fund	Pershing LLC (1)	44.15%
	Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. (2)	43.11%
SA Emerging Markets Value Fund	Pershing LLC (1)	43.18%
	Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. (2)	43.15%
SA Real Estate Securities Fund	Pershing LLC (1)	44.50%
	Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. (2)	42.09%
SA Worldwide Moderate Growth Fund	Pershing LLC (1)	34.10%
	Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. (2)	52.99%

DEDCENTACE

 Special Custody Account for the Exclusive Benefit of Customers Attn: Mutual Funds
 211 Main St.
 San Francisco, CA 94105-1905

# INVESTMENT ADVISORY AND OTHER SERVICES

The Trust has no employees. To conduct its day-to-day activities, the Trust has hired a number of service providers. Each service provider performs a specific function on behalf of the Trust, as described below.

#### INVESTMENT ADVISER AND SUB-ADVISER

The Trust, on behalf of the Allocation Fund, has entered into an Investment Advisory and Administrative Services Agreement with the Adviser. The Trust, on behalf of the SA Funds, has entered into a separate Investment Advisory and Administrative Services Agreement with the Adviser (each such agreement, an "Investment Advisory Agreement" and together, the "Investment Advisory Agreements"). The Adviser is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Focus Financial Partners, Inc. ("Focus Inc."). Focus Inc. is majority owned, indirectly and collectively, by funds affiliated with Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, LLC ("CD&R"). Funds affiliated with Stone Point Capital LLC ("Stone Point" are indirect owners of Focus Inc. Because BSP is an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Focus Inc., CD&R and Stone Point funds are indirect owners of BSP.

Each Investment Advisory Agreement has an initial term of two years from their effective date with respect to a Fund and will continue in effect with respect to such Fund (unless terminated sooner) if their continuance is specifically approved annually by (a) the vote of a majority of the Independent Trustees, cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on the approval, and (b) either (i) the vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the affected Fund, or (ii) the vote of a majority of the Board of Trustees. The New Investment Advisory Agreements will be terminable with respect to a Fund by a vote of the Board of Trustees or by the holders of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of that Fund, at any time without penalty, on 60 days' written notice to the Adviser. The Adviser may also terminate its advisory relationship with respect to a Fund without penalty on 60 days' written notice to the Trust, as applicable. Each Investment Advisory Agreements will terminate automatically in the event of their assignment (as defined in the 1940 Act).

#### **Allocation Fund**

Pursuant to the Investment Advisory Agreement for the Allocation Fund, the Adviser is responsible for the management of all assets of the Allocation Fund, including allocation decisions among the SA Funds in which the Allocation Fund invests.

<sup>1</sup> Pershing Plaza Jersey City, NJ 07399-2052

The management fee for the Allocation Fund has two components. For the advisory services provided, the Allocation Fund is not obligated to pay a management fee for assets invested in the SA Funds, any other investment companies advised or sub-advised by the Adviser, money market funds or held in cash or cash equivalents. For its investment advisory services related to any other assets, the Adviser is entitled to receive from the Allocation Fund a fee computed daily and payable monthly at an annual rate of: 0.25% of the average daily net assets of the Allocation Fund's assets invested in such investments.

The shareholder servicing fee for the Allocation Fund has two components. For the shareholder services provided, the Allocation Fund is not obligated to pay a shareholder servicing fee for assets invested in the SA Funds, any other investment companies advised or subadvised by the Adviser, money market funds or held in cash or cash equivalents. For its shareholder services related to any other assets, the Adviser is entitled to receive from the Allocation Fund a fee computed daily and payable monthly at an annual rate of: 0.25% of the average daily net assets of the Allocation Fund's assets invested in such investments.

The administration fee for the Allocation Fund has two components. For the administrative services provided, the Allocation Fund is not obligated to pay an administration fee for assets invested in the SA Funds, any other investment companies advised or sub-advised by the Adviser, money market funds or held in cash or cash equivalents. For its administrative services related to any other assets, the Adviser is entitled to receive from the Allocation Fund a fee computed daily and payable monthly at an annual rate of: 0.10% of the average daily net assets of the Allocation Fund's assets invested in such investments.

# **SA Funds**

Pursuant to the Investment Advisory Agreement for the SA Funds, the Adviser supervises and monitors the implementation of the SA Funds' investment programs by the Sub-Adviser. Pursuant to the Investment Advisory Agreement, the Adviser oversees the administration of the Trust's business and affairs and provides certain services required for effective administration of the Trust.

For its investment advisory services and administrative services to the SA Funds, the Adviser is entitled to receive from each SA Fund a fee computed daily and payable monthly at the annual rate set forth below:

Fund	Annual Fee Rate (as a percentage of average daily net assets)
SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund	0.15%
SA Global Fixed Income Fund	0.25%
SA U.S. Core Market Fund	0.40%
SA U.S. Value Fund	0.40%
SA U.S. Small Company Fund	0.40%
SA International Value Fund	0.45%
SA International Small Company Fund	0.25%
SA Emerging Markets Value Fund	0.45%
SA Real Estate Securities Fund	0.35%
SA Worldwide Moderate Growth Fund	0.00%*

<sup>\*</sup> For the SA Worldwide Moderate Growth Fund, there is no management fee on assets invested in the Underlying SA Funds, any other investment companies advised or sub-advised by the Adviser, money market funds or held in cash or cash equivalents. The Fund would be subject to a management fee of 0.25% on assets invested in any other investments. The Fund does not currently intend to make investments that would be subject to a management fee.

Prior to October 26, 2022, the Adviser was entitled to receive from each SA Fund separate advisory fees and administrative fees computed daily and payable monthly at the annual rates set forth below:

Fund	Advisory Fee	Administrative Fee
SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund	0.15%	0.10%
SA Global Fixed Income Fund	0.25%	0.10%
SA U.S. Core Market Fund	0.40%	0.10%
SA U.S. Value Fund	0.40%	0.10%
SA U.S. Small Company Fund	0.40%	0.10%
SA International Value Fund	0.45%	0.10%
SA International Small Company Fund	0.25%	0.10%
SA Emerging Markets Value Fund	0.45%	0.10%
SA Real Estate Securities Fund	0.35%	0.10%

With respect to the SA Funds, the Adviser and the Trust have entered into an Investment Sub-Advisory Agreement (the "Sub-Advisory Agreement") with the Sub-Adviser. Dimensional Holdings Inc. ("Dimensional Holdings") is the general partner of the Sub-Adviser, and directly and indirectly, owns more than 96% of the partnership interest of the Sub-Adviser. David G. Booth is the Executive Chairman of Dimensional Holdings and may be deemed a controlling person of the Sub-Adviser as a shareholder of more than 25% but less than 50% of Dimensional Holding's outstanding stock.

The Sub-Advisory Agreement has an initial term of two years from its effective date with respect to a Fund and will continue in effect with respect to such Fund (unless terminated sooner) if its continuance is specifically approved annually by (a) the vote of a majority of the Independent Trustees, cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on the approval, and (b) either (i) the vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the affected Fund, or (ii) the vote of a majority of the Board of Trustees. The Sub-Advisory Agreement is terminable with respect to a Fund by a vote of the Board of Trustees or by the holders of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of that Fund, at any time without penalty, on 60 days' written notice to the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser. The Sub-Adviser may also terminate its advisory relationship with respect to a Fund without penalty on 60 days' written notice to the Trust, as applicable. The Sub-Advisory Agreement will terminate automatically in the event of its assignment (as defined in the 1940 Act).

Under the terms of the Sub-Advisory Agreement, the Sub-Adviser provides sub-advisory services to each SA Fund. Subject to the supervision of the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser is responsible for the management of all assets of the SA Funds, including decisions regarding purchases and sales of portfolio securities by the SA Funds. The Sub-Adviser is also responsible for arranging the execution of portfolio management decisions, including the selection of brokers to execute trades and the negotiation of brokerage commissions in connection therewith.

For the sub-advisory services it provides to each SA Fund (other than SA International Small Company Fund, as further described below), the Sub-Adviser is entitled to a fee computed daily and payable monthly at an annual rate based on each SA Fund's average daily net assets as set forth below. (The Trust pays to the Adviser the fees payable to the Sub-Adviser. The Adviser in turn pays these fees to the Sub-Adviser.) The Sub-Adviser receives investment management fees from the DFA Portfolio in which the SA International Small Company Fund invests for investment management services provided to that DFA Portfolio, as well as investment management fees from the DFA Portfolio's Underlying DFA Funds for investment management services provided to those Underlying DFA Funds. In order to prevent duplication of advisory fees to the Sub-Adviser, the Sub-Adviser has agreed that it will not receive a sub-advisory fee for its services to SA International Small Company Fund. In addition, the Sub-Adviser will not receive any sub-advisory fee for its sub-advisory services to SA U.S. Core Market Fund with respect to that Fund's assets invested in the U.S. Micro Cap Portfolio. For its investment management services with respect to the U.S. Micro Cap Portfolio, the Sub-Adviser receives an investment management fee from the U.S. Micro Cap Portfolio.

# Annual Fee Rate (as a percentage of average daily

<b>Fund</b>	net assets)
SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund	0.03%
SA Global Fixed Income Fund	0.03%
SA U.S. Core Market Fund	0.03%
SA U.S. Value Fund	0.10%
SA U.S. Small Company Fund	0.20%
SA International Value Fund	0.20%
SA Emerging Markets Value Fund	0.36%
SA Real Estate Securities Fund	0.10%

# Fee Waiver and Expense Reimbursement

The Adviser has contractually agreed, pursuant to a Fee Waiver and Expense Reimbursement Letter Agreement (the "SA Funds Fee Waiver Agreement"), to waive the fees payable to it under the Investment Advisory Agreement and/or to reimburse the operating expenses allocated to an SA Fund to the extent each SA Fund's shares' total annual operating expenses (excluding interest, taxes, brokerage commissions, redemption liquidity service expenses, acquired fund fees and expenses, and extraordinary expenses) exceed, in the aggregate, the rate per annum, as set forth below. The SA Funds Fee Waiver Agreement will remain in effect until October 28, 2025, at which time it may be continued, modified or eliminated and net expenses will be adjusted as necessary.

**Fund Expense Limitation** 

(Shown is the resulting ratio of total annual fund operating expenses expressed as a percentage)\*

<u> </u>	
SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund	0.40%
SA Global Fixed Income Fund	0.55%
SA U.S. Core Market Fund	0.65%
SA U.S. Value Fund	0.75%
SA U.S. Small Company Fund	0.90%
SA International Value Fund	0.90%
SA International Small Company Fund	0.55%
SA Emerging Markets Value Fund	1.04%
SA Real Estate Securities Fund	0.75%

<sup>\*</sup> Effective October 26, 2022, the SA Funds Fee Waiver Agreement was amended, in connection with the conversion of the Funds' former Select Class shares into the former Investor Class shares, to reduce the expense cap for the Investor Class shares of the SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund, the SA Global Fixed Income Fund, the SA U.S. Core Market Fund, the SA U.S. Value Fund, the SA U.S. Small Company Fund, the SA International Value Fund, the SA International Small Company Fund, the SA Emerging Markets Value Fund and the SA Real Estate Securities Fund from 0.65%, 0.75%, 0.90%, 1.00%, 1.10%, 1.15%, 0.75%, 1.24% and 0.95%, respectively. In addition, prior to October 26, 2022, the Adviser contractually agreed to waive the fees payable to it under the Investment Advisory Agreement and/or reimburse the total annual operating expenses allocated to an SA Fund with the effect that (1) the former Select Class shares' total annual operating expenses (excluding interest, taxes, brokerage commissions, acquired fund fees and expenses, and extraordinary expenses) were 0.20% lower than the former Investor Class shares' total annual operating expenses after fee waiver and/or expense reimbursement; and (2) the former Select Class shares' total annual operating expenses (excluding interest, taxes, brokerage commissions, acquired fund fees and expenses and extraordinary expenses) would not exceed, in the aggregate, the rate per annum, the rates applicable to the former Investor Class shares' of the corresponding Fund. Beginning on July 1, 2021, the Adviser voluntarily waived an additional 0.05% of its advisory fees with respect to the former Select Class and Investor Class

shares of the SA U.S. Small Company Fund. Prior to that date, the expense limitations for the Investor Class and Select Class shares of the SA U.S. Small Company Fund were 1.15% and 0.95%, respectively. Beginning on March 1, 2021, the Adviser voluntarily waived an additional 0.04% of its advisory fees with respect to the former Select Class and Investor Class shares of the SA Emerging Markets Value Fund. Prior to that date, the expense limitations for the Investor Class and Select Class shares of the SA Emerging Markets Value Fund were 1.33% and 1.13%, respectively. Effective July 1, 2021, the Adviser voluntarily waived an additional 0.05% of its advisory fees for the SA Emerging Markets Value Fund. Prior to that date, the expense limitations for the Investor Class and Select Class shares of the SA Emerging Markets Value Fund were 1.29% and 1.09%, respectively. Effective October 28, 2021, the SA Funds Fee Waiver Agreement was amended to reflect the previously voluntarily waived fees for the SA U.S. Small Company Fund and the SA Emerging Markets Value Fund.

Set forth below are the gross advisory and sub-advisory fees paid by the SA Funds and the advisory and sub-advisory fees waived or reimbursed for the periods indicated.

	Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023		Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022		Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021	
	Gross Advisory/ Sub-	Advisory/ Sub- Advisory Fees	Gross Advisory/ Sub-	Advisory/ Sub- Advisory Fees	Gross Advisory/ Sub-	Advisory/ Sub- Advisory Fees
Fund	Advisory Fees	Waived/ Reimbursed	Advisory Fees	Waived/ Reimbursed	Advisory Fees	Waived/ Reimbursed
SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund	\$778,781	\$95,709	\$909,250	\$0	\$961,307	\$0
SA Global Fixed Income						
Fund	\$1,980,979	\$0	\$2,246,819	\$0	\$1,959,755	\$0
SA U.S. Core Market Fund <sup>(1)</sup>	\$2,590,394	\$90,051	\$3,022,785	\$0	\$2,736,221	\$0
SA U.S. Value Fund	\$2,628,134	\$0	\$2,993,535	\$0	\$2,752,995	\$0
SA U.S. Small Company						
Fund	\$1,822,026	\$1,459	\$2,143,192	\$0	\$2,655,292	\$0
SA International Value Fund	\$3,493,928	\$64,761	\$4,008,338	\$0	\$3,957,851	\$0
SA International Small Company Fund <sup>(2)</sup>	\$609,781	\$2,405	\$743,674	\$0	\$777,225	\$0
SA Emerging Markets Value Fund	\$1,495,492	\$538,756	\$1,710,891	\$553,138	\$1,776,517	\$498,875
SA Real Estate Securities Fund	591,007	\$132,919	\$761,800	\$54,889	\$754,430	\$89,188
SA Worldwide Moderate Growth Fund <sup>(2)</sup>	\$0	\$176,692	\$0	\$175,588	\$0	\$190,394

<sup>(1)</sup> The Sub-Adviser will not receive any sub-advisory fee for its sub-advisory services to the SA U.S. Core Market Fund with respect to any assets of the SA U.S. Core Market Fund invested in the U.S. Micro Cap Portfolio of the DFA Investment Dimensions Group Inc.

Pursuant to the Investment Advisory Agreements, the Adviser oversees the administration of the Trust's business and affairs and provides certain services required for effective administration of the Trust. For the administrative services provided, the Adviser is entitled to a fee from each SA Fund computed daily and payable monthly at the annual rate of 0.10% of the average daily net assets of each SA Fund.

<sup>(2)</sup> The SA International Small Company Fund and SA Worldwide Moderate Growth Fund do not pay Sub-Advisory Fees.

Set forth below are the fees paid by the SA Funds to the Adviser, in its capacity as the administrator, for the periods indicated. Because the Allocation Fund is invested in the SA Funds, no fee is charged to the Allocation Fund for administrative services.

	Fiscal Year Ended	Fiscal Year Ended Fiscal Year Ended Fiscal Year Ended			
Fund	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021		
SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund	\$145,136	\$505,139	\$534,060		
SA Global Fixed Income Fund	\$235,469	\$802,435	\$699,912		
SA U.S. Core Market Fund	\$193,578	\$704,954	\$638,173		
SA U.S. Value Fund	\$167,953	\$598,707	\$550,599		
SA U.S. Small Company Fund	\$97,467	\$357,199	\$408,507		
SA International Value Fund	\$164,514	\$616,667	\$608,900		
SA International Small Company Fund	\$74,777	\$297,470	\$310,890		
SA Emerging Markets Value Fund	\$57,966	\$211,221	\$200,673		
SA Real Estate Securities Fund	\$44,629	\$169,289	\$167,651		

The Adviser and the Trust have received exemptive relief from the SEC that permits the Adviser to enter into investment sub-advisory agreements with sub-advisers without obtaining shareholder approval. The Adviser, subject to the review and approval of the Board of Trustees of the Trust, is permitted to appoint sub-advisers for the Funds and supervise and monitor the performance of each sub-adviser. The exemptive relief also permits the Adviser, subject to approval by the Board, to terminate and replace sub-advisers or amend sub-advisory agreements without shareholder approval when the Adviser and the Trustees believe such action will benefit a Fund and its shareholders. As of the date of this SAI, only SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund, SA Emerging Markets Value Fund and SA Real Estate Securities Fund may rely on this exemptive relief. The other Funds may not rely on this exemptive relief and must obtain shareholder approval to take such actions.

The following individuals are affiliated persons of the Trust and of the Adviser: Jonathan Scheid, Dan Anderson, Jeff Yorg and Marcy Tsagarakis. The capacities in which each such individual is affiliated with the Trust and the Adviser is set forth above under "Trustees and Officers."

# **DISTRIBUTOR**

Foreside Financial Services, LLC (the "Distributor") is the distributor (also known as principal underwriter) of the shares of the Funds and is located at Three Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, Maine 04101. The Distributor is a registered broker-dealer and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA"). The Distributor is not affiliated with the Adviser or any other service provider for the Trust.

Under a Distribution Agreement with the Trust, the Distributor acts as the agent of the Trust in connection with the continuous offering of shares of the Funds. The Distributor continually distributes shares of the Funds on a best efforts basis. The Distributor has no obligation to sell any specific quantity of Fund shares. The Distributor and its officers have no role in determining the investment policies or which securities are to be purchased or sold by the Trust.

The Distributor may enter into agreements with selected broker-dealers, banks or other financial intermediaries for distribution of shares of the Funds. With respect to certain financial intermediaries and related fund "supermarket" platform arrangements, the Funds and/or the Adviser, rather than the Distributor, typically enters into such agreements. These financial intermediaries may charge a fee for their services and may receive shareholder service or other fees from parties other than the Distributor. These financial intermediaries may otherwise act as processing agents and are responsible for promptly transmitting purchase, redemption and other requests to the Funds.

Investors who purchase shares through financial intermediaries will be subject to the procedures of those intermediaries through which they purchase shares, which may include charges, investment minimums, cutoff times and other restrictions in addition to, or different from, those listed herein. Information concerning any charges or services will be provided to investors by the financial intermediary through which they purchase shares. Investors purchasing shares of the Funds through financial intermediaries should acquaint themselves with their financial intermediary's procedures and should read the applicable Prospectus in conjunction with any materials and information provided by their financial intermediary. The financial intermediary, and not its investors, will be the shareholder of record, although investors may have the right to vote shares depending upon their arrangement with the intermediary.

The Distributor does not receive compensation from the Funds for its distribution services. The Adviser pays the Distributor a fee for fund distribution services and for licensing of registered employees but pays no other fees for other distribution-related services (including Rule 12b-1 fees).

## SHAREHOLDER SERVICING AGENT

Under a Shareholder Service Agreement with the Trust, the Adviser acts as a Shareholder Servicing Agent and performs various services for each Fund, which may include, among other things, maintaining a toll-free telephone number for shareholders of each Fund to use to obtain up-to-date account information; making available to shareholders quarterly and other reports with respect to the performance of each Fund; if requested by independent advisers, arranging for the purchase, exchange, redemption, or transfer of Fund shares in conjunction with the shareholder's custodian of record and/or maintaining a technological platform whereby shareholders can access up-to-date information related to their respective holdings in a Fund; addressing shareholder communications brought to the Adviser's attention; and providing shareholders with such information regarding the operations and affairs of each Fund, and their investment in its shares, as the shareholders or the Trust may reasonably request. For these services, the Adviser is paid a service fee that is calculated daily and paid monthly at the annual rate of 0.15% of the average daily net assets of each Fund. Prior to October 26, 2022, for these services, the Adviser was paid a service fee that is calculated daily and paid monthly at the annual rate of 0.25% and 0.05% of the average daily net assets of each Fund's former Investor Class and Select Class shares, respectively. In addition, because the Allocation Fund is invested in the Funds, no fee is charged to the Allocation Fund for shareholder servicing. The reports and other information mentioned above are available to shareholders and may be obtained by calling (844) 366-0905.

Prior to October 26, 2022, the Trust offered Select Class shares and Investor Class shares of each Fund, with the exception of SA Worldwide Moderate Growth Fund, which only offered a single share class. The table below sets forth the fees paid by the Fund's former Investor Class and former Select Class shares to the Shareholder Servicing Agent for the periods indicated and for the Fund from October 26, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

		<b>Investor class</b>		
	October 26, 2022	July 1, 2022	<b>Investor class</b>	<b>Investor Class</b>
	through	through	Fiscal Year Ended	Fiscal Year Ended
Fund	June 30, 2023	October 25, 2022	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021
SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund	\$429,681	\$41,509	\$149,410	\$186,748
SA Global Fixed Income Fund	\$705,419	\$63,619	\$224,862	\$236,253
SA U.S. Core Market Fund	\$613,708	\$63,771	\$248,544	\$279,643
SA U.S. Value Fund	\$534,591	\$48,047	\$181,840	\$202,304
SA U.S. Small Company Fund	\$308,217	\$29,023	\$113,679	\$153,557
SA International Value Fund	\$557,684	\$43,837	\$175,800	\$210,088
SA International Small Company Fund	\$252,889	\$20,864	\$89,624	\$111,083
SA Emerging Markets Value Fund	\$189,375	\$13,430	\$52,477	\$60,452
SA Real Estate Securities Fund	\$129,603	\$12,190	\$48,940	\$58,484

		Select Class		
	October 26, 2022	July 1, 2022	Select Class	Select Class
	through	through	Fiscal Year Ended	Fiscal Year Ended
Fund	June 30, 2023*	October 25, 2022	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021
SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund	N/A	\$65,866	\$222,687	\$229,680
SA Global Fixed Income Fund	N/A	\$107,626	\$356,245	\$302,706
SA U.S. Core Market Fund	N/A	\$86,151	\$302,768	\$263,158
SA U.S. Value Fund	N/A	\$76,288	\$262,985	\$234,839
SA U.S. Small Company Fund	N/A	\$44,018	\$155,864	\$173,542
SA International Value Fund	N/A	\$75,325	\$273,174	\$262,432

		Select Class		
	October 26, 2022	• /	Select Class	Select Class
Fund	through June 30, 2023*	through October 25, 2022	Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021
SA International Small Company Fund	N/A	\$34,029	\$130,810	\$133,228
SA Emerging Markets Value Fund	N/A	\$26,916	\$95,115	\$88,246
SA Real Estate Securities Fund	N/A	\$20,332	\$74,856	\$72,129

<sup>\*</sup> Fees paid by each Fund during this period are reflected in the table above.

## SUB-ADMINISTRATOR

State Street Bank and Trust Company ("State Street"), whose principal business address is 1100 Main Street, Suite 400, Kansas City, MO 64105, serves as the sub-administrator for the Trust, pursuant to a Second Amended and Restated Sub-Administration Agreement with State Street (the "Sub-Administration Agreement"), with the Adviser and the Trust.

Under the Sub-Administration Agreement, State Street has agreed to oversee the computation of each Fund's net asset value, net income and realized capital gains, if any; furnish statistical and research data, clerical services, and stationery and office supplies; prepare and file various reports with the appropriate regulatory agencies; and prepare various materials required by the SEC. For providing these services, State Street receives a fee calculated daily and paid monthly at an annual rate based on the aggregate average daily net assets of the Trust as follows: 0.017% of the first \$1.5 billion of net assets and 0.014% of net assets over \$1.5 billion. There is a minimum annual charge of \$54,000 per Fund. Prior to October 1, 2021, the fee was calculated as follows: 0.02% of the first \$1.5 billion of net assets and 0.0175% of net assets over \$1.5 billion. There is a minimum annual charge of \$70,000 per Fund except for SA International Small Company Fund and SA Worldwide Moderate Growth Fund, which are subject to a minimum annual fee of \$50,000.

Fees are calculated for the fund complex and then allocated to the Funds based upon each Fund's total net assets, which may cause a Fund to pay less than the minimum annual charge.

The table below sets forth the fees paid by the Funds to State Street, in its capacity as the sub-administrator, for the periods indicated.

	Fiscal Year Ended Fiscal Year Ended Fiscal Year Ended		
Fund	<b>June 30, 2023</b>	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021
SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund	\$86,759	\$71,782	\$97,358
SA Global Fixed Income Fund	\$140,730	\$114,788	\$127,202
SA U.S. Core Market Fund	\$119,287	\$100,971	\$116,317
SA U.S. Value Fund	\$103,929	\$87,609	\$98,935
SA U.S. Small Company Fund	\$61,523	\$50,169	\$75,154
SA International Value Fund	\$105,932	\$89,708	\$110,414
SA International Small Company Fund	\$49,475	\$42,205	\$56,524
SA Emerging Markets Value Fund	\$36,115	\$30,848	\$36,279
SA Real Estate Securities Fund	\$26,581	\$25,033	\$29,643
SA Worldwide Moderate Growth Fund	\$4,494	\$3,740	\$4,988

## **CUSTODIAN**

State Street, John Adams Building, 1776 Heritage Drive, North Quincy, MA 02171 is the custodian of each Fund's assets pursuant to a Custodian Contract with the Trust. State Street is also the custodian with respect to the custody of foreign securities held by the Funds. Under the Custodian Contract, State Street (i) holds and transfers portfolio

securities of each Fund, (ii) accepts receipts and makes disbursements of money on behalf of each Fund, (iii) collects and receives all income and other payments and distributions on each Fund's securities and (iv) makes periodic reports to the Board of Trustees concerning the Funds' operations.

## TRANSFER AND DIVIDEND-DISBURSING AGENT

The Trust has hired SS&C Global Investor & Distribution Solutions, Inc. ("SS&C GIDS"), 1055 Broadway, Kansas City, MO, 64105 to serve as the transfer and dividend-disbursing agent for the Funds. In addition, the Trust and/or the Distributor have entered into arrangements whereby authorized intermediaries administer omnibus accounts for indirect shareholders of the Funds. The Trust and/or the Adviser may pay certain such intermediaries for these services.

# SECURITIES LENDING

The Trust has hired State Street, State Street Financial Center, One Congress Street, Boston, MA 02111-2900, to serve as the securities lending agent for the Funds. The services provided by State Street as securities lending agent include selection of securities to be lent; entering into loan agreements with borrowers previously approved by the Funds' Board; negotiating loan terms; delivery of documents to the Funds; receiving and holding collateral on the Funds' behalf; providing to the Funds services related to marking lent securities and collateral to their market value to assist the Fund with valuation, performed pursuant to relevant policies and procedures approved by the Board; investing cash collateral in accordance with instructions from the Funds; recordkeeping for transactions under the securities lending agreement; monitoring dividends and coordinating material proxy votes relating to lent securities; and arranging for the return of lent securities upon the termination of the loan. Income and fees from securities lending activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, are shown in the following table:

Fund	Securities Lending Activity
SA Global Fixed Income Fund	
Gross income from securities lending activities	\$285,340.17
Fees paid to securities lending agent from a revenue split	\$3,474.07
Fees paid for any cash collateral management service that are not included in revenue split	\$2,666.32
Administrative fees not included in revenue split	\$0
Indemnification fee not included in revenue split	\$0
Rebate (paid to borrower)	\$265,304.859
Other fees not included in revenue split	\$0
Aggregate fees/compensation for securities lending activities	\$271,445.28
Net income from securities lending activities	\$13,894.89
SA U.S. Core Market Fund	
Gross income from securities lending activities	\$20,074.60
Fees paid to securities lending agent from a revenue split	\$2,388.75
Fees paid for any cash collateral management service that are not included in revenue split	\$107.15
Administrative fees not included in revenue split	\$0
Indemnification fee not included in revenue split	\$0
Rebate (paid to borrower)	\$8,009.53
Other fees not included in revenue split	\$0
Aggregate fees/compensation for securities lending activities	\$10,505.43
Net income from securities lending activities	\$9,569.17
SA U.S. Value Fund	
Gross income from securities lending activities	\$6,762.03
Fees paid to securities lending agent from a revenue split	\$424.47
Fees paid for any cash collateral management service that are not included in revenue split	\$49.02
Administrative fees not included in revenue split	\$0
Indemnification fee not included in revenue split	\$0
Rebate (paid to borrower)	\$4,587.56
Other fees not included in revenue split	\$0
Aggregate fees/compensation for securities lending activities	\$5,061.05

Net income from securities lending activities	\$1,700.98
SA U.S. Small Company Fund	
Gross income from securities lending activities	\$89,162.33
Fees paid to securities lending agent from a revenue split	\$6,204.83
Fees paid for any cash collateral management service that are not included in revenue split	\$660.85
Administrative fees not included in revenue split	\$0
Indemnification fee not included in revenue split	\$0
Rebate (paid to borrower)	\$57,430.88
Other fees not included in revenue split	\$0
Aggregate fees/compensation for securities lending activities	\$64,296.56
Net income from securities lending activities	\$24,865.77
SA International Value Fund	
Gross income from securities lending activities	\$1,447,997.36
Fees paid to securities lending agent from a revenue split	\$70,894.29
Fees paid for any cash collateral management service that are not included in revenue split	\$10,064.47
Administrative fees not included in revenue split	\$0
Indemnification fee not included in revenue split	\$0
Rebate (paid to borrower)	\$1,083,456.61
Other fees not included in revenue split	\$0
Aggregate fees/compensation for securities lending activities	\$1,164,415.37
Net income from securities lending activities	\$283,581.99
SA Emerging Markets Value Fund	
Gross income from securities lending activities	\$144,575.02
Fees paid to securities lending agent from a revenue split	\$14,762.37
Fees paid for any cash collateral management service that are not included in revenue split	\$787.79
Administrative fees not included in revenue split	\$0
Indemnification fee not included in revenue split	\$0
Rebate (paid to borrower)	\$69,935.07
Other fees not included in revenue split	\$0
Aggregate fees/compensation for securities lending activities	\$85,485.23
Net income from securities lending activities	\$59,089.79
SA Real Estate Securities Fund	
Gross income from securities lending activities	\$12,884.96
Fees paid to securities lending agent from a revenue split	\$385.32
Fees paid for any cash collateral management service that are not included in revenue split	\$91.10
Administrative fees not included in revenue split	\$0
Indemnification fee not included in revenue split	\$0
Rebate (paid to borrower)	\$10,865.78
Other fees not included in revenue split	\$0
Aggregate fees/compensation for securities lending activities	\$11,342.20
Net income from securities lending activities	\$1,542.76

# COUNSEL

The law firm of Dechert LLP, One Bush Street, Suite 1600, San Francisco, CA 94104, has passed upon certain legal matters in connection with the shares offered by the Funds and serves as counsel to the Trust.

# INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Cohen & Company, Ltd., 1350 Euclid Ave., Suite 800, Cleveland, OH 44115, serves as the independent registered public accounting firm for the Trust, providing audit services for the Funds' annual financial statements.

#### PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

## **Allocation Fund**

The Allocation Fund is collectively managed by the Investment Committee of the Adviser, portfolio managers and trading personnel. The portfolio managers implement the policies and procedures established by the Investment Committee of the Adviser. The portfolio managers also make daily investment decisions regarding the Allocation Fund based on the parameters established by the Investment Committee. The portfolio managers named below coordinate the efforts with respect to the day-to-day management of the Allocation Fund.

Sheldon McFarland, Vice President of Portfolio Strategy & Research

Brian Haywood, Investment Strategy Advisor

## **Investments in the Allocation Fund**

As of September 30, 2023, Sheldon McFarland, Brian Haywood, and their immediate families did not own shares of the Allocation Fund.

# **Description of Compensation Structure**

Portfolio managers receive a base salary and bonus. Compensation of a portfolio manager is determined by the Adviser and is based on a portfolio manager's experience, responsibilities, the perception of the quality of his or her work efforts and other subjective factors. The compensation of portfolio managers is not directly based upon the performance of the Allocation Fund or other accounts that the portfolio managers manage or on the value of assets held in the Allocation Fund or certain of the SA Funds. The Adviser reviews the compensation of each portfolio manager annually and may make modifications in compensation as it deems necessary to reflect changes in the market. Each portfolio manager's compensation consists of the following:

**Base salary**. Each portfolio manager is paid a base salary. The Adviser considers the factors described above to determine each portfolio manager's base salary.

Annual Bonus. Each portfolio manager may receive a bonus that is determined by the Adviser based on the factors described above.

Portfolio managers may be awarded the right to purchase restricted shares of the stock of Focus as determined from time to time by the Board of Directors of Focus or its delegees. Portfolio managers also participate in benefit and retirement plans and other programs available generally to all employees.

# **Other Managed Accounts**

In addition to the Allocation Fund, each portfolio manager manages (1) other U.S. registered investment companies advised or sub-advised by the Adviser, (2) other pooled investment vehicles that are not U.S. registered mutual funds and/or (3) other accounts managed for organizations and individuals. The following table sets forth information regarding the total accounts for which each portfolio manager has the primary responsibility for coordinating the day-to-day management responsibilities.

Name of Portfolio Manager	Assets by Category as of September 30, 2023
Name of Fortiono Manager	Assets by Category as or September 30, 2023
Sheldon McFarland	No other accounts managed.
Brian Haywood	No other accounts managed.

## **Potential Conflicts of Interest**

Actual or apparent conflicts of interest may arise when a portfolio manager has the primary day-to-day responsibilities with respect to the Allocation Fund and other accounts. Other accounts include registered mutual funds (other than the Funds covered by this SAI), other unregistered pooled investment vehicles, and/or other accounts managed for organizations and individuals (collectively, "Accounts"). Potential conflicts of interest may arise for a portfolio

manager that is responsible for the management of multiple Accounts. Such Accounts may have similar investment objectives to the Allocation Fund, and therefore may purchase, hold, or sell securities that may also be held by the Allocation Fund. Management of multiple independent Accounts with similar investment objectives and/or security positions has the potential to require disparate commitments of time by a portfolio manager across the Accounts, and to result in different asset allocation decisions by a portfolio manager.

Because most Accounts managed by the portfolio managers utilize the same or similar investment strategy as the investment strategy applied to the Allocation Fund, the Adviser believes that the potential conflicts of interest described above have been reasonably mitigated. Most Accounts managed by the portfolio managers are managed using the same investment models that are used in connection with the management of the Allocation Fund. The Adviser's overall investment philosophy is generally applicable to all Accounts it manages. Furthermore, the Adviser has in place policies and procedures reasonably designed to identify, address, and mitigate potential conflicts of interest. The Adviser's Code of Ethics also addresses potential conflicts of interest as they relate to the personal securities transactions of the Adviser's employees, supervised persons, and portfolio managers. However, there is no guarantee that these procedures will detect each and every situation in which a conflict arises.

# **SA Funds**

In accordance with the team approach used to manage the SA Funds, the portfolio managers and portfolio traders implement the policies and procedures established by the Investment Committee of Dimensional. The portfolio managers and portfolio traders also make daily investment decisions regarding the SA Funds including running buy and sell programs based on the parameters established by the Investment Committee. The portfolio managers named below coordinate the efforts of all other portfolio managers or trading personnel with respect to the day-to-day management of certain SA Funds within each category of SA Funds indicated.

Domestic Equity Funds (includes SA U.S. Core Market Fund, SA U.S. Value Fund, SA U.S. Small Company Fund and SA Real Estate Securities Fund)	Jed S. Fogdall, John A. Hertzer, Marc C. Leblond, Mary T. Phillips and Joel P. Schneider
International Equity Funds (includes SA International Value Fund, SA International Small Company Fund and SA Emerging Markets Value Fund)	Jed S. Fogdall, Arun C. Keswani, Allen Pu, Joel P. Schneider, and Ethan Wren
Fixed Income Funds (includes SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund and SA Global Fixed Income Fund)	Joseph F. Kolerich and David A. Plecha

# **Investments in Each SA Fund**

As of June 30, 2023, Jed S. Fogdall, John A. Hertzer, Arun C. Keswani, Marc C. Leblond, Joseph F. Kolerich, Mary T. Phillips, David A. Plecha, Allen Pu, Joel P. Schneider, and Ethan Wren and their immediate families did not own shares of any SA Fund.

## **Description of Compensation Structure**

Portfolio managers receive a base salary and bonus. Compensation of a portfolio manager is determined at the discretion of Dimensional and is based on a portfolio manager's experience, responsibilities, the perception of the quality of his or her work efforts and other subjective factors. The compensation of portfolio managers is not directly based upon the performance of the SA Funds or other accounts that the portfolio managers manage. Dimensional reviews the compensation of each portfolio manager annually and may make modifications in compensation as its Compensation Committee deems necessary to reflect changes in the market. Each portfolio manager's compensation consists of the following:

**Base salary**. Each portfolio manager is paid a base salary. Dimensional considers the factors described above to determine each portfolio manager's base salary.

**Semi-Annual Bonus**. Each portfolio manager may receive a semi-annual bonus. The amount of the bonus paid to each portfolio manager is based upon the factors described above.

Portfolio managers may be awarded the right to purchase restricted shares of the stock of Dimensional as determined from time to time by the Board of Directors of Dimensional or its delegates. Portfolio managers also participate in benefit and retirement plans and other programs available generally to all employees.

In addition, portfolio managers may be given the option of participating in Dimensional's Long Term Incentive Plan. The level of participation for eligible employees may be dependent on overall level of compensation, among other considerations. Participation in this program is not based on or related to the performance of any individual strategies or any particular client accounts.

# **Other Managed Accounts**

In addition to the SA Funds, each portfolio manager manages (1) other U.S. registered investment companies advised or sub-advised by Dimensional, (2) other pooled investment vehicles that are not U.S. registered mutual funds and (3) other accounts managed for organizations and individuals. The following table sets forth information regarding the total accounts for which each portfolio manager has the primary responsibility for coordinating the day-to-day management responsibilities.

Name of Portfolio Manager	Number of Accounts Managed and Total Assets by Category as of June 30, 2023
Jed S. Fogdall	124 U.S. registered funds with approximately \$447,762 million in total assets under management.
	28 unregistered pooled investment vehicles with approximately \$21,546 million in total assets under management, of which 1 account with approximately \$184 million in assets is subject to a performance fee.
	562 other accounts with approximately \$25,118 million in total assets under management, of which 4 accounts with approximately \$2,032 million in assets are each subject to a performance fee.
Joseph F. Kolerich	64 U.S. registered funds with approximately \$99,888 million in total assets under management.
	4 unregistered pooled investment vehicles with approximately \$3,406 million in total assets under management, of which 0 accounts with \$0 in assets are subject to a performance fee.
	11 other accounts with approximately \$2,325 million in total assets under management, of which 0 accounts with \$0 in assets are subject to a performance fee.
David A. Plecha	64 U.S. registered funds with approximately \$99,888 million in total assets under management.
	4 unregistered pooled investment vehicles with approximately \$3,406 million in total assets under management, of which 0 accounts with \$0 in assets are subject to a performance fee.
	11 other accounts with approximately \$2,325 million in total assets under management, of which 0 accounts with \$0 in assets are subject to a performance fee.

Name of Portfolio Manager	Number of Accounts Managed and Total Assets by Category as of June 30, 2023			
Joel P. Schneider	40 U.S. registered funds with approximately \$141,860 million in total assets under management.			
	0 unregistered pooled investment vehicles with approximately \$0 million in total assets under management, of which 0 accounts with \$0 in assets are subject to a performance fee.			
	2 other accounts with approximately \$333 million in total assets under management, of which 0 accounts with \$0 in assets are subject to a performance fee.			
Mary T. Phillips	72 U.S. registered funds with approximately \$275,645 million in total assets under management.			
	4 unregistered pooled investment vehicles with approximately \$3,062 million in total assets under management, of which 0 accounts with \$0 in assets are subject to a performance fee.			
	0 other accounts with \$0 in total assets under management, of which 0 accounts with \$0 in assets are subject to a performance fee.			
Arun C. Keswani	24 U.S. registered funds with approximately \$65,861 million in total assets under management.			
	0 unregistered pooled investment vehicles with \$0 in total assets under management, of which 0 accounts with \$0 in assets are subject to a performance fee.			
	5 other accounts with approximately \$2,092 million in total assets under management, of which 2 accounts with approximately \$1,024 million in assets are each subject to a performance fee.			
Marc C. Leblond	14 U.S. registered funds with approximately \$64,998 million in total assets under management.			
	3 unregistered pooled investment vehicles with approximately \$1,438 million in total assets under management, of which 1 account with approximately \$184 million in assets is subject to a performance fee.			
	12 other accounts with approximately \$3,918 million in total assets under management, of which 0 accounts with \$0 in assets are subject to a performance fee.			
Ethan Wren	8 U.S. registered funds with approximately \$20,904 million in total assets under management.			
	0 unregistered pooled investment vehicles with \$0 in total assets under management, of which 0 accounts with \$0 in assets are subject to a performance fee.			
	6 other accounts with approximately \$4,104 million in total assets under management, of which 2 accounts with approximately \$1,008 million in assets are each subject to a performance fee.			

# Number of Accounts Managed and Total

Name of Portfolio Manager	Assets by Category as of June 30, 2023			
John A. Hertzer	28 U.S. registered funds with approximately \$165,197 in total assets under management.			
	3 unregistered pooled investment vehicles with approximately \$4,290 million in total assets under management, of which 0 accounts with \$0 in assets are subject to a performance fee.			
	4 other accounts with approximately \$8,141 million in total assets under management, of which 0 accounts with \$0 in assets are subject to a performance fee.			
Allen Pu	53 U.S. registered funds with approximately \$137,262 million in total assets under management.			
	15 unregistered pooled investment vehicles with approximately \$15,153 million in total assets under management, of which 0 accounts with \$0 in assets are subject to a performance fee.			
	0 other accounts with approximately \$0 in total assets under management, of which 0 accounts			

## **Potential Conflicts of Interest**

Actual or apparent conflicts of interest may arise when a portfolio manager has the primary day-to-day responsibilities with respect to more than one SA Fund and other accounts. Other accounts include registered funds (other than the Funds covered by this SAI), other unregistered pooled investment vehicles, and other accounts managed for organizations and individuals (collectively, "Accounts"). An Account may have similar investment objectives to an SA Fund, or may purchase, sell or hold securities that are eligible to be purchased, sold or held by an SA Fund. Actual or apparent conflicts of interest include:

with \$0 in assets are subject to a performance fee.

Time Management. The management of multiple SA Funds and/or Accounts may result in a portfolio manager devoting unequal time and attention to the management of each SA Fund and/or Account. Dimensional seeks to manage such competing interests for the time and attention of portfolio managers by having portfolio managers focus on a particular investment discipline. Most Accounts managed by a portfolio manager are managed using the same investment approaches that are used in connection with the management of the SA Funds.

Investment Opportunities. It is possible that at times identical securities will be held by more than one SA Fund and/or Account. However, positions in the same security may vary, and the length of time that any SA Fund or Account may choose to hold its investment in the same security may likewise vary. If a portfolio manager identifies a limited investment opportunity that may be suitable for more than one SA Fund or Account, an SA Fund may not be able to take full advantage of that opportunity due to an allocation of filled purchase or sale orders across all eligible SA Funds and Accounts. To deal with these situations, Dimensional has adopted procedures for allocating portfolio transactions across multiple SA Funds and Accounts.

Broker Selection. With respect to securities transactions for the SA Funds, Dimensional determines which broker to use to execute each order, consistent with its duty to seek best execution of the transaction. However, with respect to certain Accounts (such as separate accounts), Dimensional may be limited by the client with respect to the selection of brokers or may be instructed to direct trades through a particular broker. In these cases, Dimensional or its affiliates may place separate, non-simultaneous transactions for an SA Fund and another Account that may temporarily affect the market price of the security or the execution of the transaction, or both, to the detriment of the SA Fund or the Account.

Performance-Based Fees. For some Accounts, Dimensional may be compensated based on the profitability of the Account, such as by a performance-based management fee. These incentive compensation structures may create a conflict of interest for Dimensional with regard to the SA Funds and Accounts where Dimensional is paid based on

a percentage of assets because the portfolio manager may have an incentive to allocate securities preferentially to the Accounts where Dimensional might share in investment gains.

<u>Investment in an Account</u>. A portfolio manager or his/her relatives may invest in an Account that he or she manages, and a conflict may arise where he or she may therefore have an incentive to treat the Account in which the portfolio manager or his/her relatives invest preferentially as compared to the SA Funds and other Accounts for which he or she has portfolio management responsibilities.

Dimensional has adopted certain compliance procedures that are reasonably designed to address these types of conflicts. However, there is no guarantee that such procedures will detect each and every situation in which a conflict arises.

## BROKERAGE ALLOCATIONS AND OTHER PRACTICES

The following discussion relates to the policies of the SA Funds with respect to brokerage commissions. The Allocation Fund does not incur any brokerage costs in connection with their purchases or redemption of shares of the SA Funds.

Subject to the general supervision of the Board, the Sub-Adviser makes decisions with respect to, and places orders for, all purchases and sales of portfolio securities for the SA Funds.

Brokerage firms are typically paid an agency commission when they buy or sell equity securities for the SA Funds. The pre-negotiated commission rates may vary among different brokers due to various factors.

Over-the-counter issues, including corporate debt and government securities, are normally traded on a "net" basis (*i.e.*, without commission) through dealers, or otherwise involve transactions directly with the issuer of an instrument. With respect to over-the-counter transactions, the Sub-Adviser will normally deal directly with dealers who make a market in the instruments involved except in those circumstances where more favorable prices and execution are available elsewhere. The cost of foreign and domestic securities purchased from and sold to dealers includes a dealer's mark-up or markdown.

The Sub-Adviser will place portfolio transactions with a view to receiving the best price and execution.

Transactions may be placed with brokers who provide the Sub-Adviser with investment research, such as reports concerning individual issuers, industries and general economic and financial trends, and other research services. The Sub-Advisory Agreement permits the Sub-Adviser to cause the SA Funds to pay a broker or dealer that furnishes brokerage and research services a higher commission than that which might be charged by another broker or dealer for effecting the same transaction, provided that the Sub-Adviser determines in good faith that such commission is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services provided by such broker or dealer, viewed in terms of either the particular transaction or the overall responsibilities of the Sub-Adviser to the SA Funds.

Supplementary research information so received is in addition to, and not in lieu of, services required to be performed by the Sub-Adviser and does not reduce the sub-advisory fees payable to the Sub-Adviser. It is possible that certain of the supplementary research or other services received will primarily benefit one or more other investment companies or other accounts for which the Sub-Adviser exercises investment discretion. Conversely, an SA Fund may be the primary beneficiary of the research or services received as a result of portfolio transactions effected for such other account or investment company.

Investment decisions for each SA Fund and for other investment accounts managed by the Sub-Adviser are made independently of each other in light of differing conditions. However, the same investment decision may be made for two or more of such accounts. In such cases, simultaneous transactions are inevitable. Purchases or sales are then averaged as to price and allocated as to amount in a manner deemed equitable to each such account. While in some cases this practice could have a detrimental effect on the price or value of the security as far as an SA Fund is concerned, in other cases it is believed to be beneficial to an SA Fund. To the extent permitted by law, the Sub-Adviser may aggregate the securities to be sold or purchased for an SA Fund with those to be sold or purchased for other investment companies or accounts in executing transactions.

Portfolio securities will not be purchased from or sold to the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser, the Distributor or any affiliated person (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the foregoing entities except to the extent permitted by SEC exemptive orders or by applicable law. An SA Fund will not purchase securities during the existence of any underwriting or selling

group relating to such securities of which the Adviser, Sub-Adviser or any affiliated person (as defined in the 1940 Act) thereof is a member except pursuant to procedures adopted by the Trust's Board of Trustees in accordance with Rule 10f-3 under the 1940 Act.

The table below sets forth the aggregate dollar amount of brokerage commissions paid by the Funds for the periods indicated:

	Fiscal Year End	Fiscal Year Ended I	Fiscal Year Ended
Fund	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021
SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
SA Global Fixed Income Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
SA U.S. Core Market Fund	\$3,655	\$9,397	\$7,292
SA U.S. Value Fund	\$5,380	\$11,208	\$12,479
SA U.S. Small Company Fund	\$12,205	\$15,799	\$20,366
SA International Value Fund	\$42,746	\$50,655	\$62,632
SA International Small Company Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
SA Emerging Markets Value Fund	\$22,396	\$37,589	\$42,113
SA Real Estate Securities Fund	\$1,961	\$3,591	\$2,757
SA Worldwide Moderate Growth Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0

Any substantial increases or decreases in the amount of brokerage commissions paid by certain Funds from year to year indicated in the foregoing table resulted from increases or decreases in the amount of securities that were bought and sold by those Funds.

The Trust is required to identify the amount of transactions and related commissions for any brokerage transaction directed to a broker for research services during the last fiscal year. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the Trust did not have any brokerage transactions directed to brokers for research services.

The Trust is required to identify the securities of its or its parent companies' regular brokers or dealers (as defined in Rule 10b-1 under the 1940 Act) held by the Funds as of the close of their most recent fiscal year and state the value of such holdings. As of June 30, 2023, the Trust held securities of the following regular brokers or dealers.

	Market Value
SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund	
Goldman Sachs LLC	\$2,949,493
Toronto Dominion Securities Inc.	\$9,555,841
Citigroup Global Markets Inc.	\$2,944,388
JP Morgan Chase	\$4,730,413
BNP Paribas Securities Services	\$190,560
SA U.S. Core Market Fund	
Goldman Sachs LLC	\$6,833,836
Wells Fargo Securities LLC	\$1,344,463
Citigroup Global Markets Inc.	\$298,017
Bank of America N.A.	\$1,894,573
JP Morgan Chase	\$5,560,753
SA U.S. Value Fund	
Goldman Sachs LLC	\$6,083,750
Citigroup Global Markets Inc.	\$3,638,541
Wells Fargo Securities LLC	\$5,378,235
Bank of New York Mellon Corp	\$2,334,807
JP Morgan Chase	\$25,754,897
Jefferies & Co., Inc.	\$231,958

	Market Value
SA U.S. Small Company Fund	
Jefferies & Co., Inc.	\$717,169
Virtu Americas LLC.	\$245,364
SA International Value Fund	
HSBC Holdings PLC	\$7,965,284
Barclays Bank PLC	\$2,595,828
BNP Paribas Securities Corp.	\$3,715,557
Societe Generale	\$2,251,363
Toronto Dominion Bank	\$509,239

## PORTFOLIO TURNOVER

Portfolio turnover may vary from year to year, as well as within a year. High turnover rates may result in comparatively greater brokerage expenses.

The table below sets forth the portfolio turnover rates of each Fund for the periods noted.

	Fiscal Year Ended Fiscal Year Ended	
<b>Fund</b>	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund	29%	203%
SA Global Fixed Income Fund	97%	103%
SA U.S. Core Market Fund	3%	9%
SA U.S. Value Fund	5%	10%
SA U.S. Small Company Fund	8%	7%
SA International Value Fund	11%	12%
SA International Small Company Fund	7%	8%
SA Emerging Markets Value Fund	12%	19%
SA Real Estate Securities Fund	2%	2%
SA Worldwide Moderate Growth Fund	115%	25%

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the portfolio turnover rate for the SA Worldwide Moderate Growth Fund increased to 115% as compared to 25% for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. This increase was principally due to the conversion of the former Select Class shares' holdings in the Underlying Funds with the former Investor Class shares' holdings in the Underlying Funds.

# INFORMATION CONCERNING SHARES

The Trust is a Delaware statutory trust. Under the Trust's Declaration of Trust, the beneficial interest in the Trust may be divided into an unlimited number of full and fractional transferable shares. The Declaration of Trust authorizes the Board of Trustees to classify or reclassify any unissued shares of the Trust into one or more classes by setting or changing, in any one or more respects, their respective designations, preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations, qualifications and terms and conditions of redemption.

Fund shares are sold at NAV without a sales charge. As discussed above, Fund shares are subject to a fee under the Shareholder Service Agreement between the Trust and the Adviser. The minimum initial purchase amount of Fund shares is generally \$100,000 aggregated across all of the SA Funds with no minimum for any individual fund and with no minimum for subsequent investments. In the Adviser's discretion, the minimum initial purchase amount may be applied across all assets of the investor under administration with the investment advisor or may be reduced.

In the event of a liquidation or dissolution of the Trust, shareholders of a particular Fund would be entitled to receive the assets available for distribution belonging to such Fund, and a proportionate distribution, based upon the relative net asset values of the Funds, of any general assets not belonging to any particular Fund that are available for

distribution. Shareholders of a Fund are entitled to participate in the net distributable assets of the particular Fund involved in liquidation, based on the number of shares of the Fund that are held by each shareholder.

Shares of the Trust have non-cumulative voting rights and, accordingly, the holders of a plurality of the Trust's outstanding shares may elect all of the Trustees. Shares have no preemptive rights and only such conversion and exchange rights as the Board may grant in its discretion. When issued for payment as described in the Prospectuses, shares will be fully paid and non-assessable by the Trust.

Shareholder meetings to elect Trustees will not be held unless and until such time as determined by the Trust or required by law. At that time, the Trustees then in office will call a shareholder meeting to elect Trustees. Except as set forth above, the Trustees will continue to hold office and may appoint successor Trustees. Shareholder meetings shall be called by the Trustees upon the written request of shareholders owning at least 10% of the outstanding shares entitled to vote.

# PURCHASE, REDEMPTION AND PRICING OF SHARES

# PURCHASE AND REDEMPTION INFORMATION

Purchases and redemptions are discussed in the Funds' Prospectuses, and such information is incorporated herein by reference.

The Funds will be open on days that the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") is open and will generally be closed on days that the NYSE is closed. As of the date of this SAI, the NYSE is scheduled to be open Monday through Friday throughout the year except for days closed to recognize New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Washington's Birthday (also known as Presidents Day), Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Purchase and redemption requests will not be processed on days the Funds are closed.

Retirement Plans. Shares of any Fund may be purchased in connection with various types of tax-advantaged retirement plans, including individual retirement accounts ("IRAs"), Roth IRAs, 401(k) plans and simplified employee pension IRAs. An individual or organization considering the establishment of a retirement plan should consult with an attorney and/or an accountant with respect to the terms and tax aspects of the plan. An annual custodial fee is also charged on certain retirement plans. This custodial fee is generally due by December 15 of each year and may be paid by check or shares liquidated from a shareholder's account.

**In-Kind Purchases.** Payment for shares may, in the discretion of the Adviser or Sub-Adviser, be made in the form of securities that are permissible investments for the Funds as described in the Prospectuses. For further information about this form of payment, please contact the Adviser. In connection with an in-kind securities payment, a Fund will require, among other things, that the securities (a) meet the investment objectives and policies of the Funds, (b) are acquired for investment and not for resale, (c) are liquid securities that are not restricted as to transfer either by law or liquidity of markets, (d) have a value that is readily ascertainable by a listing on a nationally recognized securities exchange and (e) are valued on the day of purchase in accordance with the pricing methods used by the Fund. The Fund must also receive satisfactory assurances that (i) it will have good and marketable title to the securities received by it and (ii) the securities are in proper form for transfer to the Fund.

Redemption In-Kind. Redemption proceeds are normally paid in cash; however, each Fund reserves the right to pay the redemption price in whole or part by a distribution in-kind of securities from the portfolio of the particular Fund, in lieu of cash. Redemption in-kind will be made in conformity with applicable rules of the SEC taking such securities at the same value employed in determining net asset value and selecting the securities in a manner the Board of Trustees determines to be fair and equitable. The Trust has elected to be governed by Rule 18f-1 under the 1940 Act, under which the Fund is obligated to redeem shares for any one shareholder in cash only up to the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of the Fund's net asset value during any 90-day period. The Funds may also use redemptions in-kind for certain Fund shares redeemed by ReFlow Fund, LLC, as described in the Prospectus. If shares are redeemed in kind, the redeeming shareholder might incur transaction costs in converting the assets into cash. In addition, redemption in portfolio securities generally will be a taxable event which will generate a capital gain or loss, and special rules may apply when determining gain or loss. See "Distributions and Taxes – Taxes on Distributions" in each Prospectus, and "Taxes – Taxation of Disposition of Shares" in this SAI.

Other Redemption Information. The Funds reserve the right to suspend or postpone redemptions during any period when (i) trading on the NYSE is restricted by applicable rules and regulations of the SEC, (ii) the NYSE is

closed for other than customary weekend and holiday closings, (iii) the SEC has by order permitted such suspension or postponement for the protection of the shareholders or (iv) an emergency exists, making disposal of portfolio securities or valuation of net assets of a Fund not reasonably practicable.

The Funds may involuntarily redeem an investor's shares if the aggregate net asset value of such investor's holding in the Funds is less than \$5,000, provided that involuntary redemptions will not result from fluctuations in the value of an investor's shares. A notice of redemption, sent by first-class mail to the investor's address of record, will fix a date not less than 60 days after the mailing date, and shares will be redeemed at the NAV at the close of business on that date unless sufficient additional shares are purchased to bring the aggregate account value up to \$5,000 or more. A check for the redemption proceeds payable to the investor will be mailed to the investor at the address of record.

**Abandoned Property.** It is the responsibility of a shareholder to ensure that the Trust maintains a correct address for the shareholder's account(s). An incorrect address may cause a shareholder's account statements and other mailings to be returned to the Trust. If the Trust is unable to locate the shareholder, then it will determine whether the shareholder's account has legally been abandoned. The Trust is legally obligated to escheat (or transfer) abandoned property to the appropriate state's unclaimed property administrator in accordance with statutory requirements. The shareholder's last known address of record determines which state has jurisdiction.

## **TAXES**

The following section summarizes certain federal income and excise tax considerations generally affecting the Funds and their shareholders that are not described in the Prospectuses. No attempt is made to present a detailed explanation of the tax treatment of the Funds or their shareholders, and the discussion here and in the Prospectuses is not intended as a substitute for careful tax planning. This discussion is based upon provisions of the Code, the regulations promulgated thereunder, and judicial and administrative authorities as of the date of this SAI, all of which are subject to change, which may be retroactive. Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors with regard to the federal tax consequences of the purchase, ownership, and disposition of Fund shares, as well as the tax consequences thereof arising under the laws of any state, locality, foreign country or other taxing jurisdiction.

## TAX STATUS OF THE FUNDS

Each Fund (which is treated as a separate corporation for federal tax purposes) intends to continue to qualify to be taxed each taxable year as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of Chapter 1 of Subtitle A of the Code ("RIC"). As such, a Fund will not be subject to federal income tax on its net investment income and realized net capital gains that it distributes as dividends to its shareholders, provided that it distributes at least 90% of its investment company taxable income (if any) -- consisting generally of taxable net investment income plus the excess of net short-term capital gain over net long-term capital loss ("net short-term capital gain"), if any, all determined without regard to any deductions for dividends paid -- for the taxable year (the "Distribution Requirement"), as well as satisfies certain other requirements of the Code that are described below. Distributions of investment company taxable income made during a taxable year or, under specified circumstances, within twelve months after the close of a taxable year will satisfy the Distribution Requirement for that year.

In addition to satisfying the Distribution Requirement, each Fund must derive at least 90% of its gross income each taxable year from (a) dividends, interest, payments with respect to certain securities loans, and gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities, or foreign currencies or other income (including gains from options, futures, or forward contracts) derived with respect to its business of investing in stock, securities, or those currencies or (b) net income from an interest in a "qualified publicly traded partnership" ("QPTP") (the "Income Requirement").

Moreover, at the close of each quarter of its taxable year, (1) at least 50% of the value of a Fund's assets must consist of cash and cash items, government securities, securities of other RICs and securities of other issuers limited, in respect of any one issuer, to not more than 5% of the value of its total assets and not more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer (equity securities of QPTPs being considered voting securities for these purposes), and (2) no more than 25% of the value of a Fund's total assets may be invested in (a) the securities (other than government securities or securities of other RICs) of any one issuer, (b) the securities (other than securities of other RICs) of two or more issuers the Fund controls that are determined to be engaged in the same, similar or related trades or businesses, or (c) the securities of one or more QPTPs (the "Diversification Requirements"). A QPTP is defined as a publicly traded partnership (generally, a partnership the interests in which are "traded on an

established securities market" or are "readily tradable on a secondary market (or the substantial equivalent thereof)") other than a partnership at least 90% of the gross income of which satisfies the Income Requirement.

If, for any taxable year, any Fund did not qualify for treatment as a RIC, all of its taxable income generally would be subject to tax at regular corporate rates without any deduction for distributions to its shareholders. In that event, all distributions, including distributions of net capital gain (as defined below), would be taxable to the shareholders as ordinary income to the extent of the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits except that, for individual shareholders and certain other non-corporate shareholders (each, an "individual shareholder"), the part thereof that is QDI (see below) would be subject to federal income tax at the rates for net capital gain —generally, a maximum of either 15% or 20%, depending on whether the taxpayer's income exceeds certain threshold amounts; those distributions also would be eligible for the dividends-received deduction available to certain corporate shareholders under certain circumstances.

In determining its net capital gain, including in connection with determining the amount available to support a capital gain dividend, its taxable income and its earnings and profits, a RIC generally may elect to treat part or all of any post-October capital loss (defined as any net capital loss attributable to the portion, if any, of the taxable year after October 31 or, if there is no such loss, the net long-term capital loss or net short-term capital loss attributable to such portion of the taxable year) or late-year ordinary loss (generally, the sum of its (i) net ordinary loss from the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of property, attributable to the portion, if any, of the taxable year after October 31, and its (ii) other net ordinary loss attributable to the portion, if any, of the taxable year after December 31) as if incurred in the succeeding taxable year.

Although each Fund expects to continue to qualify for treatment as a RIC and thereby be relieved of all or substantially all federal income tax, a Fund may be subject to the tax laws of states or localities in which its offices are maintained, in which its agents or independent contractors are located, or in which it is otherwise deemed to be conducting business.

Amounts not distributed on a timely basis in accordance with a calendar year distribution requirement are subject to a nondeductible 4% excise tax (the "Excise Tax"). To prevent imposition of the Excise Tax, a Fund must distribute dividends to shareholders in respect of each calendar year of an amount at least equal to the sum of (1) 98% of its ordinary income (taking into account certain deferrals and elections) for the calendar year, (2) 98.2% of its capital gains in excess of its capital losses (adjusted for certain ordinary losses, as prescribed by the Code) for the one-year period ending on October 31 of the calendar year, and (3) any ordinary income and capital gains for previous years that were not distributed during those years and on which the Fund did not pay any U.S. federal corporate income tax. Each Fund intends to make its distributions in accordance with this requirement so as to avoid liability for the Excise Tax. However, each Fund reserves the right to retain a portion of its earnings and to be subject to excise tax on such earnings.

## TAXATION OF FUND DISTRIBUTIONS

Each Fund may report distributions of investment income it derives from dividends of most U.S. corporations (excluding, in general, most dividends from REITs) and some foreign corporations as QDI, provided that certain holding period and other requirements are met by the Fund. Fund dividends reported as QDI will be taxed in the hands of an individual shareholder at the rates applicable to net capital gain (described above), provided the shareholder meets the same holding period and other requirements with respect to the shares on which the Fund dividends were paid.

In the case of corporate shareholders, Fund distributions for any taxable year generally will qualify for the dividends-received deduction to the extent of the amount of dividends the Fund received from domestic corporations for the taxable year and if certain holding period requirements are met.

Distributions of (1) interest income a Fund earns from investments in debt securities and (2) any net short-term capital gain generally will be taxable to its shareholders as ordinary income and will not be eligible for the maximum rates applicable to QDI or the dividends-received deduction available to corporations.

Each Fund intends to distribute to its shareholders any excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss ("net capital gain") for each taxable year. Such a distribution is taxable to shareholders as gain from the sale or exchange of a capital asset held for more than one year, subject to the maximum federal income tax rates of 15% and 20% described above for an individual shareholder, regardless of the length of time the shareholder has

held his or her Fund shares and regardless of whether the distribution is paid in cash or reinvested in shares. Capital gain distributions are not eligible for the dividends-received deduction.

Individuals (and certain other non-corporate entities) are generally eligible for a 20% deduction with respect to taxable ordinary REIT dividends through 2025. Treasury regulations allow a Fund to pass through to its shareholders such taxable ordinary REIT dividends. Accordingly, individual (and certain other non-corporate) shareholders of a Fund that have received such taxable ordinary REIT dividends may be able to take advantage of this 20% deduction with respect to any such amounts passed through.

Certain distributions reported by a Fund as section 163(j) interest dividends may be treated as interest income by shareholders for purposes of the tax rules applicable to interest expense limitations under section 163(j) of the Code. Such treatment by the shareholder is generally subject to holding period requirements and other potential limitations, although the holding period requirements are generally not applicable to dividends declared by money market funds and certain other funds that declare dividends daily and pay such dividends on a monthly or more frequent basis. The amount that such Fund is eligible to report as a section 163(j) dividend for a tax year is generally limited to the excess of such Fund's business interest income over the sum of such Fund's (i) business interest expense and (ii) other deductions properly allocable to the Fund's business interest income.

A distribution will be treated as paid (and received by shareholders) on December 31 if it is declared by a Fund in October, November or December with a record date in such a month and paid by the Fund during the following January. Such distributions will be taxable to shareholders in the calendar year in which the distributions are declared, rather than in the calendar year in which the distributions are received.

Shareholders of a Fund will be advised annually as to the federal income tax character of distributions the Fund made. After calendar year-end, however, REITs can and often do change the category (e.g., ordinary income dividend, capital gain distribution or return of capital) of the distributions they have made during that year, which would result at that time in SA Real Estate Securities Fund also having to re-categorize some of the distributions it made to its shareholders. Those changes would be reflected in that Fund's Forms 1099. Although those forms generally will be distributed in February of each year, that Fund may, in one or more years, request from the Internal Revenue Service (the "Service") an extension of time to distribute those forms until mid-March to enable it to receive the latest information it can from the REITs in which it invests and thereby accurately report that information to its shareholders on a single form (rather than having to send them amended forms).

Dividends a Fund pays to a nonresident alien individual, foreign corporation or partnership, or foreign trust or estate (each, a "foreign shareholder"), other than (1) dividends paid to a foreign shareholder whose ownership of the Fund's shares is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business the shareholder conducts and (2) capital gain distributions paid to a nonresident alien individual who is physically present in the United States for no more than 182 days during the taxable year, generally will be subject to a federal withholding tax of 30% (or lower treaty rate). A Fund is generally able to report distributions of "interest-related dividends" and "short-term capital gain dividends," in writing to its shareholders as exempt from that withholding tax. "Interest-related dividends" are dividends that are attributable to "qualified interest income," which generally consists of certain original issue discount ("OID"), interest on obligations "in registered form," and interest on deposits, less allocable deductions). "Short-term capital gain dividends" are dividends that are attributable to "qualified short-term gains" (*i.e.*, net short-term capital gain, computed with certain adjustments). However, distributions that are derived from any dividends on corporate stock or from ordinary income other than U.S. source interest are still subject to withholding. There can be no assurance as to the amount of distributions that would not be subject to withholding when paid to foreign persons.

SA Real Estate Securities Fund (and the Allocation Fund indirectly through its investment in that Fund) may invest in the securities of corporations that invest in U.S. real property, including U.S. REITs. Under the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980 ("FIRPTA"), a non-U.S. shareholder is subject to withholding tax in respect of a disposition of a U.S. real property interest and any gain from such disposition is subject to U.S. federal income tax as if such person were a U.S. person. Such gain is sometimes referred to as "FIRPTA gain." If the SA Real Estate Securities Fund is a "U.S. real property holding corporation" and is not domestically controlled, any gain realized on the sale or exchange of Fund shares by a foreign shareholder that owns at any time during the five-year period ending on the date of disposition more than 5% of a class of Fund shares would be FIRPTA gain. The SA Real Estate Securities Fund will be a "U.S. real property holding corporation" if, in general, 50% or more of the fair market value of its assets consists of U.S. real property interests, including stock of certain U.S. REITs.

The Code provides a look-through rule for distributions of FIRPTA gain by a RIC if all of the following requirements are met: (i) the RIC is classified as a "qualified investment entity" (which includes a RIC if, in general more than 50% of the RIC's assets consists of interest in REITs and U.S. real property holding corporations); and (ii) a foreign shareholder owns more than 5% of the Fund's shares at any time during the one-year period ending on the date of the distribution. If these conditions are met, Fund distributions to a non-U.S. shareholder to the extent derived from gain from the disposition of a U.S. real property interest, may also be treated as FIRPTA gain and therefore subject to U.S. federal income tax, and requiring that a shareholder file a nonresident U.S. income tax return. Also, such gain may be subject to a 30% branch profits tax in the hands of a non-U.S. shareholder that is a corporation. Even if a non-U.S. shareholder does not own more than 5% of the Fund's shares, Fund distributions that are attributable to gain from the sale or disposition of a U.S. real property interest will be taxable as ordinary dividends subject to withholding at a 30% or lower treaty rate.

The Funds are required to withhold U.S. tax (at a 30% rate) on payments of taxable dividends made to certain non-U.S. entities that fail to comply (or be deemed compliant) with extensive reporting and withholding requirements designed to inform the U.S. Department of the Treasury of U.S.-owned foreign investment accounts. Shareholders may be requested to provide additional information to the Funds to enable the Funds to determine whether withholding is required.

## TAXATION OF DISPOSITION OF SHARES

On a redemption or exchange of Fund shares, a shareholder will realize a taxable gain or loss depending on his or her basis in the shares. Such gain or loss will be treated as capital gain or loss if the shares are capital assets in the shareholder's hands and will be long-term or short-term, depending on the shareholder's holding period for the shares. Any loss realized on a redemption or exchange will be disallowed to the extent the shares that are disposed of are replaced (including through reinvestment of distributions) within a period of 61 days beginning 30 days before and ending 30 days after the disposition. In such a case, the basis in the shares acquired will be adjusted to reflect the disallowed loss. Any loss a shareholder realizes on the sale of Fund shares held for six months or less will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of any distributions of net capital gain with respect to those shares.

A shareholder's basis in shares of a Fund that he or she acquired after December 31, 2011 ("Covered Shares"), will be determined in accordance with the Fund's default method, which is average basis, unless the shareholder affirmatively elects in writing (which may be electronic) to use a different acceptable basis determination method, such as a specific identification method. The basis determination method a Fund shareholder elects (or the default method) may not be changed with respect to a redemption of Covered Shares after the settlement date of the redemption.

In addition to the requirement to report the gross proceeds from the sale of Fund shares, each Fund (or its administrative agent) also must report to the Service and furnish to its shareholders the basis information for Covered Shares and indicate whether they had a short-term (one year or less) or long-term (more than one year) holding period. Fund shareholders should consult with their tax advisors to determine the best Service-accepted basis determination method for their tax situation and to obtain more information about how the basis reporting law applies to them.

# TAXATION OF FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

Dividends and interest a Fund receives, and gains it realizes, on foreign securities may be subject to income, withholding, or other taxes foreign countries and U.S. possessions impose ("foreign taxes") that would reduce the yield and/or total return on its investments. Tax conventions between certain countries and the United States may reduce or eliminate foreign taxes, however, and many foreign countries do not impose taxes on capital gains in respect of investments by foreign investors.

In the cases of the SA Worldwide Moderate Growth Fund, SA Global Fixed Income Fund, SA International Value Fund, SA Emerging Markets Value Fund and SA International Small Company Fund (each, an "International Fund"), if more than 50% of the value of its total assets (in the last Fund's case, indirectly through its share of the DFA Portfolio's indirect investments in the Underlying DFA Funds' assets) at the close of any taxable year consists of stock or securities of foreign corporations, or if at least 50% of the value of an International Fund's assets at the close of each quarter of its taxable year consists of interests in Underlying Funds that are RICs, it will be eligible to, and may, file an election with the Service that would enable its shareholders, in effect, to benefit from any foreign

tax credit or deduction available with respect to any foreign taxes it directly or indirectly (through the DFA Portfolio and the Underlying DFA Funds) pays. Pursuant to the election, an International Fund would treat those taxes as dividends paid to its shareholders and each shareholder (1) would be required to include in gross income, and treat as paid by the shareholder, the shareholder's proportionate share of those taxes, (2) would be required to treat that share of those taxes and of any dividend the International Fund paid that represents income from foreign or U.S. possessions sources ("foreign-source income") as the shareholder's own income from those sources and (3) could either use the foreign taxes deemed paid by the shareholder in computing taxable income. If an International Fund makes this election, it will report to its shareholders shortly after each taxable year their respective shares of the foreign taxes and foreign-source income it directly or indirectly paid and earned, respectively. Each of SA International Value Fund and SA Emerging Markets Value Fund has, for prior taxable years, filed this election with the Service.

Individuals who have no more than \$300 (\$600 for married persons filing jointly) of creditable foreign taxes included on Forms 1099 and all of whose foreign source income is "qualified passive income" may elect each year to be exempt from the extremely complicated foreign tax credit limitation, in which event they would be able to claim a foreign tax credit without having to file the detailed Form 1116 that otherwise is required. A shareholder will not be entitled to credit or deduct its allocable portions of foreign taxes an International Fund directly or indirectly paid if the shareholder has not held Fund shares for at least 16 days during the 30-day period beginning 15 days before the ex-distribution date for those shares. The minimum holding period will be extended if the shareholder's risk of loss with respect to those shares is reduced by reason of holding an offsetting position. No deduction for foreign taxes may be claimed by a shareholder who does not itemize deductions. A foreign shareholder may not deduct or claim a credit for foreign taxes in determining its federal income tax liability unless International Fund dividends paid to it are effectively connected with its conduct of a U.S. trade or business.

A Fund may invest in shares of one or more passive foreign investment companies ("PFICs") either directly or, in the case of SA International Small Company Fund, indirectly through the DFA Portfolio and the Underlying DFA Funds and the Allocation Fund, indirectly through other Funds. In general, a foreign corporation (other than a "controlled foreign corporation") is a PFIC if at least one-half of its assets produce or are held for the production of passive income or 75% or more of its gross income for the taxable year is passive. Under certain circumstances, a Fund will be subject to federal income tax on a portion of any "excess distribution" it receives, directly or indirectly, on the stock of a PFIC or of any gain on its direct or indirect disposition of that stock (collectively, "PFIC income"), plus an interest charge thereon, even if the Fund distributes the PFIC income as a dividend to its shareholders. The balance of the PFIC income will be included in the Fund's investment company taxable income and, accordingly, will not be taxable to the extent it distributes that income to its shareholders. Excess distributions are characterized as ordinary income even though, absent application of the PFIC rules, certain excess distributions might have been classified as capital gain. Moreover, Fund distributions thereof will not be eligible for the maximum federal income tax rates on individual shareholder's ODI described above.

Each Fund may be eligible to elect alternative tax treatment with respect to PFIC stock. If a Fund (which term, for purposes of this and the following paragraph and the first sentence of the paragraph after that, includes the DFA Portfolio and an Underlying DFA Fund, where applicable) elects to treat a PFIC as a "qualified electing fund" ("QEF"), then in lieu of the foregoing tax and interest obligation, the Fund would be required to include in income each taxable year its *pro rata* share of the QEF's annual ordinary earnings and net capital gain – which the Fund likely would have to distribute to satisfy the Distribution Requirement and avoid imposition of the Excise Tax – even if the QEF did not distribute those earnings and gain to the Fund. In most instances it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to make this election because of certain requirements thereof.

A Fund also may alternatively elect to "mark to market" its stock in any PFIC. "Marking-to-market," in this context, means including in ordinary income each taxable year the excess, if any, of the fair market value of the stock over the adjusted basis therein as of the end of that taxable year. Pursuant to the election, a deduction (as an ordinary, not a capital, loss) also would be allowed for the excess, if any, of the holder's adjusted basis in PFIC stock over the fair market value thereof as of the taxable year-end, but only to the extent of any net mark-to-market gains with respect to that stock included in income for prior taxable years under the election. The adjusted basis in each PFIC's stock subject to the election would be adjusted to reflect the amounts of income included and deductions taken thereunder.

Because the application of the PFIC rules may affect, among other things, the character of gains and the amount of gain or loss and the timing of the recognition of income with respect to PFIC stock, and may subject a Fund itself to tax on certain income from PFIC stock, the amount that must be distributed to shareholders and will be taxed to

shareholders as ordinary income or long-term capital gain may be increased or decreased substantially as compared to a fund that did not invest in PFIC stock. Furthermore, investors should be aware that a Fund may not be able, at the time it acquires a foreign corporation's shares, to ascertain whether the corporation is a PFIC and that a foreign corporation may become a PFIC after a Fund acquires shares therein. Each Fund reserves the right to make such investments as a matter of its investment policy.

Gains or losses (1) from the disposition of foreign currencies, including forward contracts, (2) except in certain circumstances, from options and forward contracts on foreign currencies (and on financial instruments involving foreign currencies) and from notional principal contracts (e.g., swaps, caps, floors, and collars) involving payments denominated in foreign currencies, (3) on the disposition of each foreign-currency-denominated debt security that are attributable to fluctuations in the value of the foreign currency between the dates of acquisition and disposition of the security, and (4) that are attributable to exchange rate fluctuations between the time a Fund accrues interest, dividends or other receivables or expenses or other liabilities denominated in a foreign currency and the time it actually collects the receivables or pays the liabilities, generally will be treated as ordinary income or loss. These gains or losses will increase or decrease the amount of a Fund's investment company taxable income to be distributed to its shareholders as ordinary income, rather than affecting the amount of its net capital gain.

## TAXATION OF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS

SA Real Estate Securities Fund (and the Allocation Fund indirectly through its investment in that Fund) may invest in REITs that (1) hold residual interests in real estate mortgage investment conduits ("REMICs") or (2) engage in mortgage securitization transactions that cause the REITs to be taxable mortgage pools ("TMPs") or have a qualified REIT subsidiary that is a TMP. A portion of the net income allocable to REMIC residual interest holders may be an "excess inclusion." The Code authorizes the issuance of regulations dealing with the taxation and reporting of excess inclusion income of REITs and RICs that hold residual REMIC interests and of REITs, or qualified REIT subsidiaries, which are TMPs. Although those regulations have not yet been issued, the U.S. Treasury Department and the Service have issued a notice (the "Notice") announcing that, pending the issuance of further guidance, the Service would apply the principles in the following paragraphs to all excess inclusion income, whether from REMIC residual interests or TMPs.

The Notice provides that a REIT must (1) determine whether it or its qualified REIT subsidiary (or a part of either) is a TMP and, if so, calculate the TMP's excess inclusion income under a "reasonable method," (2) allocate its excess inclusion income to its shareholders generally in proportion to dividends paid, (3) inform shareholders that are not "disqualified organizations" (*i.e.*, governmental units and tax-exempt entities that are not subject to the unrelated business income tax) of the amount and character of the excess inclusion income allocated thereto, (4) pay tax (at the highest federal income tax rate imposed on corporations) on the excess inclusion income allocated to its disqualified organization shareholders and (5) apply the withholding tax provisions with respect to the excess inclusion part of dividends paid to foreign persons without regard to any treaty exception or reduction in tax rate. Excess inclusion income allocated to certain tax-exempt entities (including qualified retirement plans, IRAs, and public charities) constitutes unrelated business taxable income to them.

A RIC with excess inclusion income is subject to rules identical to those in clause (2) through (5) above (substituting "that are nominees" for "that are not 'disqualified organizations" in clause (3) and inserting "record shareholders that are" after "its" in clause (4)). The Notice further provides that a RIC is not required to report the amount and character of the excess inclusion income allocated to its shareholders that are not nominees, except that (1) a RIC with excess inclusion income from all sources that exceeds 1% of its gross income must do so and (2) any other RIC must do so by taking into account only excess inclusion income allocated to the RIC from REITs the excess inclusion income of which exceeded 3% of its dividends. The SA Real Estate Securities Fund will not invest directly in REMIC residual interests and does not intend to invest in REITs that, to its knowledge, invest in those interests or are TMPs or have a qualified REIT subsidiary that is a TMP.

# TAXATION OF OTHER FUND INVESTMENTS

**Certain Financial Instruments.** Special rules govern the federal income tax treatment of financial instruments in which some Funds may invest. These rules may have a particular impact on the amount of income or gain that a Fund must distribute to its shareholders to comply with the Distribution Requirement and on the income or gain qualifying under the Income Requirement.

**Original Issue Discount.** Each Fund may acquire debt securities with OID, which represents the difference between the original issue price of the debt instrument and its stated redemption price at maturity. OID is required to be

accrued on a daily basis and is considered interest income for federal income tax purposes. Therefore, it is subject to the Distribution Requirement for a Fund, even if the Fund receives no corresponding payment on the discounted security during the Fund's taxable year. Because each Fund annually must distribute substantially all of its investment company taxable income, including any accrued OID, to satisfy the Distribution Requirement and avoid imposition of the Excise Tax, a Fund may be required in a particular taxable year to distribute as a dividend an amount that is greater than the total amount of cash it actually receives. Those distributions will be made from a Fund's cash assets or from the proceeds of sales of its portfolio securities, if necessary. A Fund may realize capital gains or losses from those sales, which would increase or decrease its investment company taxable income and/or net capital gain.

**Market Discount.** Some Funds may acquire debt securities at a discount in excess of the OID thereon or at a discount to the stated redemption price at maturity (for debt securities without OID). This discount is called "market discount." Market discount is permitted to be recorded daily or at the time of disposition of the debt security. If market discount is to be recognized at the time of disposition of the debt security, accrued market discount is recognized to the extent of gain on the disposition.

Hedging Transactions. The premium a Fund receives for selling a put or call option is not included in income at the time of receipt. If the option expires, the premium will be a short-term capital gain to the Fund. If the Fund enters into a closing transaction, the difference between the amount it paid to close out its position and the premium it receives will be a short-term capital gain or loss. If a call option written by a Fund is exercised, thereby requiring the Fund to sell the underlying security, the premium will increase the amount realized on the sale of that security, and any resulting gain or loss will be a capital gain or loss and will be long-term or short-term depending on the Fund's holding period for the security. With respect to a put or call option that is purchased by a Fund, if the option is sold, any resulting gain or loss will be a capital gain or loss and will be long-term or short-term, depending on the Fund's holding period for the option. If the option expires, the resulting loss will be treated similarly. If the option is exercised, the cost of the option, in the case of a call option, will be added to the basis in the purchased security and, in the case of a put option, will reduce the amount realized on the underlying security in determining gain or loss.

Some futures contracts, foreign currency contracts, and "nonequity" options (*i.e.*, certain listed options, such as those on a "broad-based" securities index) – but not including any "securities futures contract" that is not a "dealer securities futures contract" (both as defined in the Code) or any interest rate, currency, basis, commodity, equity, equity index, or credit default swap, interest rate cap or floor or similar agreement — in which a Fund may invest may be "section 1256 contracts." Section 1256 contracts a Fund holds at the end of each taxable year (and generally for purposes of the Excise Tax, on October 31 of each year) are "marked-to-market" (that is, treated as having been sold at that time for their fair market value) for federal tax purposes, with the result that unrealized gains or losses are treated as though they were realized. Gains or losses on section 1256 contracts (including deemed sales) are generally characterized as 60% long-term and 40% short-term capital gains or losses; however, certain foreign currency gains or losses arising from section 1256 contracts are generally characterized as ordinary income or loss. These rules may operate to increase the amount that a Fund must distribute to satisfy the Distribution Requirement (*i.e.*, with respect to the portion treated as short-term capital gain), which will be taxable to its shareholders as ordinary income when distributed to them, and to increase the net capital gain a Fund recognizes, without in either case increasing the cash available to it. A Fund may elect not to have the foregoing rules apply to any "mixed straddle" (that is, a straddle the Fund clearly identifies in accordance with applicable regulations, at least one (but not all) of the positions of which are section 1256 contracts), although doing so may have the effect of increasing the relative portion of net short-term capital gain (taxable as ordinary income) and thus increasing the amount of dividends it must distribute.

Generally, hedging transactions a Fund undertakes, if any, may result in "straddles" for federal income tax purposes. The straddle rules may affect the timing, amount and character of gains (or losses) a Fund realizes. In addition, losses a Fund realizes on positions that are part of a straddle may be deferred under the straddle rules, rather than being taken into account in calculating the taxable income for the taxable year in which the losses are realized. Hedging transactions may increase the amount of net short-term capital gain realized by a Fund that is taxed as ordinary income when distributed to its shareholders. If a Fund makes one or more elections available under the Code, the amount, character and timing of the recognition of gains or losses from the affected straddle positions will be determined under rules that vary according to the election(s) made. The rules applicable under certain of the elections may operate to accelerate the recognition of gains, or defer the recognition of losses, from the affected straddle positions. Because only a few regulations implementing the straddle rules have been promulgated, the tax consequences of hedging transactions to the Funds are not entirely clear.

Because application of the straddle rules may affect the character of gains or losses, defer losses and/or accelerate the recognition of gains or losses from the affected straddle positions, the amount that must be distributed to Fund

shareholders, and that will be taxed to them as ordinary income or long-term capital gains, may be increased or decreased substantially as compared to a fund that did not engage in straddles.

The Diversification Requirements may limit the extent to which the Funds will be able to engage in transactions in options, futures or forward contracts.

Constructive Sales. Certain rules may affect the timing and character of gains recognized by a Fund if the Fund engages in a transaction that either reduces or eliminates its risk of loss with respect to certain appreciated financial positions – generally, an interest (including an interest through an option, futures or forward contract, or short sale). If a Fund has an "appreciated financial position" with respect to any stock, debt instrument (other than "straight debt"), or partnership interest the fair market value of which exceeds its adjusted basis – and enters into a "constructive sale" of the position, the Fund will be treated as having made an actual sale thereof, with the result that it will recognize gain at that time. A constructive sale generally consists of a short sale, an offsetting notional principal contract or a futures or forward contract a Fund or a related person enters into with respect to the same or substantially identical property. In addition, if the appreciated financial position is itself a short sale or such a contract, acquisition of the underlying property or substantially identical property will be deemed a constructive sale. The foregoing will not apply, however, to any Fund transaction during any taxable year that otherwise would be treated as a constructive sale if the transaction is closed within 30 days after the end of that year and the Fund holds the appreciated financial position unhedged for 60 days after that closing (i.e., at no time during that 60-day period is the Fund's risk of loss regarding that position reduced by reason of certain specified transactions with respect to substantially identical or related property, such as having an option to sell, being contractually obligated to sell, making a short sale or granting an option to buy substantially identical stock or securities).

Capital Loss Carryovers. The Funds utilize the provisions of the federal income tax law that provide for the carryover of capital losses from prior taxable years, offsetting such losses against any future realized capital gains. Net capital losses may be carried over indefinitely, and their character is retained as short-term and/or long-term capital losses.

As of June 30, 2023, the accumulated short-term and long-term capital loss carryovers for the Funds were as follows (amounts designated as "—" are \$0 or have been rounded to \$0):

	Unlimited Short- Unlimited Long	
Fund	Term Losses	Term Losses
SA U.S. Fixed Income Fund	\$(28,745,102)	\$(3,501,799)
SA Global Fixed Income Fund	\$(34,154,974)	\$(33,380,811)
SA International Value Fund	\$(4,944,118)	\$(16,964,612)
SA Emerging Markets Value Fund	\$-	\$(12,217,998)

**Fund of Funds Structure**. A Fund will not be able to offset gains distributed by one Underlying Fund in which it invests against losses in another Underlying Fund in which the Fund invests. Losses incurred by an Underlying Fund will not offset gains incurred by the Fund or by another Underlying Fund. Redemptions of shares in an Underlying Fund, including those resulting from changes in the allocation among Underlying Funds, could also cause additional distributable gains to shareholders of a Fund. A portion of any such gains may be short-term capital gains that would be distributable as ordinary income to shareholders of the Fund. Further, a portion of losses on redemptions of shares in the Underlying Funds may be deferred under the wash sale rules. As a result of these factors, the use of the fund of funds structure by a Fund could therefore affect the amount, timing and character of distributions to shareholders.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Shareholders will receive annual audited financial statements and semi-annual unaudited financial statements. The Trust's June 30, 2023 financial statements and the report thereon of Cohen & Company, Ltd., the Trust's Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm, from the Trust's June 30, 2023 annual report (as filed with the SEC on September 6, 2023, pursuant to Section 30(b) of the 1940 Act and Rule 30b2-1 thereunder) are incorporated herein by reference.

## APPENDIX A

## SA FUNDS – INVESTMENT TRUST

## **Proxy Voting**

The Board has adopted the following policy and procedures with respect to voting proxies relating to portfolio securities held by certain of the Trust's Funds:

# 1. Policy

It is the policy of the Board to delegate the responsibility for voting proxies relating to portfolio securities held by the Funds to the Sub-Adviser, subject to the Board's continuing oversight (the "Policy").

# 2. Fiduciary Duty

The right to vote a proxy with respect to portfolio securities held by the Funds is an asset of the Trust. The Sub-Adviser, to which the authority to vote on behalf of the Funds is delegated, acts as a fiduciary of the Trust and must vote proxies in a manner consistent with the best interest of the Funds. Every reasonable effort shall be made by the Sub-Adviser to vote each Fund's proxies. However, the Sub-Adviser shall not be required to vote a proxy if it is not practicable to do so, or if it determines that the potential costs involved with voting a proxy outweighs the potential benefits to a Fund.

# 3. Proxy Voting Services

The Sub-Adviser may engage an independent proxy voting service to assist it in the voting of each Fund's proxies. Such a service would be responsible for coordinating with the Trust's custodian to ensure that all applicable proxy solicitation materials received by the custodian are processed in a timely fashion.

## 4. Conflicts of Interest

The proxy voting guidelines of the Sub-Adviser shall address the procedures it would follow with respect to conflicts of interest.

#### Procedures

The following are the procedures adopted by the Board for the administration of the Policy:

- a. <u>Review of Sub-Adviser Proxy Voting Procedures.</u> The Sub-Adviser shall present to the Board its policies, procedures and other guidelines for voting proxies at least annually, and must notify the Board promptly of material changes to any of these documents.
- b. <u>Voting Record Reporting.</u> No less than annually, the Sub-Adviser shall report to the Board with respect to proxies voted on behalf of the Funds. A copy of the proxy voting record for the Funds shall be provided to the Board upon request. With respect to those proxies that the Sub-Adviser has identified as involving a conflict of interest, the Sub-Adviser shall report to the Board the nature of the conflict of interest and how that conflict was resolved with respect to the voting of the proxy.
- c. <u>Voting Proxies of Underlying Funds of a Fund of Funds</u>. With respect to voting proxies relating to the shares of an underlying fund (an "Underlying Fund") held by a Fund of Funds in reliance on Section 12(d)(1)(G) of the 1940 Act where the Underlying Fund has shareholders other than the Fund of Funds which are not other Fund of Funds, the Fund

of Funds will vote proxies relating to shares of the Underlying Fund in the same proportion as the vote of all other holders of such Underlying Fund shares.

# 6. Revocation

The delegation by the Board of the authority to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities of the Funds is entirely voluntary and may be revoked by the Board, in whole or in part, at any time.

# 7. Annual Filing

The Sub-Administrator shall file an annual report on behalf of the Trust of each proxy voted with respect to portfolio securities of the Funds during the twelve-month period ended June 30 on Form N-PX not later than August 31 of each year.

Update History: July 1, 2003; November 30, 2011; June 14, 2014; June 9, 2015 Effective Date: March 29, 2023 PROPRIETARY

Appendix B

## PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

DIMENSIONAL FUND ADVISORS LP DIMENSIONAL FUND ADVISORS LTD. DFA AUSTRALIA LIMITED DIMENSIONAL FUND ADVISORS PTE. LTD. DIMENSIONAL JAPAN LTD. DIMENSIONAL IRELAND LIMITED

## Introduction

Dimensional Fund Advisors LP ("Dimensional") is an investment adviser registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") pursuant to the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended (the "Advisers Act"). Dimensional is the parent or indirect parent company of Dimensional Fund Advisors Ltd. ("Dimensional UK"), DFA Australia Limited ("Dimensional Australia"), Dimensional Fund Advisors Pte. Ltd. ("Dimensional Singapore"), Dimensional Japan Ltd. ("Dimensional Japan") and Dimensional Ireland Limited ("Dimensional Ireland") (each, an "Advisor", and collectively referred to as the "Advisors"). Dimensional UK and Dimensional Australia are also registered as investment advisers under the Advisers Act.

The Advisors provide investment advisory or subadvisory services to various types of clients, including registered funds, unregistered commingled funds, defined benefit plans, defined contribution plans (including employee benefit plans subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the regulations promulgated thereunder ("ERISA")), private and public pension funds, foundations, endowment funds and other types of investors. These clients frequently give the Advisors the authority and discretion to vote proxies relating to the underlying securities beneficially held by such clients. Also, a client may, at times, ask an Advisor to share its proxy voting policies, procedures, and guidelines without the client delegating full voting discretion to the Advisor. Depending on the client, an Advisor's duties may include making decisions regarding whether and how to vote proxies as part of an investment manager's fiduciary duty under ERISA.¹ The scope and any limitations of an Advisor's proxy voting authority generally will be described in the written contract between the Advisor and its client or with respect to an Advisor-sponsored fund, the offering documents of the fund.

The following Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures (the "Policy") address the Advisors' objectives for voting proxies received by the Advisors on behalf of client accounts or funds to the extent that relationships with such clients are subject to the Advisers Act or ERISA or the clients are registered investment companies under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, including The DFA Investment Trust Company, DFA Investment Dimensions Group Inc., Dimensional Investment Group Inc., Dimensional Emerging Markets Value Fund, and Dimensional ETF Trust (together, the "Dimensional Investment Companies") and the portfolios, funds and exchange-traded funds of the Dimensional Investment Companies are each a "Dimensional Fund" and together, the "Dimensional Funds"). The Advisors believe that this Policy is reasonably designed to meet their goal of seeking to vote (or refrain

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If the client is subject to ERISA, an Advisor's proxy voting activities are subject to any applicable provisions under ERISA and/or guidance from the U.S. Department of Labor.

from voting) proxies in a manner consistent with applicable legal and fiduciary standards and in the best interests of clients, as understood by the Advisors at the time of the vote.

Exhibit A to this Policy includes a summary of the Advisors' current Proxy Voting Guidelines and will change from time to time (the "Guidelines"). The Investment Committee of Dimensional has determined that, in general, voting proxies pursuant to the Guidelines should be in the best interests of clients and the Advisors understand the Guidelines to be consistent with applicable legal standards. Therefore, an Advisor will usually instruct voting of proxies in accordance with the Guidelines.

The Guidelines provide a framework for analysis and decision making but do not address all potential issues. In order to be able to address all the relevant facts and circumstances related to a proxy vote, the Advisors reserve the right to instruct votes that deviate from the Guidelines if, after a review of the matter, an Advisor believes that a client's best interests would be served by, or applicable legal and fiduciary standards require, such a vote. In such circumstance, the analysis will be documented in writing and periodically presented to the Investment Stewardship Committee for review. To the extent that the Guidelines do not cover potential voting issues, an Advisor may consider the spirit of the Guidelines and applicable legal standards and instruct the vote on such issues in a manner that the Advisor believes would be in the best interests of the client.

A client's investment strategy can impact voting determinations. For example, the Advisors consider social issues when voting proxies for portfolios and accounts that incorporate social considerations in their design and consider sustainability issues when voting proxies for portfolios and accounts that consider sustainability considerations in their design. The Advisors may also take social or sustainability issues into account when voting proxies for portfolios and accounts that do not consider social or sustainability issues in their design if the Advisors believe that doing so is in the best interest of the relevant client(s) and otherwise consistent with applicable laws and the Advisors' duties, such as where material environmental or social risks may have economic ramifications for shareholders.

# **Proxy Advisory Firms**

The Advisors have retained certain third-party proxy service providers ("Proxy Advisory Firms") to provide information on shareholder meeting dates and proxy materials, translate proxy materials printed in a foreign language, provide research on proxy proposals, operationally process votes in accordance with the Guidelines on behalf of the clients for whom the Advisors have proxy voting responsibility, and provide reports concerning the proxies voted ("Proxy Voting Services"). Although the Advisors retain third-party service providers for Proxy Voting Services, the Advisors remain responsible for proxy voting decisions and making such decisions in accordance with their fiduciary duties. The Advisors have designed policies and procedures to prudently select, oversee and evaluate the Proxy Advisory Firms consistent with their fiduciary duties, including with respect to the matters described below, which Proxy Advisory Firms have been engaged to provide Proxy Voting Services to support the Advisors' voting in accordance with this Policy. In the event that the Guidelines are not implemented precisely as the Advisors intend because of the actions or omissions of any Proxy Advisory Firms, custodians or sub-custodians or other agents, or any such persons experience any irregularities (e.g., misvotes or missed votes), then such instances will not necessarily be deemed by the Advisors as a breach of this Policy.

Prior to the selection of any new Proxy Advisory Firms and annually thereafter or more frequently if deemed necessary by Dimensional, the Investment Stewardship Committee will consider whether the

Proxy Advisory Firm: (a) has the capacity and competency to timely and adequately analyze proxy issues and provide the Proxy Voting Services the Proxy Advisory Firm has been engaged to provide and (b) can make its recommendations in an impartial manner, in consideration of the best interests of the Advisors' clients, and consistent with the Advisors' voting policies and fiduciary duties. In conducting such a review of a Proxy Advisory Firm, Dimensional may consider the following, depending on the Proxy Voting Services the Proxy Advisory Firm has been engaged to provide:

- (i) periodic sampling of certain votes pre-populated by the Proxy Advisory Firm's systems as well as votes cast by the Proxy Advisory Firm to review that the Guidelines adopted by the Advisors are being followed;
- (ii) onsite visits to the Proxy Advisory Firm office and/or discussions with the Proxy Advisory Firm to determine whether the Proxy Advisory Firm continues to have the capacity and competency to carry out its proxy obligations to the Advisors;
- (iii) a review of those aspects of the Proxy Advisory Firm's policies, procedures, and methodologies for formulating voting recommendations that the Advisors consider material to the Proxy Voting Services provided to the Advisors, including: (a) those relating to the Proxy Advisory Firm's efforts to identify, address, mitigate and disclose actual or potential conflicts of interest, (b) the Proxy Advisory Firm's efforts to obtain current, accurate, and complete information in creating recommendations and research, and (c) the Proxy Advisory Firm's ability to provide services consistent with ERISA;
- (iv) a requirement that the Proxy Advisory Firm notify the Advisors if there is a substantive change in the Proxy Advisory Firm's policies and procedures described in (iii) above or otherwise to its business practices;
- (v) a review of how and when the Proxy Advisory Firm engages with, and receives and incorporates input from, portfolio companies, the Proxy Advisory Firm's clients and other third-party information sources as well as how and when the Proxy Advisory Firm makes available from portfolio companies, or other sources, additional information about a matter to be voted;
- (vi) an assessment of how the Proxy Advisory Firm considers factors unique to a specific issuer or proposal when evaluating a matter subject to a shareholder vote;
- (vii) in case of an error made by the Proxy Advisory Firm, a discussion of the error with the Proxy Advisory Firm and determination of whether (a) the error affected the Proxy Advisory Firm's Proxy Voting Services and (b) appropriate corrective and preventive action is being taken; and
- (viii) an assessment of whether the Proxy Advisory Firm appropriately updates its methodologies, guidelines, and voting recommendations, including to address any deficiencies, on an ongoing basis and incorporates input from issuers and Proxy Advisory Firm clients in the update process.

In evaluating Proxy Advisory Firms, the Advisors may also consider the adequacy and quality of the Proxy Advisory Firm's staffing, personnel, and/or technology and other factors in its discretion.

# **Procedures for Voting Proxies**

The Investment Committee at Dimensional is generally responsible for overseeing each Advisor's proxy voting process. The Investment Committee has formed the Investment Stewardship Committee

composed of certain officers, directors and other personnel of the Advisors and has delegated to its members authority to (i) oversee the voting of proxies and the Proxy Advisory Firms, (ii) make determinations as to how to instruct the vote on certain specific proxies, (iii) verify ongoing compliance with this Policy, (iv) receive reports on the review of the Proxy Advisory Firms as described above, and (v) review this Policy from time to time and recommend changes to the Investment Committee. The Investment Stewardship Committee may designate one or more of its members to oversee specific, ongoing compliance with respect to this Policy and may designate personnel of each Advisor to instruct the vote on proxies on behalf of an Advisor's clients, such as authorized traders of the Advisors (collectively, "Authorized Persons"). The Investment Stewardship Committee will review this policy no less frequently than annually and may recommend changes to this Policy to seek to act in a manner consistent with the best interests of the clients.

Generally, the Advisors analyze relevant proxy materials on behalf of their clients and seek to instruct the vote (or refrain from voting) proxies in accordance with this Policy and the Guidelines. A client may direct an Advisor to vote for such client's account differently than what would occur in applying the Policy and the Guidelines. An Advisor may also agree to follow a client's individualized proxy voting guidelines or otherwise agree with a client on particular voting considerations.

Each Advisor seeks to vote (or refrain from voting) proxies for its clients in a manner that the Advisor determines is in the best interests of its clients and which seeks to maximize the value of the client's investments, subject to the standards of legal and regulatory regimes, applicable to the Advisor or the client, and any particular investment or voting guidelines of specific funds or accounts. When voting (or electing to refrain from voting) proxies for clients subject to ERISA, each Advisor shall seek to consider those factors that may affect the economic value of the ERISA client's investment and not subordinate the interests of the client's participants and beneficiaries on their retirement income or financial benefits under the plan to any other objectives. In some cases, the Advisor may determine that it is in the best interests of clients to refrain from exercising the clients' proxy voting rights. The Advisor may determine that voting is not in the best interests of a client and refrain from voting if the costs, including the opportunity costs, of voting would, in the view of the Advisor, exceed the expected benefits of voting to the client. For securities on loan and when the Advisor or an affiliate of the Advisor has agreed to monitor the securities lending program of the client account, the Advisor will balance the revenue-producing value of loans against the difficult-to-assess value of casting votes. It is the Advisors' belief that the expected value of casting a vote generally will be less than the securities lending income, either because the votes will not have significant economic consequences or because the outcome of the vote would not be affected by an Advisor recalling loaned securities for voting. Each Advisor does intend to recall securities on loan if, based upon information in the Advisor's possession, it determines that voting the securities is likely to materially affect the value of a client's investment and that it is in the client's best interests to do so.

In cases where an Advisor does not receive a solicitation or enough information within a sufficient time (as reasonably determined by the Advisor) prior to the proxy-voting deadline, the Advisor or its service provider may be unable to vote. As part of the vote execution services provided to the Advisors, a Proxy Advisory Firm pre-populates votes in accordance with the Policy and Guidelines. Such votes are automatically submitted unless modified by an Authorized Person prior to submission. The Advisors conduct sampling of select pre-populated votes prior to the final vote submission. For votes on certain issues, the Advisors conduct additional reviews as part of the voting process. If an Advisor becomes aware that a portfolio company or shareholder proponent of a proposal has filed or intends to file additional soliciting material after a Proxy Advisory Firm has pre-populated votes, and the company or proponent makes this material available within a sufficient time (as reasonably determined by the Advisor) prior to the proxy-voting deadline, the Advisor will assess whether the material could reasonably be expected to

If a client does not share with its Advisor information regarding the cost of voting proxies so that the Advisor can perform a costbenefit analysis, the Advisor will decide whether to vote proxies considering only the information on difficulties and costs that it has available.

impact the Advisor's vote determination and will seek to review and consider any impactful material prior to the proxy-voting deadline.

The Advisors from time to time discuss governance matters with portfolio companies to represent client interests; however, regardless of such conversations, the Advisors acquire securities on behalf of their clients solely for the purpose of investment and not with the purpose or intended effect of changing or influencing the control of any portfolio company. The Advisors do not intend to engage in shareholder activism with respect to a pending vote or matter that an Advisor reasonably expects to be the subject of a shareholder vote in the foreseeable future. If an issuer's management, shareholders or proxy solicitors contact an Advisor with respect to a pending vote, a member of the Investment Stewardship Committee (or its delegee) may listen to such party and discuss this Policy with such party.

## **International Proxy Voting**

While the Advisors utilize the Policy and Guidelines for both their international and domestic portfolios and clients, there are some significant differences between voting U.S. company proxies and voting non-U.S. company proxies. For U.S. companies, it is usually relatively easy to vote proxies, as the proxies are typically received automatically and may be voted by mail or electronically. In most cases, the officers of a U.S. company soliciting a proxy act as proxies for the company's shareholders.

With respect to non-U.S. companies, however, it may be both difficult and costly to vote proxies due to local regulations, customs or other requirements or restrictions, and such circumstances and expected costs may outweigh any anticipated economic benefit of voting. The major difficulties and costs may include: (i) appointing a proxy; (ii) obtaining reliable information about the time and location of a meeting; (iii) obtaining relevant information about voting procedures for foreign shareholders; (iv) restrictions on trading securities that are subject to proxy votes (share-blocking periods); (v) arranging for a proxy to vote locally in person; (vi) fees charged by custody banks for providing certain services with regard to voting proxies; and (vii) foregone income from securities lending programs. The Advisors do not intend to vote proxies of non-U.S. companies if they determine that the expected costs of voting outweigh any anticipated economic benefit to the client of voting. The Advisors intend to make their determination on whether to vote proxies of non-U.S. companies on a client by client basis. In doing so, the Advisors evaluate market requirements and impediments for voting proxies of companies in each country. The Advisors periodically review voting logistics, including costs and other voting difficulties, on a client by client and country by country basis, in order to determine if there have been any material changes that would affect the Advisors' determinations and procedures.<sup>3</sup> In the event an Advisor is made aware of and believes that an issue to be voted is likely to materially affect the economic value of a portfolio, that its client's vote is reasonably likely to be determinative of the outcome of the contest, and that the expected benefits to the client of voting the proxies exceed the expected costs, the Advisor will seek to make reasonable efforts to vote such proxies.

## **Conflicts of Interest**

Occasions may arise where an Authorized Person, one or more members of the Investment Stewardship Committee, an Advisor, or an affiliated person of an Advisor has a potential conflict of interest in connection with the proxy voting process. A conflict of interest may exist, for example, if an Advisor is actively soliciting investment advisory business from the company soliciting the proxy. Proxies that the Advisors receive on behalf of their clients generally will be voted in accordance with predetermined guidelines or procedures (or a client's predetermined custom guidelines or procedures), and when proxies are voted consistently with such guidelines or procedures, the Advisors consider such votes not to be affected by any conflicts of interest.

If a client does not share with its Advisor information regarding the cost of voting proxies for certain non-U.S. companies or in certain countries so that the Advisor can perform a cost-benefit analysis, the Advisor will decide whether to vote proxies considering only the information on difficulties and costs that it has available.

In the limited instances where (i) an Authorized Person is considering voting a proxy contrary to predetermined guidelines or procedures (or in cases for which the guidelines or procedures do not prescribe a particular vote and the proposed vote is contrary to the recommendation of the Proxy Advisory Firm primarily used by the Advisors to provide voting recommendations), and (ii) the Authorized Person or any member of the Investment Stewardship Committee believes a potential conflict of interest exists, the Authorized Person will disclose the potential conflict to a member of the Investment Stewardship Committee or, in the case of a member of the Investment Stewardship Committee who believes a potential conflict of interest exists, the member will disclose the conflict to the Investment Stewardship Committee. Such disclosure will describe the proposal to be voted upon and disclose any potential conflict of interest including but not limited to any potential personal conflict of interest (e.g., familial relationship with company management) the Authorized Person may have relating to the proxy vote, in which case the Authorized Person will remove himself or herself from the proxy voting process.

If the Investment Stewardship Committee member has actual knowledge of a conflict of interest and recommends a vote contrary to predetermined guidelines or procedures (or in the case where the guidelines or procedures do not prescribe a particular vote and the proposed vote is contrary to the recommendation of the Proxy Advisory Firm), the Investment Stewardship Committee member will bring the vote to the Investment Stewardship Committee, which will (a) determine how the vote should be cast, keeping in mind the principle of preserving shareholder value or (b) determine to abstain from voting, unless abstaining would be materially adverse to the client's interest. To the extent the Investment Stewardship Committee makes a determination regarding how to vote or to abstain for a proxy on behalf of a Dimensional Investment Company in the circumstances described in this paragraph, Dimensional will report annually on such determinations to the respective Board of Directors/Trustees of the Dimensional Investment Company. The Advisors will also consider, where appropriate, other disclosure to clients regarding potential conflicts of interest, dependent upon the agreement with the client.

Voting by Dimensional Funds that hold shares of other Dimensional Funds. To avoid certain potential conflicts of interest, Dimensional generally will employ mirror voting, if possible, when a Dimensional Fund invests in another Dimensional Fund in reliance on any one of Sections 12(d)(1)(E), 12(d)(1)(F) or 12(d)(1)(G) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, ("1940 Act"), related rules thereunder (including Rule 12d1-1 or Rule 12d1-4 under the 1940 Act), or pursuant to an SEC exemptive order thereunder, unless otherwise required by applicable law or regulation. Mirror voting means that Dimensional will vote the shares in the same proportion as the vote of all of the other holders of the Dimensional Fund's shares. With respect to instances when a Dimensional Fund invests in an underlying Dimensional Fund in reliance on Section 12(d)(1)(G) of the 1940 Act, related rules thereunder (including Rule 12d1-1 or Rule 12d1-4), or pursuant to an SEC exemptive order thereunder, and there are no other unaffiliated shareholders also invested in the underlying Dimensional Fund, Dimensional will vote in accordance with the recommendation of such Dimensional Investment Company's board of trustees or directors, unless otherwise required by applicable law or regulation. With respect to instances when a Dimensional Fund invests in an underlying Dimensional Fund in reliance on Sections 12(d)(1)(E) or 12(d)(1)(F) of the 1940 Act and there are no other unaffiliated shareholders also invested in the underlying Dimensional Fund, Dimensional will employ pass-through voting, unless otherwise required by applicable law or regulation. In "pass-through voting," the investing Dimensional Fund will solicit voting instructions from its shareholders as to how to vote on the underlying Dimensional Fund's proposals.

# Availability of Proxy Voting Information and Recordkeeping

Each Advisor will inform those clients for which it has voting authority how to obtain information from the Advisor about how it voted with respect to client securities. The Advisor will provide those clients with a summary of its proxy voting guidelines, process and policies and will inform the clients how they can obtain a copy of the complete Policy upon request. If an Advisor is registered under the Advisers Act.

the Advisor will also include such information described in the preceding two sentences in Part 2A of its Form ADV.

## Recordkeeping

The Advisors will also keep records of the following items: (i) their proxy voting guidelines, policies and procedures and documentation of their annual reviews of such guidelines, policies and procedures; (ii) proxy statements received regarding client securities (unless such statements are available on the SEC's Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis, and Retrieval (EDGAR) system); (iii) records of votes they cast on behalf of clients, which may be maintained by a Proxy Advisory Firm if it undertakes to provide copies of those records promptly upon request; (iv) records of written client requests for proxy voting information and an Advisor's responses (whether a client's request was oral or in writing); (v) any documents prepared by an Advisor that were material to making a decision how to vote, or that memorialized the basis for the decision; (vi) a record of any testing conducted on any Proxy Advisory Firm's votes; and (vii) a copy of each version of the Proxy Advisory Firm's policies and procedures provided to the Advisors. The Advisors will maintain these records in an easily accessible place for at least *six years* from the end of the fiscal year during which the last entry was made on such records. For the first two years, each Advisor will store such records at one of its principal offices.

#### Disclosure

Dimensional shall disclose in the statements of additional information of the Dimensional Investment Companies a summary of procedures which Dimensional uses to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities of the Dimensional Investment Companies. The disclosure will include a description of the procedures used when a vote presents a conflict of interest between shareholders and Dimensional, DFA Securities LLC ("DFAS") or an affiliate of Dimensional or DFAS.

The semi-annual reports of the Dimensional Investment Companies shall indicate that a description of the policies and procedures that the Dimensional Investment Companies use in voting proxies of portfolio securities is available: (i) without charge, upon request, by calling Dimensional collect; or (ii) on the SEC's website. Any requested description must be sent within three business days by a prompt method of delivery.

Dimensional, on behalf of each Dimensional Investment Company it advises, and, as otherwise as required, shall file its proxy voting record with the SEC on Form N-PX no later than August 31 of each year, for the twelve-month period ending June 30 of the current year. Such filings shall contain all information required to be disclosed on Form N-PX.

# Exhibit A Proxy Voting Guidelines

# General Approach to Corporate Governance and Proxy Voting

When voting proxies, Dimensional<sup>4</sup> seeks to act in the best interests of the funds and accounts Dimensional manages and consistent with applicable legal and fiduciary standards. Dimensional seeks to maximize shareholder value subject to the standards of legal and regulatory regimes (applicable to the Advisor or the client), listing requirements, corporate governance and stewardship codes, and any particular investment or voting guidelines of specific funds or accounts. Dimensional will evaluate management and shareholder proposals on a case-by-case basis, in the circumstances explained below.

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<sup>4 &</sup>quot;Dimensional" refers to any of Dimensional Fund Advisors LP, Dimensional Fund Advisors Ltd., DFA Australia Limited, Dimensional Ireland Limited, Dimensional Fund Advisors Pte. Ltd. or Dimensional Japan Ltd.

Dimensional expects the members of a portfolio company's board to act in the interests of their shareholders. Each portfolio company's board should implement policies and adopt practices that align the interests of the board and management with those of its shareholders. Since a board's main responsibility is to oversee management and to manage and mitigate risk, it is important that board members have the experience and skills to carry out that responsibility.

This document outlines Dimensional's global approach to key proxy voting issues and highlights particular considerations in specific markets.

## **Global Evaluation Framework**

Dimensional's Global Evaluation Framework sets out Dimensional's general expectations for all portfolio companies. When implementing the principles contained in Dimensional's Global Evaluation Framework in a given market, in addition to the relevant legal and regulatory requirements, Dimensional will consider local market practices. Additionally, for portfolio companies in the United States, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Japan, and Australia, Dimensional will apply the market-specific considerations contained in the relevant subsection in these Guidelines.

# **Uncontested Director Elections**

Dimensional may vote against individual directors, committee members, or the full board of a portfolio company, such as in the following situations:

- 1. There are problematic audit-related practices;
- 2. There are problematic compensation practices or persistent pay for performance misalignment;
- 3. There are problematic anti-takeover provisions;
- 4. There have been material failures of governance, risk oversight, or fiduciary responsibilities;
- 5. The board has failed to adequately respond to shareholder concerns;
- 6. The board has demonstrated a lack of accountability to shareholders;
- 7. There is an ineffective board refreshment process<sup>5</sup>;

Additionally, for portfolios and accounts that consider sustainability issues in their design or have made an affirmative election or provided instruction that Dimensional should prioritize such issues as part of voting, Dimensional may vote against directors, committee members, or the full board of portfolio companies in sectors with high greenhouse emissions which have not disclosed targets to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

If a director is a member of multiple boards of various portfolio companies, and one of those boards has one of the issues listed in 1-7 above, Dimensional may vote against that director with respect to the board of the portfolio company with the issue as well as any other portfolio company boards.

Dimensional also considers the following when voting on directors of portfolio companies:

- 1. Board and committee independence;
- 2. Director attendance: Dimensional generally expects directors to attend at least 75% of board and committee meetings;
- 3. Director capacity to serve:

As used in these guidelines "board refreshment process" means the method for reviewing and establishing the composition of the board of the portfolio company (e.g., assessments or self-evaluation, succession planning, approach for searches for board members, criteria for qualification of board members).

4. Board composition.

## **Board Refreshment**

An effective board refreshment process for a portfolio company can include the alignment of directors' skills with business needs, assessment of individual director performance and feedback, and a search process for new directors that appropriately incorporates qualification criteria. Dimensional believes information about a portfolio company's assessment and refreshment process should be disclosed and should generally include:

- The processes and procedures by which the company identifies the key competencies that directors should possess in order to ensure the board is able to appropriately oversee the risks and opportunities associated with the company's strategy and operations;
- How the performance of individual directors and the board as a whole is assessed;
- The alignment between the skills and expertise of each board member and the key competencies identified in the board assessment process;
- Board refreshment mechanisms;
- Director recruitment policies and procedures; and
- The extent to which diversity considerations are incorporated into board assessment and refreshment practices and director recruitment policies.

In evaluating a portfolio company's refreshment process, Dimensional may consider, among other information:

- Whether the company's board assessment process meets market best practices in terms of objectiveness, rigor, disclosure, and other criteria;
- Whether the company has any mechanisms to encourage board refreshment; and
- Whether the company has board entrenchment devices, such as a classified board or plurality vote standard.

An additional consideration that may lead Dimensional to scrutinize the effectiveness of a portfolio company's board refreshment process is a lack of gender, racial, or ethnic diversity on the board. In jurisdictions where gender, racial, or ethnic representation on a board is not mandated by law, Dimensional may consider whether a portfolio company seeks to follow market best practices as the portfolio company nominates new directors and assesses the performance of existing directors who have the diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and skill-sets needed to effectively oversee management and manage risk.

If Dimensional believes that a portfolio company's board assessment and refreshment process is not sufficiently rigorous, or if the portfolio company fails to disclose adequate information for Dimensional to assess the rigor of the process, Dimensional may vote against members of the Nominating Committee, or other relevant directors.

# **Bundled/Slate Director Elections**

Dimensional generally opposes bundled director elections at portfolio companies; however, in markets where individual director elections are not an established practice, bundled elections are acceptable as long as the full list of candidates is disclosed in a timely manner.

#### **Contested Director Elections**

In the case of contested board elections at portfolio companies, Dimensional takes a case-by-case approach. With the goal of maximizing shareholder value, Dimensional considers the qualifications of the nominees, the likelihood that each side can accomplish their stated plans, the portfolio company's corporate governance practices, and the incumbent board's history of responsiveness to shareholders.

#### **Board Size**

Dimensional believes that portfolio company boards are responsible for determining an appropriate size of the board of directors within the confines of relevant corporate governance codes and best practice standards. However, Dimensional will generally oppose proposals to alter board structure or size in the context of a fight for control of the portfolio company or the board.

# **Auditors**

Dimensional will typically support the ratification of auditors unless there are concerns with the auditor's independence, the accuracy of the auditor's report, the level of non-audit fees, or if lack of disclosure makes it difficult for us to assess these factors.

In addition to voting against the ratification of the auditors, Dimensional may also vote against or withhold votes from audit committee members at portfolio companies in instances of fraud, material weakness, or significant financial restatements.

# **Anti-Takeover Provisions**

Dimensional believes that the market for corporate control, which often results in acquisitions which increase shareholder value, should be able to function without undue restrictions. Takeover defenses such as shareholder rights plans (poison pills) can lead to entrenchment of management and reduced accountability at the board level. Dimensional will generally vote against the adoption of anti-takeover provisions. Dimensional may vote against directors at portfolio companies that adopt or maintain anti-takeover provisions without shareholder approval post-initial public offering ("IPO") or adopted such structures prior to, or in connection with, an IPO. Dimensional may vote against such directors not just at the portfolio company that adopted the anti-takeover provision, but at all other portfolio company boards they serve on.

#### **Related-Party Transactions**

Related-party transactions have played a significant role in several high-profile corporate scandals and failures. Dimensional believes related-party transactions should be minimized. When such transactions are determined to be fair to the portfolio company and its shareholders in accordance with the company's policies and governing law, they should be thoroughly disclosed in public filings.

# Amendments to Articles of Association/Incorporation

Dimensional expects the details of proposed amendments to articles of association or incorporation, or similar portfolio company documents, to be clearly disclosed. Dimensional will typically support such amendments that are routine in nature or are required or prompted by regulatory changes. Dimensional may vote against amendments that negatively impact shareholder rights or diminish board oversight.

#### **Equity Plans**

Dimensional supports the adoption of equity plans that align the interests of the portfolio company board, management, and company employees with those of shareholders.

Dimensional will evaluate equity plans on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the potential dilution to shareholders, the portfolio company's historical use of equity, and the particular plan features.

## **Executive Remuneration**

Dimensional supports remuneration for executives that is clearly linked to the portfolio company's performance. Remuneration should be designed to attract, retain and appropriately motivate and serve as a means to align the interests of executives with those of shareholders.

Dimensional expects portfolio companies to structure executive compensation in a manner that does not insulate management from the consequences of failures of risk oversight and management. Dimensional typically supports clawback provisions in executive compensation plans as a way to mitigate risk of excessive risk taking by executives at portfolio companies.

Dimensional supports remuneration plan metrics that are quantifiable and clearly tied to company strategy and the creation of shareholder value. The use of standard financial metrics, for example, metrics based on generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") or international financial reporting standards, when determining executive pay is generally considered by Dimensional to be preferable. The use of non-standard metrics, including those involving large non-GAAP adjustments, result in less transparency for investors and may lead to artificially high executive pay. In evaluating a company's executive compensation, Dimensional considers whether the company is disclosing what each metric is intended to capture, how performance is measured, what targets have been set, and performance against those targets. While environmental and social (E&S) issues may be material for shareholder value, Dimensional believes linking E&S metrics to executive pay in a quantifiable and transparent manner can present particular challenges. Dimensional will seek to focus on the rigor of E&S metrics and will seek to scrutinize payouts made under these metrics, particularly when there has been underperformance against other metrics tied to financial performance or shareholder value.

To the extent that remuneration is clearly excessive and not aligned with the portfolio company's performance or other factors, Dimensional would not support such remuneration. Additionally, Dimensional expects portfolio companies to strive to follow local market practices with regards to the specific elements of remuneration and the overall structure of the remuneration plan.

Therefore, Dimensional reviews proposals seeking approval of a portfolio company's executive remuneration plan closely, taking into account the quantum of pay, company performance, and the structure of the plan.

## **Director Remuneration**

Dimensional will generally support director remuneration at portfolio companies that is reasonable in both size and composition relative to industry and market norms.

# Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A)

Dimensional's primary consideration in evaluating mergers and acquisitions is maximizing shareholder value. Given that Dimensional believes market prices reflect future expected cash flows, an important consideration is the price reaction to the announcement, and the extent to which the deal represents a premium to the pre-announcement price. Dimensional will also consider the strategic rationale, potential conflicts of interest, and the possibility of competing offers.

Dimensional may vote against deals where there are concerns with the acquisition process or where there appear to be significant conflicts of interest.

## Capitalization

Dimensional will vote case-by-case on proposals related to portfolio company share issuances, taking into account the purpose for which the shares will be used, the risk to shareholders of not approving the request, and the dilution to existing shareholders.

# **Unequal Voting Rights**

Dimensional opposes the creation of share structures that provide for unequal voting rights, including dual class stock with unequal voting rights or mechanisms such as loyalty shares that may skew economic ownership and voting rights within the same class of shares, and will generally vote against proposals to create or continue such structures. On a case-by-case basis, Dimensional may also vote against directors at portfolio companies that adopt or maintain such structures without shareholder approval post-IPO or adopted such structures prior to, or in connection with, an IPO.

## Say on Climate

Dimensional will generally vote against management and shareholder proposals to introduce say on climate votes, which propose that companies' climate transition plans are put to a recurring advisory shareholder vote. Dimensional believes that strategic planning, including mitigation of climate change risks and oversight of opportunities presented by climate change is the responsibility of the portfolio company board and should not be delegated or transferred to shareholders. If a company's climate transition plan is put to a shareholder vote then Dimensional will generally vote against the plan, regardless of the level of detail contained in the plan, to indicate our opposition to the delegation of oversight implied by such votes If Dimensional observes that a portfolio company board is failing to adequately guard shareholder value through strategic planning, Dimensional may vote against directors.

## **Shareholder Proposals**

Dimensional's goal when voting on shareholder proposals to portfolio companies is to support those proposals that protect or enhance shareholder value through improved board accountability, improved policies and procedures, or improved disclosure.

When evaluating shareholder proposals, Dimensional will consider whether the proposal addresses a material issue to the portfolio company, the portfolio company's current handling of the issue (both on an absolute basis and relative to market practices), the company's compliance with regulatory requirements, and the potential cost to the company of implementing the proposal. Dimensional may apply additional considerations when voting on sustainability or social shareholder proposals on behalf of portfolios and accounts that incorporate sustainability or social considerations in their portfolio design or have made an affirmative election or provided instruction that Dimensional should prioritize sustainability or social issues as part of voting.

# **Virtual Meetings**

Dimensional does not oppose the use of virtual-only meetings if shareholders are provided with the same rights and opportunities as available during a physical meeting, including:

- The ability to see and hear company representatives;
- The ability to ask questions of company representatives; and
- The ability to see or hear questions submitted to company representatives by other shareholders, including those questions not answered by company representatives.

#### **Disclosure of Vote Results**

Dimensional expects detailed disclosure of voting results. In cases where vote results have not been disclosed within a reasonable time frame, Dimensional may vote against individual directors, committee members, or the full board of a portfolio company.

# Voting Guidelines for Environmental and Social Issues<sup>6</sup>

Dimensional believes that portfolio company boards are responsible for addressing material environmental & social (E&S) issues within their duties. If a portfolio company is unresponsive to material E&S risks which may have economic ramifications for shareholders, Dimensional may vote against directors individually, committee members, or the entire board. Dimensional may communicate with portfolio companies to better understand the alignment of the interests of boards and management with those of shareholders on these topics.

Dimensional evaluates shareholder proposals on environmental or social issues consistent with its general approach to shareholder proposals, paying particular attention to the portfolio company's current handling of the issue, current disclosures, the financial materiality of the issue, market practices, and regulatory requirements. Dimensional may vote for proposals requesting disclosure of specific environmental and social data, such as information about board oversight, risk management policies and procedures, or performance against a specific metric, if Dimensional believes that the portfolio company's current disclosure is inadequate to allow shareholders to effectively assess the portfolio company's handling of a material issue.

# **Evaluating Disclosure of Material Environmental or Social Risks**

Dimensional generally believes that information about the oversight and mitigation of material environmental or social risks should be disclosed by portfolio companies. Dimensional generally expects the disclosure regarding oversight and mitigation to include:

- A description of material risks.
- A description of the process for identifying and prioritizing such risks and how frequently it occurs.
- The policies and procedures governing the handling of each material risk.
- A description of the management-level roles/groups involved in oversight and mitigation of each material risk.
- A description of the metrics used to assess the effectiveness of mitigating each material risk, and the frequency at which performance against these metrics is assessed.
- A description of how the board is informed of material risks and the progress against relevant metrics.

In certain instances where Dimensional determines that disclosure by a portfolio company is insufficient for a shareholder to be able to adequately assess the relevant risks facing a portfolio company, Dimensional may, on a case-by-case basis, vote against individual directors, committee members, or the entire board, or may vote in favor of related shareholder proposals consistent with Dimensional's general approach to such proposals.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> For considerations in connection with ERISA-covered clients, see the Policy and its references to requirements under ERISA.

#### **Political and Lobbying Activities**

Dimensional expects boards of portfolio companies to exercise oversight of political and lobbying-related expenditures and ensure that such spending is in line with shareholder interests.

In evaluating a portfolio company's policies related to political and lobbying expenditure, Dimensional expects the following practices:

- The board to adopt policies and procedures to oversee political and lobbying expenditures;
- The details of the board oversight, including the policies and procedures governing such expenditures, to be disclosed publicly;
- That board oversight of political and lobbying activities, such as spending, should include ensuring that the portfolio company's publicly stated positions are in alignment with its related activities and spending.

#### **Human Capital Management**

Dimensional expects boards of portfolio companies to exercise oversight of human capital management issues. Dimensional expects portfolio companies to disclose sufficient information for shareholders to understand the policies, procedures, and personnel a company has in place to address issues related to human capital management. This disclosure should include the company's human capital management goals in key areas, such as compensation, employee health and wellness, employee training and development, and workforce composition, as well as the metrics by which the company assesses performance against these goals.

### **Climate Change**

Dimensional expects boards of portfolio companies to exercise oversight of climate change risks that may have a material impact on the company. Climate change risks may include physical risks of climate change from changing weather patterns and/or transitional risks of climate change from changes in regulation or consumer preferences. Dimensional expects portfolio companies to disclose information on their handling of these risks, to the extent those risks may have a material impact on the company. Disclosure should include:

- The specific risks identified
- The potential impact these risks could have on the company's business, operations, or strategy
- Whether the risks are overseen by a specific committee or the full board
- The frequency with which the board or responsible board committee receives updates on the risks and the types of information reviewed
- The management-level roles/groups responsible for managing these risks
- The metrics used to assess the handling of these risks, how they are calculated, and the reason for their selection, particularly when the metrics recommended by a recognized third-party framework, such as Task Force for Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) or Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), are not being used
- Targets used by the company to manage climate-related risks and performance against those targets

# **Human Rights**

Dimensional expects portfolio company boards to exercise oversight of human rights issues that could pose a material risk to the business, including forced labor, child labor, privacy, freedom of expression, and land and water rights. Dimensional expects portfolio companies to disclose information on their handling of these risks, to the extent those risks may have a material impact on the company. Disclosure should include:

- The specific risks identified
- The potential impact these risks could have on the company's business, operations, or strategy
- Whether the risks are overseen by a specific committee or the full board
- The frequency with which the board or responsible board committee receives updates on the risks and the types of information reviewed
- Details on how the company monitors human rights throughout the organization and supply chain, including the scope and frequency of audits and how instances of non-compliance are resolved
- The policies governing human rights throughout the organization and supply chain and the extent to which the policy aligns with recognized global frameworks such as the UN's Guiding Principles on Human Rights and the OECD's Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Details of violations of the policy and corrective action taken

### Cybersecurity

Dimensional expects portfolio company boards to exercise oversight of cybersecurity issues that could pose a material risk to the business. Dimensional expects portfolio companies to disclose information on their handling of these risks, to the extent those risks may have a material impact on the company. Disclosure should include:

- · Policies and procedures to manage cybersecurity risk and identify cybersecurity incidents
- The role of management in implementing cybersecurity policies and procedures
- The role of the board in overseeing cybersecurity risk and the process by which the board is informed of incidents.
- Material cybersecurity incidents and remedial actions taken.

## **Evaluation Framework for U.S. Listed Companies**

## **Director Elections:**

# **Uncontested Director Elections**

Shareholders elect the board of a portfolio company to represent their interests and oversee management and expect boards to adopt policies and practices that align the interests of the board and management with those of shareholders and limit the potential for conflicts of interest.

One of the most important measures aimed at ensuring that portfolio company shareholders' interests are represented is an independent board of directors, made up of individuals with the diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and skill-sets needed to effectively oversee management and manage risk. Dimensional expects portfolio company boards to be majority independent and key committees to be fully independent.

Dimensional believes shareholders should have a say in who represents their interests and portfolio companies should be responsive to shareholder concerns. Dimensional may vote against or withhold votes from individual directors, committee members, or the full board, and may also vote against such directors when they serve on other portfolio company boards, in the following situations:

- The continued service of directors who failed to receive the support of a majority of shareholders (regardless of whether the company uses a majority or plurality vote standard).
- Failure to adequately respond to majority-supported shareholder proposals.

### **Contested Director Elections**

In the case of contested board elections at portfolio companies, Dimensional takes a case-by-case approach. With the goal of maximizing shareholder value, Dimensional considers the qualifications of the nominees,

the likelihood that each side can accomplish their stated plans, the portfolio company's corporate governance practices, the incumbent board's history of responsiveness to shareholders, and the market's reaction to the contest.

# **Board Structure and Composition:**

### **Age and Term Limits**

Dimensional believes it is the responsibility of a portfolio company's nominating committee to ensure that the company's board of directors is composed of individuals with the skills needed to effectively oversee management and will generally oppose proposals seeking to impose age or term limits for directors.

That said, portfolio companies should clearly disclose their director evaluation and board refreshment policies in their proxy. Lack of healthy turnover on the board of a portfolio company or lack of observable diversity on a portfolio company board may lead Dimensional to scrutinize the rigor of a portfolio company's board refreshment process.

### CEO/Chair

Dimensional believes that the portfolio company boards are responsible for determining whether the separation of roles is appropriate and adequately protects the interests of shareholders.

At portfolio companies with a combined CEO/Chair, Dimensional expects the board to appoint a lead independent director with specific responsibilities, including the setting of meeting agendas, to seek to ensure the board is able to act independently.

Recent environmental, social, and governance controversies resulting from inadequate board oversight may be taken into account when voting on shareholder proposals seeking the separation of the roles of CEO and Chair at a portfolio company.

### **Governance Practices:**

#### **Classified Boards**

Dimensional believes director votes are an important mechanism to increase board accountability to shareholders. Dimensional therefore advocates for boards at portfolio companies to give shareholders the right to vote on the entire slate of directors on an annual basis.

Dimensional will generally support proposals to declassify existing boards at portfolio companies and will generally oppose efforts by portfolio companies to adopt classified board structures, in which only part of the board is elected each year.

Dimensional will generally vote against or withhold votes from incumbent directors at portfolio companies that adopt a classified board without shareholder approval. Dimensional may also vote against or withhold votes from directors at portfolio companies that adopt classified boards prior to or in connection with an IPO, unless accompanied by a reasonable sunset provision.

### **Dual Classes of Stock**

Dual class share structures are generally seen as detrimental to shareholder rights, as they are accompanied by unequal voting rights. Dimensional believes in the principle of one share, one vote.

Dimensional opposes the creation of dual-class share structures with unequal voting rights at portfolio companies and will generally vote against proposals to create or continue dual-class capital structures.

Dimensional will generally vote against or withhold votes from directors at portfolio companies that adopt a dual-class structure without shareholder approval after the company's IPO. Dimensional will generally vote against or withhold votes from directors for implementation of a dual-class structure prior to or in connection with an IPO, unless accompanied by a reasonable sunset provision.

# **Supermajority Vote Requirements**

Dimensional believes that the affirmative vote of a majority of shareholders of a portfolio company should be sufficient to approve items such as bylaw amendments and mergers. Dimensional will generally vote against proposals seeking to implement a supermajority vote requirement and for shareholder proposals seeking the adoption of a majority vote standard.

Dimensional will generally vote against or withhold votes from incumbent directors at portfolio companies that adopt a supermajority vote requirement without shareholder approval. Dimensional may also vote against or withhold votes from directors at portfolio companies that adopt supermajority vote requirements prior to or in connection with an IPO, unless accompanied by a reasonable sunset provision.

## **Shareholder Rights Plans (Poison Pills)**

Dimensional generally opposes poison pills. As a result, Dimensional may vote against the adoption of a pill and all directors at a portfolio company that put a pill in place without first obtaining shareholder approval. Votes against (or withheld votes from) directors may extend beyond the portfolio company that adopted the pill, to all boards the directors serve on. In considering a poison pill for approval, Dimensional may take into account the existence of 'qualified offer' and other shareholder-friendly provisions.

For pills designed to protect net operating losses, Dimensional may take into consideration a variety of factors, including but not limited to the size of the available operating losses and the likelihood that they will be utilized to offset gains.

# **Cumulative Voting**

Under cumulative voting, each shareholder is entitled to the number of his or her shares multiplied by the number of directors to be elected. Shareholders have the flexibility to allocate their votes among directors in the proportion they see fit, including casting all their votes for one director. This is particularly impactful in the election of dissident candidates to the board in the event of a proxy contest.

Dimensional will typically support proposals that provide for cumulative voting and against proposals to eliminate cumulative voting unless the portfolio company has demonstrated that there are adequate safeguards in place, such as proxy access and majority voting.

### **Majority Voting**

For the election of directors, portfolio companies may adopt either a majority or plurality vote standard. In a plurality vote standard, the directors with the most votes are elected. If the number of directors up for election is equal to the number of board seats, each director only needs to receive one vote in order to be elected. In a majority vote standard, in order to be elected, a director must receive the support of a majority of shares voted or present at the meeting.

Dimensional supports a majority (rather than plurality) voting standard for uncontested director elections at portfolio companies. The majority vote standard should be accompanied by a director resignation policy to address failed elections.

To account for contested director elections, portfolio companies with a majority vote standard should include a carve-out for plurality voting in situations where there are more nominees than seats.

### Right to Call Meetings and Act by Written Consent

Dimensional will generally support the right of shareholders to call special meetings of a portfolio company board (if they own 25% of shares outstanding) and take action by written consent.

# Proxy Access

Dimensional will typically support management and shareholder proposals for proxy access that allow a shareholder (or group of shareholders) holding three percent of voting power for three years to nominate up to 25 percent of a portfolio company board. Dimensional will typically vote against proposals that are more restrictive than these guidelines.

#### **Amend Bylaws/Charters**

Dimensional believes that shareholders should have the right to amend a portfolio company's bylaws. Dimensional will generally vote against or withhold votes from incumbent directors at portfolio companies that place substantial restrictions on shareholders' ability to amend bylaws through excessive ownership requirements for submitting proposals or restrictions on the types of issues that can be amended.

## **Exclusive Forum**

Dimensional is generally supportive of management proposals at portfolio companies to adopt an exclusive forum for shareholder litigation.

# **Indemnification and Exculpation of Directors and Officers**

Dimensional intends to evaluate proposals seeking to enact or expand indemnification or exculpation provisions on a case-by-case basis considering board rationale and specific provisions being proposed.

#### **Advance Notice Provisions**

Portfolio company bylaw amendments known as "advance notice provisions" set out the steps shareholders must follow when submitting an item for inclusion on the agenda of a shareholder meeting. These provisions may serve as an entrenchment device that can result in reduced accountability at the board level in cases where they impose onerous requirements on shareholders wishing to submit a nominee for the board of directors. When evaluating advanced notice provisions, whether for the submission of a shareholder candidate or the submission of other permissible proposals, Dimensional generally does not support provisions that:

- Require shareholder-nominated candidates to disclose information that is not required for new board-nominated candidates
- Impose unduly burdensome disclosure requirements on shareholder proponents
- Significantly limit the time period shareholders have to submit proposals or nominees

Dimensional may vote against or withhold votes from directors who adopt such provisions without shareholder approval.

#### **Executive and Director Compensation:**

#### **Stock-Based Compensation Plans**

Dimensional supports the adoption of equity plans that align the interests of portfolio company board, management, and company employees with those of shareholders.

Dimensional will evaluate equity compensation plans on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the potential dilution to shareholders, the portfolio company's historical use of equity, and the particular plan features.

Dimensional will typically vote against plans that have features that have a negative impact on shareholders of portfolio companies. Such features include single-trigger or discretionary vesting, an overly broad definition of change in control, a lack of minimum vesting periods for grants, evergreen provisions, and the ability to reprice shares without shareholder approval.

Dimensional may also vote against equity plans if problematic equity grant practices have contributed to a pay for performance misalignment at the portfolio company.

# **Employee Stock Purchase Plans**

Dimensional will generally support qualified employee stock purchase plans (as defined by Section 423 of the Internal Revenue Code), provided that the purchase price is no less than 85 percent of market value, the number of shares reserved for the plan is no more than ten percent of outstanding shares, and the offering period is no more than 27 months.

# Advisory Votes on Executive Compensation (Say on Pay)

Dimensional supports reasonable compensation for executives that is clearly linked to the portfolio company's performance. Compensation should serve as a means to align the interests of executives with those of shareholders. To the extent that compensation is excessive, it represents a transfer to management of shareholder wealth. Therefore, Dimensional reviews proposals seeking approval of a portfolio company's executive compensation plan closely, taking into account the quantum of pay, company performance, and the structure of the plan.

Certain practices, such as:

- multi-year guaranteed bonuses
- excessive severance agreements (particularly those that vest without involuntary job loss or diminution of duties or those with excise-tax gross-ups)
- single, or the same, metrics used for both short-term and long-term executive compensation plans

may encourage excessive risk-taking by executives at portfolio companies and are generally opposed by Dimensional.

At portfolio companies that have a history of problematic pay practices or excessive compensation, Dimensional will consider the company's responsiveness to shareholders' concerns and may vote against or withhold votes from members of the compensation committee if these concerns have not been addressed.

#### Frequency of Say on Pay

Executive compensation in the United States is typically composed of three parts: 1) base salary; 2) cash bonuses based on annual performance (short-term incentive awards); 3) and equity awards based on performance over a multi-year period (long-term incentive awards).

Dimensional supports triennial say on pay because it allows for a longer-term assessment of whether compensation was adequately linked to portfolio company performance. This is particularly important in situations where a company makes significant changes to their long-term incentive awards, as the effectiveness of such changes in aligning pay and performance cannot be determined in a single year.

If there are serious concerns about a portfolio company's compensation plan in a year where the plan is not on the ballot, Dimensional may vote against or withhold votes from members of the Compensation Committee.

### **Executive Severance Agreements (Golden Parachutes)**

Dimensional analyzes golden parachute proposals on a case-by-case basis.

Dimensional expects payments to be reasonable on both an absolute basis and relative to the value of the transaction. Dimensional will typically vote against agreements with cash severance of more than 3x salary and bonus.

Dimensional expects vesting of equity to be contingent on both a change in control and a subsequent involuntary termination of the employee ("double-trigger change in control").

### **Corporate Actions:**

#### Reincorporation

Dimensional will evaluate reincorporation proposals on a case-by-case basis.

Dimensional may vote against reincorporations if the move would result in a substantial diminution of shareholder rights at the portfolio company.

#### Capitalization:

### **Increase Authorized Shares**

Dimensional will vote case-by-case on proposals seeking to increase common or preferred stock of a portfolio company, taking into account the purpose for which the shares will be used and the risk to shareholders of not approving the request.

Dimensional will typically vote against requests for common or preferred stock issuances that are excessively dilutive relative to common market practice.

Dimensional will typically vote against proposals at portfolio companies with multiple share classes to increase the number of shares of the class with superior voting rights.

# **Blank Check Preferred Stock**

Blank check preferred stock is stock that can be issued at the discretion of the board, with the voting, conversion, distribution, and other rights determined by the board at the time of issue. Therefore, blank check preferred stock can potentially serve as means to entrench management and prevent takeovers at portfolio companies.

To mitigate concerns regarding what Dimensional believes is the inappropriate use of blank check preferred stock, Dimensional expects portfolio companies seeking approval for blank preferred stock to clearly state that the shares will not be used for anti-takeover purposes.

### **Share Repurchases**

Dimensional will generally support open-market share repurchase plans that allow all shareholders to participate on equal terms. Portfolio companies that use metrics such as earnings per share (EPS) in their executive compensation plans should ensure that the impact of such repurchases are taken into account when determining payouts.

#### **Shareholder Proposals:**

Dimensional's goal when voting on shareholder proposals is to support those proposals that protect or enhance shareholder value through improved board accountability, improved policies and procedures, or improved disclosure.

When evaluating shareholder proposals, Dimensional will consider whether the proposal addresses a material issue to the portfolio company, the portfolio company's current handling of the issue (both on an absolute basis and relative to market practices), the company's compliance with regulatory requirements, and the potential cost to the company of implementing the proposal.

In instances where a shareholder proposal is excluded from the meeting agenda but the SEC has declined to state a view on whether such proposal can be excluded, Dimensional expects the portfolio company to provide shareholders with substantive disclosure concerning this exclusion. If substantive disclosure is lacking, Dimensional may vote against or withhold votes from certain directors on a case-by-case basis.

#### Evaluation Framework for Europe, the Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) Listed Companies

# **Continental Europe:**

### **Director Election Guidelines**

- Portfolio company boards should be majority independent (excluding shareholder or employee representatives as provided by law); however, lower levels of board independence may be acceptable in controlled companies and in those markets where local best practice indicates that at least one-third of the board be independent.
- A majority of audit and remuneration committee members (excluding shareholder or employee representatives as provided by law) should be independent; the committees overall should be at least one-third independent.
- Executives should generally not serve on audit and remuneration committees.
- The CEO and board chair roles should generally be separate,

### Remuneration Guidelines

Dimensional expects annual remuneration reports published by portfolio companies pursuant to the Shareholder Rights Directive II to disclose, at a minimum:

- The amount paid to executives;
- Alignment between pay and performance;
- The targets used for variable incentive plans and the ex-post levels achieved; and
- The rationale for any discretion applied.

# Other Market Specific Guidelines for Continental Europe

• In Austria, Germany, and the Netherlands, Dimensional will generally vote against the appointment of a former CEO as chairman of the board of directors or supervisory board of a portfolio company.

### **United Kingdom & Ireland:**

Dimensional expects portfolio companies to follow the requirements of the UK Corporate Governance Code with regards to board and committee composition. When evaluating portfolio company boards Dimensional will also consider the recommendations of the FTSE Women Leaders and Parker Reviews with regards to female and minority representation on the board.

Dimensional also expects companies to align their remuneration with the requirements of the UK Corporate Governance Code and to consider best practices such as those set forth in the Investment Association Principles of Remuneration.

## **South Africa:**

Dimensional expects portfolio companies to follow the recommendations of the King Report on Corporate Governance (King Code IV) with regards to board and committee composition.

#### Turkey:

Dimensional expects the board of directors of a portfolio company to be at least one-third independent; at minimum two directors should be independent.

Dimensional expects the board of a portfolio company to establish an independent audit committee.

Dimensional expects the board of a portfolio company to establish a board committee with responsibility for compensation and nominating matters. This committee should be chaired by an independent director.

# Framework for Evaluating Australia-Listed Companies

### **Uncontested Director Elections**

Shareholders elect the board of a portfolio company to represent their interests and oversee management and expect portfolio company boards to adopt policies and practices that align the interests of the board and management with those of shareholders and limit the potential for conflicts of interest.

One of the most important measures aimed at ensuring that portfolio company shareholders' interests are represented is an independent board of directors, made up of individuals with the diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and skill-sets needed to effectively oversee management and manage risk. Dimensional expects portfolio company boards to be majority independent.

Dimensional believes that key audit and remuneration committees should be composed of independent directors. Dimensional will generally vote against executive directors of the portfolio company who serve on the audit committee or who serve on the remuneration committee if the remuneration committee is not majority independent.

Dimensional will consider the ASX Corporate Governance Council Principles and Recommendations (the "ASX Principles and Recommendations") with regards to female representation on the board when voting on directors.

#### CEO/Chair

Dimensional expects portfolio companies to follow the ASX Corporate Governance Council Principles and Recommendations and generally separate the CEO and board chair roles, with the board chair being an independent director.

#### Auditors

Australian law does not require the annual ratification of auditors; therefore, concerns with a portfolio company's audit practices will be reflected in votes against members of the audit committee.

Dimensional may vote against audit committee members at a portfolio company if there are concerns with the auditor's independence, the accuracy of the auditor's report, the level of non-audit fees, or if lack of disclosure makes it difficult to assess these factors.

Dimensional may also vote against audit committee members in instances of fraud or material failures in oversight of audit functions.

#### **Share Issuances**

Dimensional will evaluate requests for share issuances on a case-by-case basis, taking into account factors such as the impact on current shareholders and the rationale for the request.

When voting on approval of prior share distributions, Dimensional will generally support prior issuances that conform to the dilution guidelines set out in ASX Listing Rule 7.1.

#### **Share Repurchase**

Dimensional will evaluate requests for share repurchases on a case-by-case basis, taking into account factors such as the impact on current shareholders, the rationale for the request, and the portfolio company's history of repurchases. Dimensional expects repurchases to be made in arms-length transactions using independent third parties.

Dimensional may vote against portfolio company plans that do not include limitations on the company's ability to use the plan to repurchase shares from third parties at a premium and limitations on the use of share purchases as an anti-takeover device.

# **Constitution Amendments**

Dimensional will evaluate requests for amendments to a portfolio company's constitution on a case-by-case basis. The primary consideration will be the impact on the rights of shareholders.

#### **Non-Executive Director Compensation**

Dimensional will support non-executive director remuneration at portfolio companies that is reasonable in both size and composition relative to industry and market norms.

Dimensional will generally vote against components of non-executive director remuneration that are likely to impair a director's independence, such as options or performance-based remuneration.

#### **Equity Plans**

Dimensional supports the adoption of equity plans that align the interests of the portfolio company board, management, and company employees with those of shareholders.

Companies should clearly disclose components of the plan, including vesting periods and performance hurdles.

Dimensional may vote against plans that are exceedingly dilutive to existing shareholders. Plans that permit retesting or repricing will generally be viewed unfavorably.

# Framework for Evaluating Japan-Listed Securities

# **Uncontested Director Elections**

Shareholders elect the board of a portfolio company to represent their interests and oversee management and expect portfolio company boards to adopt policies and practices that align the interests of the board and management with those of shareholders and limit the potential for conflicts of interest.

One of the most important measures aimed at ensuring that portfolio company shareholders' interests are represented is an independent board of directors, made up of individuals with the diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and skill sets needed to effectively oversee management and manage risk. With respect to gender diversity, Dimensional may consider local market practice, including requirements under the Japan Corporate Governance Code, and may vote against directors if the board does not meet established market norms.

At portfolio companies with a three-committee structure, Dimensional expects at least one-third of the board to be outsiders. Ideally, the board should be majority independent. At portfolio companies with a

three-committee structure that have a controlling shareholder, at least two directors and at least one-third of the board should be independent outsiders.

At portfolio companies with an audit committee structure, Dimensional expects at least one-third of the board to be outsiders. Ideally, the audit committee should be entirely independent; at minimum, any outside directors who serve on the committee should be independent. At portfolio companies with an audit committee structure that have a controlling shareholder, at least two directors and at least one-third of the board should be independent outsiders.

At portfolio companies with a statutory auditor structure, Dimensional expects at least two directors and at least one-third of the board to be outsiders. At portfolio companies with a statutory auditor structure that have a controlling shareholder, at least two directors and at least one-third of the board should be independent outsiders.

### **Statutory Auditors**

Statutory auditors are responsible for effectively overseeing management and ensuring that decisions made are in the best interest of shareholders. Dimensional may vote against statutory auditors who are remiss in their responsibilities.

When voting on outside statutory auditors, Dimensional expects nominees to be independent and to have the capacity to fulfill the requirements of their role as evidenced by attendance at meetings of the board of directors or board of statutory auditors.

#### **Director and Statutory Auditor Compensation**

Dimensional will support compensation for portfolio company directors and statutory auditors that is reasonable in both size and composition relative to industry and market norms.

When requesting an increase to the level of director fees, Dimensional expects portfolio companies to provide a specific reason for the increase. Dimensional will generally support an increase of director fees if it is in conjunction with the introduction of performance-based compensation, or where the ceiling for performance-based compensation is being increased. Dimensional will generally not support an increase in director fees if there is evidence that the directors have been remiss in effectively overseeing management or ensuring that decisions made are in the best interest of shareholders.

Dimensional will typically support an increase to the statutory auditor compensation ceiling unless there is evidence that the statutory auditors have been remiss in effectively overseeing management or ensuring that decisions made are in the best interest of shareholders.

Dimensional will generally support the granting of annual bonuses to portfolio company directors and statutory auditors unless there is evidence the board or the statutory auditors have been remiss in effectively overseeing management or ensuring that decisions made are in the best interest of shareholders.

Dimensional generally supports the granting of retirement benefits to portfolio company insiders, so long as the individual payments, and aggregate amount of such payments, is disclosed.

Dimensional will generally vote against the granting of retirement bonuses if there is evidence the portfolio company board or statutory auditors have been remiss in effectively overseeing management or ensuring that decisions made are in the best interest of shareholders.

### **Equity Based Compensation**

Dimensional supports the adoption of equity plans that align the interests of the portfolio company board, management, and company employees with those of shareholders.

Dimensional will typically support stock option plans to portfolio company executives and employees if total dilution from the proposed plans and previous plans does not exceed 5 percent for mature companies or 10 percent for growth companies.

Dimensional will generally vote against stock plans if upper limit of options that can be issued per year is not disclosed.

For deep-discounted stock option plans, Dimensional typically expects portfolio companies to disclose specific performance hurdles.

#### Capital Allocation

Dimensional will typically support well-justified dividend payouts that do not negatively impact the portfolio company's overall financial health.

### **Share Repurchase**

Dimensional is typically supportive of portfolio company boards having discretion over share repurchases absent concerns with the company's balance sheet management, capital efficiency, buyback and dividend payout history, board composition, or shareholding structure.

Dimensional will typically support proposed repurchases that do not have a negative impact on shareholder value.

For repurchases of more than 10 percent of issue share capital, Dimensional expects the company to provide a robust explanation for the request.

### **Cross-Shareholding**

Dimensional generally believes that portfolio companies should not allocate significant portions of their net assets to investments in companies for non-investment purposes. For example, in order to strengthen relationships with customers, suppliers, or borrowers. Such cross-shareholding, whether unilateral or reciprocal, can compromise director independence, entrench management, and reduce director accountability to uninterested shareholders. Dimensional may vote against certain directors at companies with excessive cross-shareholdings.

### **Shareholder Rights Plans (Poison Pills)**

Dimensional believes the market for corporate control, which can result in acquisitions that are accretive to shareholders, should be able to function without undue restrictions. Takeover defenses such as poison pills can lead to entrenchment and reduced accountability at the board level.

#### **Indemnification and Limitations on Liability**

Dimensional generally supports limitations on liability for directors and statutory auditors in ordinary circumstances.

### **Limit Legal Liability of External Auditors**

Dimensional generally opposes limitations on the liability of external auditors.

# **Increase in Authorized Capital**

Dimensional will typically support requests for increases of less than 100 percent of currently authorized capital, so long as the increase does not leave the portfolio company with less than 30 percent of the proposed authorized capital outstanding.

For increases that exceed these guidelines, Dimensional expects portfolio companies to provide a robust explanation for the increase.

Dimensional will generally not support requests for increases that will be used as an anti-takeover device.

# **Expansion of Business Activities**

For well performing portfolio companies seeking to expand their business into enterprises related to their core business, Dimensional will typically support management requests to amend the company's articles to expand the company's business activities.

### LONG-TERM AND SHORT-TERM DEBT SECURITIES RATING DESCRIPTIONS

# Standard & Poor's, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. ("S&P"), Corporate Long-Term Issue Ratings:

- AAA An obligation rated 'AAA' has the highest rating assigned by S&P. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is extremely strong.
- AA An obligation rated 'AA' differs from the highest-rated obligations only to a small degree. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is very strong.
- A An obligation rated 'A' is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligations in higher-rated categories. However, the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is still strong.
- BBB An obligation rated 'BBB' exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.
- BB, B, CCC, CC, and C Obligations rated 'BB', 'B', 'CCC', 'CC', and 'C' are regarded as having significant speculative characteristics. 'BB' indicates the least degree of speculation and 'C' the highest. While such obligations will likely have some quality and protective characteristics, these may be outweighed by large uncertainties or major exposures to adverse conditions.
- BB An obligation rated 'BB' is less vulnerable to nonpayment than other speculative issues. However, it faces major ongoing uncertainties or exposure to adverse business, financial, or economic conditions which could lead to the obligor's inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.
- B An obligation rated 'B' is more vulnerable to nonpayment than obligations rated 'BB', but the obligor currently has the capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation. Adverse business, financial, or economic conditions will likely impair the obligor's capacity or willingness to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.
- CCC An obligation rated 'CCC' is currently vulnerable to nonpayment, and is dependent upon favorable business, financial, and economic conditions for the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation. In the event of adverse business, financial, or economic conditions, the obligor is not likely to have the capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.
- CC An obligation rated 'CC' is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment.
- C-A 'C' rating is assigned to obligations that are currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment, obligations that have payment arrearages allowed by the terms of the documents, or obligations of an issuer that is the subject of a bankruptcy petition or similar action which have not experienced a payment default. Among others, the 'C' rating may be assigned to subordinated debt, preferred stock or other obligations on which cash payments have been suspended in accordance with the instrument's terms or when preferred stock is the subject of a distressed exchange offer, whereby some or all of the issue is either repurchased for an amount of cash or replaced by other instruments having a total value that is less than par.
- D-An obligation rated 'D' is in payment default. The 'D' rating category is used when payments on an obligation, including a regulatory capital instrument, are not made on the date due even if the applicable grace period has not expired, unless S&P believes that such payments will be made during such grace period. The 'D' rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of similar action if payments on an obligation are jeopardized. An obligation's rating is lowered to 'D' upon completion of a distressed exchange offer, whereby some or all of the issue is either repurchased for an amount of cash or replaced by other instruments having a total value that is less than par.

Plus (+) or Minus (-) – The ratings from 'AA' to 'CCC' may be modified by the addition of a plus (+) or minus (-) sign to show relative standing within the major rating categories.

NR – This indicates that no rating has been requested, that there is insufficient information on which to base a rating, or that S&P does not rate a particular obligation as a matter of policy.

# Moody's Investors Service, Inc.'s ("Moody's") Long-Term Obligation Ratings:

- Aaa Obligations rated Aaa are judged to be of the highest quality, with minimal credit risk.
- Aa Obligations rated Aa are judged to be of high quality and are subject to very low credit risk.
- A Obligations rated A are considered upper-medium grade and are subject to low credit risk.
- Baa Obligations rated Baa are subject to moderate credit risk. They are considered medium-grade and as such may possess certain speculative characteristics.
- Ba Obligations rated Ba are judged to have speculative elements and are subject to substantial credit risk.
- B Obligations rated B are considered speculative and are subject to high credit risk.
- Caa Obligations rated Caa are judged to be of poor standing and are subject to very high credit risk.
- Ca Obligations rated Ca are highly speculative and are likely in, or very near, default, with some prospect of recovery of principal and interest.
- C Obligations rated C are the lowest rated class of bonds and are typically in default, with little prospect for recovery of principal or interest.

Modifiers: Moody's appends numerical modifiers 1, 2, and 3 to each generic rating classification from Aa through Caa. The modifier 1 indicates that the obligation ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking; and the modifier 3 indicates a ranking in the lower end of that generic rating category.

### Fitch Ratings Ltd.'s ("Fitch") Corporate Finance Obligations - Long-Term Ratings:

- AAA Highest credit quality. 'AAA' ratings denote the lowest expectation of credit risk. They are assigned only in cases of exceptionally strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.
- AA Very high credit quality. 'AA' ratings denote expectations of very low credit risk. They indicate very strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.
- A High credit quality. 'A' ratings denote expectations of low credit risk. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to adverse business or economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.
- BBB Good credit quality. 'BBB' ratings indicate that expectations of credit risk are currently low. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered adequate but adverse business or economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity.
- BB Speculative. 'BB' ratings indicate an elevated vulnerability to credit risk, particularly in the event of adverse changes in business or economic conditions over time; however, business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met.

B – Highly speculative. 'B' ratings indicate that material credit risk is present. For performing obligations, default risk is commensurate with the issuer being rated with an Issuer Default Risk ("IDR") in the ranges 'BB' to 'C'. For issuers with an IDR below 'B', the overall credit risk of this obligation is moderated by the expected level of recoveries should a default occur. For issuers with an IDR above 'B', the overall credit risk of this obligation is exacerbated by the expected low level of recoveries should a default occur. For non-performing obligations, the obligation or issuer is in default, or has deferred payment, but the rated obligation is expected to have extremely high recovery rates consistent with a Recovery Rating of 'RR1' (outstanding recovery prospects given default).

CCC – Substantial credit risk. 'CCC' ratings indicate that substantial credit risk is present. For performing obligations, default risk is commensurate with an IDR in the ranges 'B' to 'C'. For issuers with an IDR below 'CCC', the overall credit risk of this obligation is moderated by the expected level of recoveries should a default occur. For issuers with an IDR above 'CCC', the overall credit risk of this obligation is exacerbated by the expected low level of recoveries should a default occur. For non-performing obligations, the obligation or issuer is in default, or has deferred payment, but the rated obligation is expected to have a superior recovery rate consistent with a Recovery Rating of 'RR2' (superior recovery prospects given default).

CC – Very high levels of credit risk. 'CC' ratings indicate very high levels of credit risk. For performing obligations, default risk is commensurate with an IDR in the ranges 'B' to 'C'. For issuers with an IDR below 'CC', the overall credit risk of this obligation is moderated by the expected level of recoveries should a default occur. For issuers with an IDR above 'CC', the overall credit risk of this obligation is exacerbated by the expected low level of recoveries should a default occur. For non-performing obligations, the obligation or issuer is in default, or has deferred payment, but the rated obligation is expected to have a good recovery rate consistent with a Recovery Rating of 'RR3' (good recovery prospects given default).

C – Exceptionally high levels of credit risk. 'C' indicates exceptionally high levels of credit risk. For performing obligations, default risk is commensurate with an IDR in the ranges 'B' to 'C'. The overall credit risk of this obligation is exacerbated by the expected low level of recoveries should a default occur. For non-performing obligations, the obligation or issuer is in default, or has deferred payment, and the rated obligation is expected to have an average, below-average or poor recovery rate consistent with a Recovery Rating of 'RR4' (average recovery prospects given default), 'RR5' (below average recovery prospects given default) or 'RR6' (poor recovery prospects given default).

Defaulted obligations typically are not assigned 'D' ratings, but are instead rated in the 'B' to 'C' rating categories, depending upon their recovery prospects and other relevant characteristics. This approach better aligns obligations that have comparable overall expected loss but varying vulnerability to default and loss.

Plus (+) or Minus (-) The modifiers "+" or "-" may be appended to a rating to denote relative status within major rating categories. Such suffixes are not added to the 'AAA' obligation rating category, or to corporate finance obligation ratings in the categories below 'B'.

emr – The subscript 'emr' is appended to a rating to denote embedded market risk which is beyond the scope of the rating. The designation is intended to make clear that the rating solely addresses the counterparty risk of the issuing bank. It is not meant to indicate any limitation in the analysis of the counterparty risk, which in all other respects follows published Fitch criteria for analyzing the issuing financial institution. Fitch does not rate these instruments where the principal is to any degree subject to market risk.

#### **S&P's Short-Term Issue Credit Ratings:**

A-1 - A short-term obligation rated 'A-1' is rated in the highest category by S&P. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is strong. Within this category, certain obligations are designated with a plus sign (+). This indicates that the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on these obligations is extremely strong.

- A-2 A short-term obligation rated 'A-2' is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligations in higher rating categories. However, the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is satisfactory.
- A-3 A short-term obligation rated 'A-3' exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.
- B A short-term obligation rated 'B' is regarded as having significant speculative characteristics. Ratings of 'B-1', 'B-2', and 'B-3' may be assigned to indicate finer distinctions within the 'B' category. The obligor currently has the capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation; however, it faces major ongoing uncertainties which could lead to the obligor's inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.
- B-1 A short-term obligation rated 'B-1' is regarded as having significant speculative characteristics, but the obligor has a relatively stronger capacity to meet its financial commitments over the short-term compared to other speculative-grade obligors.
- B-2 A short-term obligation rated 'B-2' is regarded as having significant speculative characteristics, and the obligor has an average speculative-grade capacity to meet its financial commitments over the short-term compared to other speculative-grade obligors.
- B-3 A short-term obligation rated 'B-3' is regarded as having significant speculative characteristics, and the obligor has a relatively weaker capacity to meet its financial commitments over the short-term compared to other speculative-grade obligors.
- C A short-term obligation rated 'C' is currently vulnerable to nonpayment and is dependent upon favorable business, financial and economic conditions for the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.
- D A short-term obligation rated 'D' is in payment default. The 'D' rating category is used when payments on an obligation, including a regulatory capital instrument, are not made on the date due even if the applicable grace period has not expired, unless S&P believes that such payments will be made during such grace period. The 'D' rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of a similar action if payments on an obligation are jeopardized.

Dual Ratings – S&P assigns "dual" ratings to all debt issues that have a put option or demand feature as part of their structure. The first rating addresses the likelihood of repayment of principal and interest as due, and the second rating addresses only the demand feature. The long-term rating symbols are used for bonds to denote the long-term maturity and the short-term rating symbols for the put option (for example, 'AAA/A-1+'). With U.S. municipal short-term demand debt, note rating symbols are used with the short-term issue credit rating symbols (for example, 'SP-1+/A-1+').

## **Moody's Short-Term Obligation Ratings:**

- P-1 Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Prime-1 have a superior ability to repay short-term debt obligations.
- P-2 Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Prime-2 have a strong ability to repay short-term debt obligations.
- P-3 Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Prime-3 have an acceptable ability to repay short-term obligations.
- NP Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Not Prime do not fall within any of the Prime rating categories.

Note: Canadian issuers rated P-1 or P-2 have their short-term ratings enhanced by the senior-most long-term rating of the issuer, its guarantor or support-provider.

### Fitch's Short-Term Obligation Ratings:

- F1 Highest short-term credit quality. Indicates the strongest intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments; may have an added "+" to denote any exceptionally strong credit feature.
- F2 Good short-term credit quality. Good intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments.
- F3 Fair short-term credit quality. The intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is adequate.
- B Speculative short-term credit quality. Minimal capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, plus heightened vulnerability to near term adverse changes in financial and economic conditions.
- C High short-term default risk. Default is a real possibility.
- RD Restricted default. Indicates an entity that has defaulted on one or more of its financial commitments, although it continues to meet other financial obligations. Applicable to entity ratings only.
- D Default. Indicates a broad-based default event for an entity, or the default of a specific short-term obligation.