

Nevada System of Higher Education

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February 1, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Patrick K. Carter
Ms. Louise E. Roberts
Mr. Joseph C. Arascada
Dr. Jason Fendler
Mr. Donald G. Johnson

FROM: Joe Sandoval, Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: Internal Audit Work Schedule

Historically, the NSHE Internal Audit Department has developed an annual work schedule for review and audit activities. This document has been developed and submitted for approval on a six-month timeline, reflecting current audit practice developments and the increasing need for a flexible, adaptive internal audit function. The Internal Audit Department Work Schedule continues to be used for monitoring activity by an audited risk assessment process, which is summarized below:

Risk Assessment Process

- Continue our updates to the comprehensive list of risk factors (See Appendix 2) in a collaborative fashion.
- Review the risk factors used to ensure they provide a complete view of risk factors affecting NSHE.
- Apply risk factors and a risk matrix to the audit cycle to determine and prioritize risk.
- Solicit input from stakeholders/industry management for current specific audit focus.
- Utilize data from NSHEIC to identify potential audit opportunities across remaining risks.

In addition to the risk assessment changes stemming from the new audit model, NSHE modified the format of our work schedule to expand our capacity to provide services beyond that of traditional assurance services. The key components of the audit plan are summarized below.

Highlights of the System-wide FY 2021 Audit Plan (2nd half)

- NSHE Internal Audit will dedicate over 4,000 hours to planned assurance-based audits spread across all four divisions and three system offices.
- To facilitate agility, accountability, and efficiency, NSHE Internal Audit will dedicate roughly 1,300 hours to projects based on emerging risks and collaborate with other offices.
- A slight decrease in time dedicated to training from the previous year is budgeted for training/administrative items. This includes continuing education for the NSHE Internal Audit team to maintain professional certifications and competencies, as well as continuing “in-house” training to ensure the department is organized and well-positioned to add value to the institution.

Themes in the System-wide FY 2021 Audit Plan (2nd half)

- Process vs. Transactional reviews – In addition to planned internal audit requests, we will continue to identify opportunities to review processes more efficiently through transaction testing.
- Collaboration – In addition to planned audits, ultimately leads to more effective audits. This theme relates to unplanned requests, as well as look to leverage excellent subject-matter experts around the state to support compliance.
- Information Technology – In addition to planned IT audits, we dedicate time within advisory requests for participation in important IT-related projects like NUSIT cybersecurity framework reviews and critical follow-up from an external review observations. We look for efficiencies in an auditor’s technology usage by utilizing electronic audit tools.
- Contribute to cost savings – NSHE Internal Audit will contribute to cost savings by alleviate costs. Several projects identified will lead to a reduction in audit fees including direct assistance to the external auditors and PCI compliance reviews.

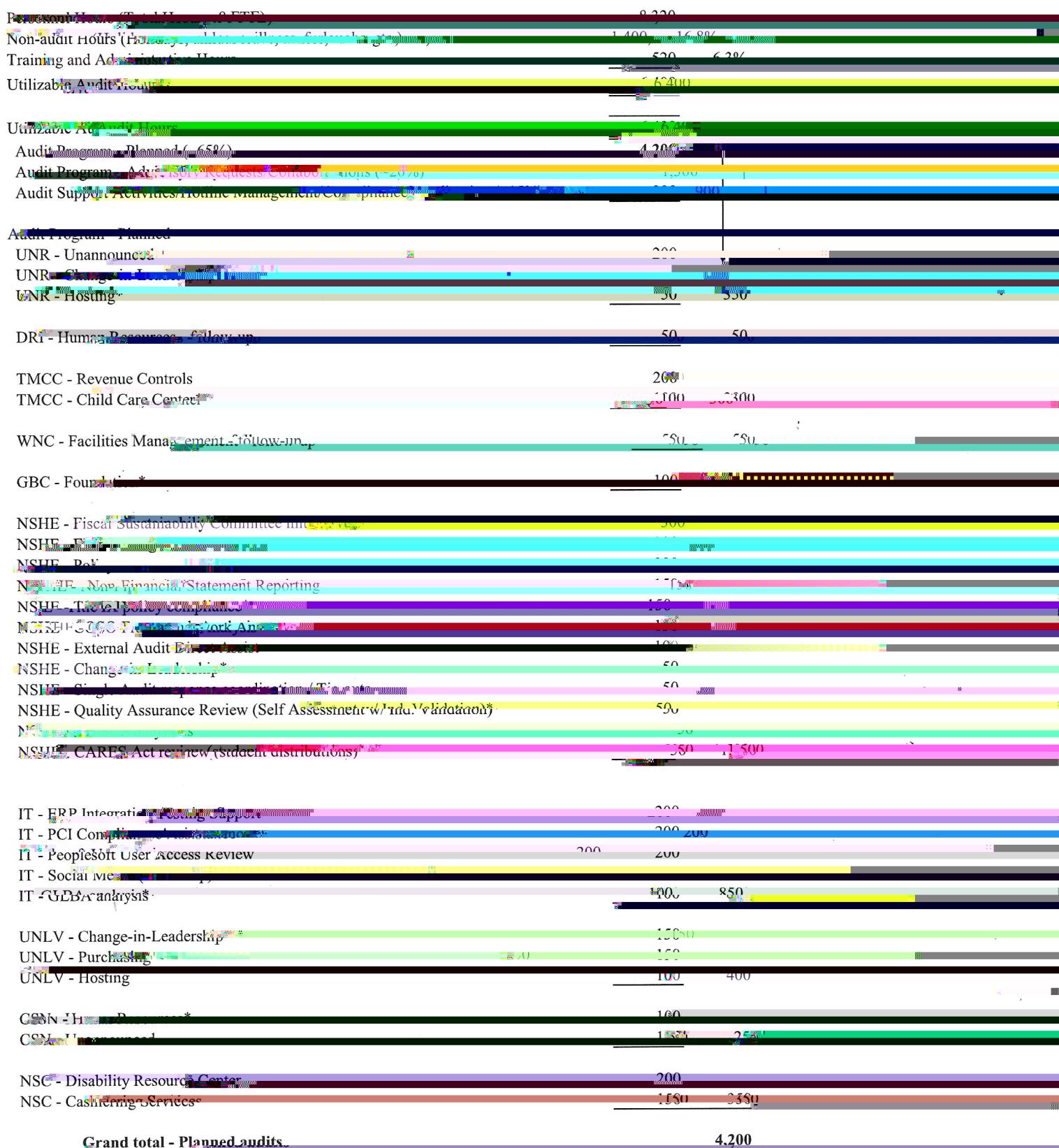
The detailed list of audits can be found on page 51. Please contact us if you have any questions or need additional information.

Nevada System of Higher Education

Internal Audit Department*

Capacity Audit & Workload

Fiscal Year 2021 (Cont'd)



* Projected activity based on current workload and anticipated future completion.