



Compliance Community

*System Compliance Program
Office of Internal Audit*

The Importance of Legislative Compliance

Legislative compliance is one of the main areas of focus for the TSUS Compliance Office. Identifying state legislation that impacts the TSUS, assessing risks associated with non-compliance, and working towards meeting the requirements of new or updated legislation often requires both time and resources from the System as a whole and from each component institution. Similarly, federal legislation and laws that impact public higher education are constantly being introduced, amended, and put into effect. The Compliance Office works closely with the Office of Governmental Relations to identify legislation that we must comply with, including timelines and specific requirements. Missing a piece of compliance-related legislation could cost the System in terms of money, reputation, and even expose TSUS to liability.

Through the use of questionnaires and by gathering data from each component, the Compliance Office partners with the institutions to work together to achieve compliance with the many statutes and laws that we are subject to. Through this collaborative approach, the System has been able to operate confidently knowing that we are in compliance with the expectations of legislators and legislative committees.

 ***Community Spotlight***



Sean Cunningham, J.D., Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations

Sean Cunningham serves as Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations for the System. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Cunningham was chief of staff to Representative Brian McCall in the Texas House of Representatives and special advisor to the House Committee on Calendars, where he assisted the committee in recommending and prioritizing the daily legislative agenda for the Texas House. During his 19 years working in the Texas House and managing a legislative office, Mr. Cunningham also served as a clerk for various subcommittees and full committees within the House.

Mr. Cunningham earned his bachelor's degree in government and his Doctor of Jurisprudence from The University of Texas at Austin. While in law school, Mr. Cunningham completed a judicial internship with a member of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, and studied international law during his semester abroad at University College London.

Mr. Cunningham believes leveraging the Compliance Office is essential in helping the Office of Governmental Relations do a better job communicating with elected officials in both Austin and Washington, D.C. The Texas Legislature and U.S. Congress are less likely to subject our institutions to greater regulation when they see strong compliance programs in place. The System's Compliance Office is critical in fostering the trust between our institutions and our elected leadership and state and federal agencies. If that trust erodes, increased regulatory burdens are likely to follow. If we have a great compliance story to tell, then the Governmental Relations staff can do a better job of staving

off increased future regulations and in some cases, work towards relaxing existing requirements moving forward. Working together to ensure we are compliance-conscious helps the TSUS continue to have a great story to tell.

Compliance Hotline

The Texas State University System maintains a reporting hotline through a private contractor, EthicsPoint, to provide a confidential avenue for reporting concerns about potential waste, fraud, and abuse of resources, the lack of compliance with laws and regulations, or violations of the System's Code of Ethics. A detailed description and the opportunity to make a report can be accessed [here](#).

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Please feel free to forward this newsletter to others who may be interested or who may benefit from the information. The goal is to expand readership to offer this ongoing resource to as many members of the TSUS community as possible. New readers can subscribe by using the link below.

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The Texas State University System is committed to complying with all applicable laws, regulations and policies. The System compliance program advises and collaborates with components to develop effective ways to mitigate compliance risks on TSUS campuses. Serving to advance the goals of the System and its institutions, the Compliance Office offers resources, education, information and guidance while promoting a culture of responsibility and accountability.

Feedback regarding the System compliance program or the Compliance Community newsletter is welcome. Please contact [Kelly Wintemute](#) with suggestions.

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