

# Teachers' Retirement Board

July 2017

## Agency Overview - Highlights

For the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee

### Teachers' Retirement Board

The [Teachers' Retirement Board](#) administers the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS). The Board consists of 6 members appointed by the governor to staggered 5-year terms. Membership must include:

- 3 members from the teaching profession who, when appointed, are active members of TRS, with at least 1 of the 3 actively employed as a public school classroom teacher who must hold a class 1, 2, or 4 certificate);
- 1 retired teacher who was a member of the retirement system at the time of retirement; and
- 2 representatives of the public.

The Board hires its own staff, including an executive director.

**Executive Director:** Shawn Graham, 444-3376, sgraham@mt.gov

**Website:** <https://trs.mt.gov/>

### Responsibilities

- Constitutionally responsible for administering TRS, including actuarial determinations, as fiduciaries of system participants and their beneficiaries.
- Contracts with Cavanaugh MacDonald Consulting, LLC, for actuarial services.
- Provides informational material to employers and members, including retirement planning seminars.

### Programs, FTE, and Budgeted Funding - FY 2018

Source: TRS

Programs	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Revenue	Proprietary	Trust Funds	Total Funding	% General Fund
Teachers Retirement System	20.5	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,600,944	\$2,600,944	0.00%

Compiled by Sheri Scurr, Research Analyst  
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### Statutory Advisory Councils

- None.

### Statutorily Required Reports

- [Comprehensive Annual Financial Report - FY 2015-2016](#) - 5-11-210(11), and 19-20-201(1)(d) and (4), MCA
- [Annual actuarial report - FY 2016](#) - 19-20-201(1)(f), MCA
- [Experience study - 5-year period ending July 1, 2013](#) - 19-20-201(4), MCA
- Special actuarial report required by HB 377 (2013) on progress toward 100% funding. This report is included in the annual actuarial valuation.

### Most Recent Legislative Audits

- [Financial Compliance Audit for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016 - 16-09A.](#)  
No recommendations.

### Relevant Retirement Bills That **PASSED** - 2017 Session

\* denotes By Request of TRS Board

- [HB 67\\*](#) - M. Ryan - Generally revise TRS
- [HB 68\\*](#) - M. Ryan - Revise university system retirement plan participation requirements
- [SB 121](#) - Buttrey - Provide that volunteer positions are not reportable to TRS

### Relevant Retirement Bills That **FAILED** - 2017 Session

- [HB 72\\*](#) - Lynch - Increase university system supplemental contribution to TRS
- [HB 436](#) - Burnett - Constitutional referendum to require voter approval for employer contribution increases in retirement systems
- [HB 499](#) - Burnett - Require actuarial report using alternative assumption for investment earnings
- [SB 143](#) - Lang - Revise return to work provisions in TRS (vetoed)
- [SB 263](#) - Brown - revise laws on public retirement system investments

### SAVA Activities Since 2013

2014-15 Interim:

- Monitored implementation of HB 377 (2013), which provided actuarially-required funding to make the system actuarially sound.
- Monitored status of the lawsuit to void the HB 377 provision reducing the Guaranteed Annual Benefit Adjust (GABA) for retirees.

### Hot Topics of 2017 Session

- None.

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Funded Ratio	Amortization period
69%	24 yrs

Main Economic Assumptions*	
Investment rate of return	7.75%
Wage growth	4.0%
Inflation	3.25%

*\*Note: A new experience study will be conducted in Spring 2018*

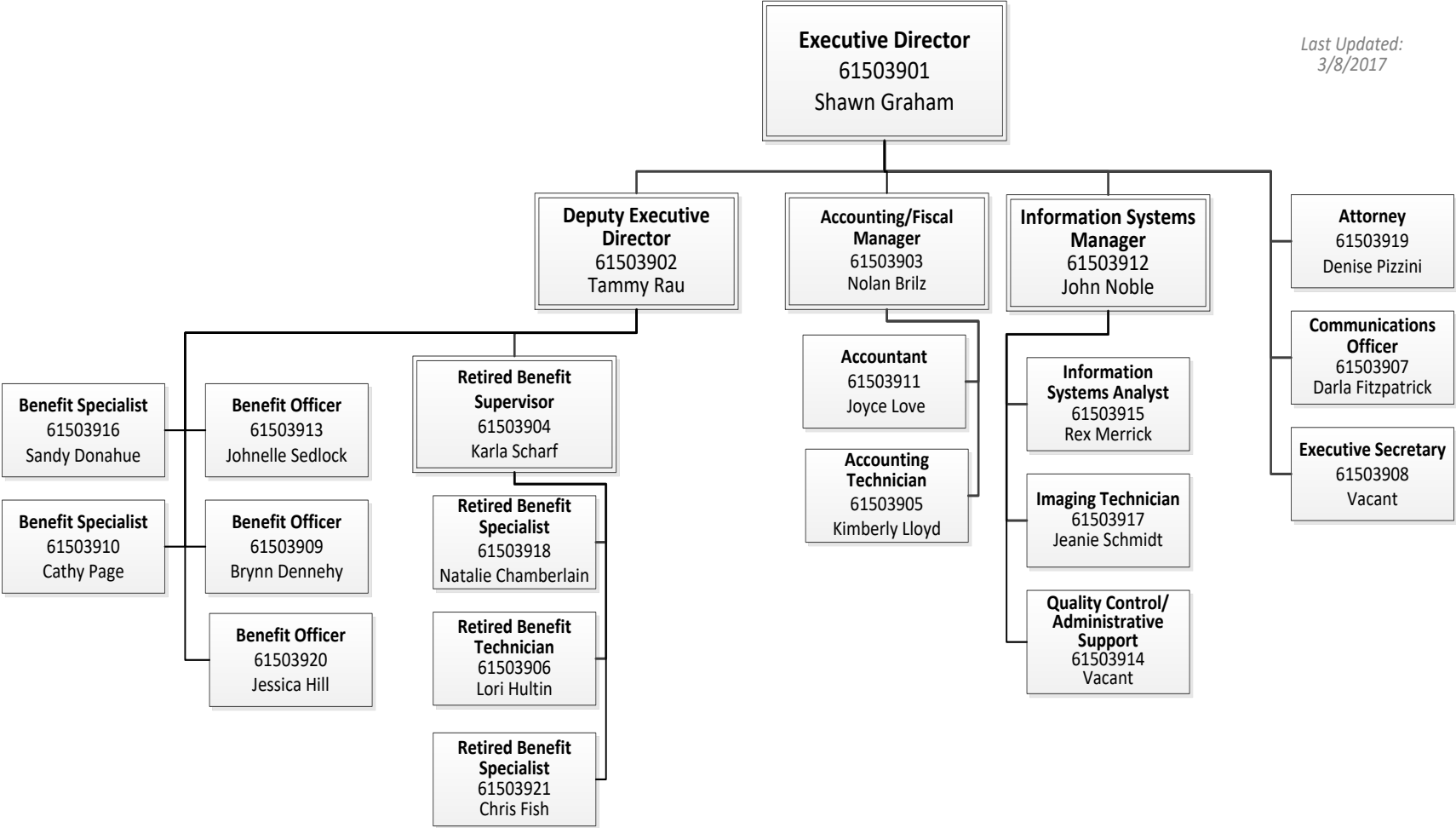
### ATTACHMENTS

TRS Organizational Chart  
Staff Directory

CI0425 7191shfb.

# Teachers' Retirement System

Last Updated:  
3/8/2017



## TRS Staff Directory

Shawn Graham

Executive Director (406) 444-3134

Tammy Rau

Deputy Executive Director (406) 444-3134

Denise Pizzini

Chief Legal Counsel (406) 444-3134

Darla Fitzpatrick

Communications Officer (406) 444-0139

Karla Scharf

Retired Benefits Manager (406) 444-3135

Nolan Brilz

Accounting/Fiscal Manager (406) 444-3679

John Noble

Information Systems Manager (406) 444-3395