

## **Engagement Letter**

## **Review of Client Prepared Financial Statements**

February 13, 2018

University President and Board of Trustees Sam Houston State University 1905 University Avenue Huntsville, Texas 77340

We are pleased to confirm our acceptance and understanding of the services we are to provide for Sam Houston State University (the "University"), an Agency of the State of Texas, for the fiscal years ended August 31, 2017 and 2018.

You have requested that we perform a review engagement with respect to the financial statements of the University, which comprises the Statements of Net Position of the University, Statements of Revenues, Expense, Changes in Net Position and Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended August 31, 2017 and 2018, which the University has prepared in compliance with Texas Government Code Annotated Section 2101.011 and in accordance with the requirements established by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

## Our Responsibilities

The objective of our engagement is to obtain limited assurance as a basis for reporting whether we are aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We will conduct our review engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services (SSARS) promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants (AICPA) and comply with the AICPA's Code of Professional Conduct, including the ethical principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence, and due care.

A review engagement includes primarily applying analytical procedures to your financial data and making inquiries of management. A review engagement is substantially less in scope than an audit engagement, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. A review engagement does not contemplate obtaining an understanding of the University's internal control; assessing fraud risk; testing accounting records by obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence through inspection, observation, confirmation, or the examination of source documents; or other procedures ordinarily performed in an audit engagement. Accordingly, we will not express an opinion regarding the financial statements. The supplementary information accompanying the financial statements will be presented for purposes of additional analysis. Such information is the responsibility of management. We will not audit or review the information and will not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any assurance on it.

Sam Houston State University Engagement Letter Page 2 of 4

Our engagement cannot be relied upon to identify or disclose any financial statement misstatements, including those caused by fraud or error, or to identify or disclose any wrongdoing within the University or noncompliance with laws and regulations. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors and any evidence or information that comes to our attention during the performance of our review procedures that indicates fraud may have occurred. In addition, we will inform you of any evidence or information that comes to our attention during the performance of our review procedures regarding noncompliance with laws and regulations that may have occurred, unless they are clearly inconsequential. We have no responsibility to identify and communicate deficiencies or material weaknesses in your internal control as part of this engagement.

# Your Responsibilities

The engagement to be performed is conducted on the basis that you acknowledge and understand that our responsibility is to obtain limited assurance as a basis for reporting whether we are aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements in order for the statements to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. You have the following overall responsibilities that are fundamental to our undertaking the engagement in accordance with SSARS:

- 1. The selection of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as the financial reporting framework to be applied in the preparation of the financial statements.
- 2. The preparation and fair presentation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and the inclusion of all informative disclosures that are appropriate for accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- 3. The design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
- 4. The prevention and detection of fraud.
- 5. To ensure that the University complies with the laws and regulations applicable to its activities.
- 6. The accuracy and completeness of the records, documents, explanations, and other information, including significant judgments, you provide to us for the engagement.
- 7. To provide us with—
  - access to all information of which you are aware is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, and other matters.
  - · additional information that we may request from you for the purpose of the review engagement.
  - · unrestricted access to persons within the University of whom we determine it necessary to make inquiries.
  - To provide us, at the conclusion of the engagement, with a letter that confirms certain representations made during the review.

Sam Houston State University Engagement Letter Page 3 of 4

## **Our Report**

We will issue a written report upon completion of our review of University financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the management of the University. We cannot provide assurance that an unmodified accountants' review report will be issued. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to report known departures from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, add an emphasis-of-matter or othermatter paragraph(s), or withdraw from the engagement. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the review of your financial statements, we will not issue a report on such statements as a result of this engagement.

You agree to include our accountants' review report in any document containing financial statements that indicates that such financial statements have been reviewed by us and, prior to inclusion of the report, to ask our permission to do so.

#### Other Relevant Information

To ensure that the University's independence is not impaired under the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct, you agree to inform the engagement partner before entering into any substantive employment discussions with any of our personnel.

Robert Belt is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the report or authorizing another individual to sign it.

We estimate that our fees for these services will be \$40,528 for 2017 and 2018, respectively. The fee estimate is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the work performed. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with you and arrive at a new fee estimate before we incur the additional costs. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. In accordance with our firm policies, work may be suspended if your account becomes 30 days or more overdue and will not be resumed until your account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination, even if we have not completed our report. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket expenditures through the date of termination.

Any dispute arising out of or relating to this Agreement or the breach thereof shall be settled by the dispute resolution process provided in the Texas Government Code Chapter 2260. Thereafter, the venue of any suit arising under this contract is fixed in any court of competent jurisdiction in Walker County, Texas.

Nothing in this provision or agreement shall be construed as a waiver of the rights, privileges, immunities, defenses or remedies of the parties.

Sam Houston State University Engagement Letter Page 4 of 4

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you acknowledge and agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the enclosed copy and return it to us. You may request that we perform additional services not contemplated by this engagement letter. If this occurs, we will communicate with you regarding the scope of the additional services and the estimated fee. We also may issue a separate engagement letter covering the additional services. In the absence of any other written communication from us documenting such additional services, our services will continue to be governed by the terms of this engagement letter.

Sincerely,

Belt Harris Pechacek, LLLP Certified Public Accountants

Authorized by:

Robert Belt, CPA, CGMA Managing Partner

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of Sam Houston State University.

Dana G. Hoyt, President

Date