# Analysis of <br> Current KPERS Plan 

Stuart Sedlacek
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## Analysis of Current KPERS Plan

- Sustainability of Current Plan - Part I
- Expected Compounded Rates of Return
- Sustainability of Current Plan - Part II
- Defined Contribution vs Defined Benefit
- A Possible Way Forward


## Funding Adequacy by Employee at 8．00\％Compounded Annual Investment Return

Number of Years Worked：
Steady Employment Until Retirement

|  |  | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 40 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 10 | $\nabla$ | $\square$ | $\triangle$ | $\triangle$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ |
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|  | 35 | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\nabla$ | $\nabla$ | $\square$ | $\square$ | $\triangle$ | 今 |

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Employees Retiring at 65
Employees Retiring at 55
$\rightarrow$ Conclusion：At 8\％compounded annual investment return，the KPERS Plan is adequately funded for employees working 25 years or more

## Expected Compounded Annual Investment Returns

## Two factors will reduce the KPERS Plan's expected compounded annual investment returns (ECAIR):

1) Volatility of returns: expected volatility of returns reduces the ECAIR. How? Consider the simple example where annual returns have a mean of $8 \%$ and a standard deviation of $10 \%$ :

- Year One return $=8 \%+10 \%=18 \%$; Year Two return $=8 \%-10 \%=-2 \%$
- Two year compound return $=(1+18 \%) \times(1-2 \%)=1.1564$
- Average Compound Return = Square Root of $(1.1564)=1.07536 \rightarrow$ CAIR $=7.536 \%$
- Theoretical ECAIR of normally distributed returns ( $\mu=8 \%, \sigma=10 \%$ ) $=7.5319 \%$
> For the KPERS Plan ( $\mu=8.00 \%, \sigma=10.29 \%$ ), ECAIR $=7.509 \%$, a reduction of approximately $0.50 \%$ from the mean $8 \%$ return


## Expected Compounded Annual Investment Returns

Historical Compounded Returns Support a 4.5\% Real Compounded Annualized Investment Return

|  | Time Period |  | Nominal Return |  | Real Return |  | Portfolio Weight | Wtd Real Compound Return |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Average | Compound | Average | Compound |  | L/T Average | 1976-2010 |
|  | 1960-2010 |  | 10.71\% | 9.43\% | 6.45\% | 5.14\% | 55\% |  |  |
|  | 1976-2010 |  | 11.99\% | 10.65\% | 7.68\% | 6.39\% |  |  | 3.51\% |
|  |  | Minimum |  |  | 6.90\% | 5.09\% |  |  |  |
|  |  | Average |  |  | 8.16\% | 6.47\% |  | 3.56\% |  |
|  |  | Maximum |  |  | 9.70\% | 8.02\% |  |  |  |
|  | Time Period |  | Nominal |  | Real |  | Portfolio <br> Weight | Wtd Real Compound Return |  |
|  |  |  | Yield | Compound Rtn | Yield | Compound Rtn |  | L/T Average | 1976-2010 |
|  |  | 60-2010 | 5.68\% | 5.67\% | 2.67\% | 2.66\% | 45\% | 1.20\% |  |
|  |  | 76-2010 | 6.05\% | 6.68\% | 3.14\% | 3.68\% ${ }^{+}$ |  |  | 1.66\% |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 든 } \\ & \stackrel{0}{0} \end{aligned}$ | Less: Management Fees |  |  |  |  |  |  | (.40\%) | (.40\%) |
|  | Portfolio Return |  |  |  |  |  |  | 4.36\% | 4.77\% $\ddagger$ |

† Average Annual Price Return of 1.02\%
$\ddagger$ Compares to actual KPERS return of 4.92\%
$>$ Based upon historical averages, the Real Expected Compounded Annual Investment Return likely to be close to $4.50 \% \rightarrow$ or Nominal Return of $7.50 \%$ with $3 \%$ Inflation

## Funding Adequacy by Employee at 7．50\％Compounded Annual Investment Return

Number of Years Worked：
Steady Employment Until Retirement

|  |  | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 40 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 10 | $\nabla$ | $\square$ | $\square$ | $\triangle$ | 令 | 今 | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ |
|  | 15 | $\nabla$ | $\nabla$ | $\nabla$ | $\square$ | $\square$ | $\triangle$ | 今 | 个 |
|  | 20 | $\checkmark$ | $\nabla$ | $\nabla$ | $\nabla$ | $=$ | $\square$ | $\triangle$ | 勺 |
|  | 25 | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\nabla$ | $\nabla$ | $\nabla$ | $\square$ | A | $\triangle$ |
|  | 30 | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\nabla$ | $\nabla$ | $\square$ | $\square$ | $\triangle$ |
|  | 35 | $\checkmark$ | 8 | $\checkmark$ | $\nabla$ | $\nabla$ | $\square$ | $\square$ | $\triangle$ |

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Employees Retiring at 65
Employees Retiring at 55
$\rightarrow$ Conclusion：At 7．5\％compounded annual investment return，the Plan is adequately funded for employees working 30 years or more

## Expected Compounded Annual Investment Returns (Continued)

Two factors will reduce the KPERS Plan's expected compounded annual investment returns (ECAIR):
2) Low Bond Market Yields: expected returns will be reduced due to current Bond Market Yields which are 2\% to 2.5\% (average 2.25\%) below long-term historical averages
How? Consider the following two scenarios:
a) If current interest rates become the "new norm", expected bond market yields (and returns) will be 2.25\% below the historical average, reducing the KPERS Plan returns by $2.25 \%$ x $.45 \approx 1.01 \%$
b) If interest rates rise over time (say 5 to 10 years) to return to the historical average, the average yield of a bond portfolio will be below the historical average AND will be further reduced by the decline in principal value due to rising interest rates:
> Impact on average 20-year KPERS Plan return: $0.60 \%$ to $0.75 \%$ lower
> Impact on average 30-year KPERS Plan return: $0.40 \%$ to $0.50 \%$ lower
$>$ Impact on average 40-year KPERS Plan return: $0.35 \%$ to $0.40 \%$ lower
$\rightarrow$ Conclusion: due to volatility and lower bond returns, the KPERS Plan's expected compounded annual return is likely to be $0.85 \%$ to $1.25 \%$ below the stated $8 \%$ return

## Funding Adequacy by Employee at 7．00\％Compounded Annual Investment Return

Number of Years Worked：
Steady Employment Until Retirement

|  |  | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 40 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 10 | $\nabla$ | $\square$ | $\square$ | $\triangle$ | $\triangle$ | 仑 | 勺 | $\bigcirc$ |
|  | 15 | $\checkmark$ | $\nabla$ | $\nabla$ | $\square$ | $\square$ | $\triangle$ | $\triangle$ | 乞 |
|  | 20 | 5 | $\sqrt{2}$ | $\nabla$ | $\nabla$ | $\nabla$ | $=$ | $\square$ | $\triangle$ |
|  | 25 | $\checkmark$ | 8 | $\checkmark$ | $\nabla$ | $\nabla$ | $\square$ | $\square$ | $\triangle$ |
|  | 30 | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\nabla$ | $\nabla$ | $\nabla$ | $\square$ | $\square$ |
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Employees Retiring at 65
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Employees Retiring at 55
$\rightarrow$ Conclusion：At 7\％compounded annual investment return，the Plan is adequately funded for employees working 30 years or more；not fully funded for early retirees

## Funding Adequacy by Employee at 6．75\％Compounded Annual Investment Return

Number of Years Worked：
Steady Employment Until Retirement

|  |  | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 40 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 10 | $\nabla$ | $\nabla$ | $\square$ | － | $\triangle$ | 饣 | 仓 | $\bigcirc$ |
|  | 15 | $\checkmark$ | $\nabla$ | $\nabla$ | $\nabla$ | $\square$ | $\square$ | $\triangle$ | $\triangle$ |
|  | 20 | $\checkmark$ | 8 | $\nabla$ | $\nabla$ | $\nabla$ | $\square$ | $\square$ | $\triangle$ |
|  | 25 | $\checkmark$ | 8 | $\checkmark$ | $\nabla$ | $\nabla$ | $\nabla$ | $\square$ | $\square$ |
|  | 30 | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\nabla$ | $\nabla$ | $\square$ | $\square$ |
|  | 35 | $\checkmark$ | 8 | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\nabla$ | $\nabla$ | $\nabla$ | $\square$ |

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$\nabla=$ Funding shortfall of $12 \%$ to $37 \%$
$\Delta=$ Funding excess of $12 \%$ to $37 \%$
，＝Funding shortfall of $37 \%$ to $75 \%$
Employees Retiring at 65
Employees Retiring at 55
$\rightarrow$ Conclusion：At $6.75 \%$ compounded annual investment return，the Plan is adequately funded for employees working 35 years or more；not fully funded for early retirees

## Variability of Returns as a Function of Investment Time Horizon


$\rightarrow$ Average Annual Investment Returns become much more certain with long investment time horizons

## Likelihood of Realizing 8\% Compound Annual Investment Return



Note: with $6.75 \%$ Mean Return, there is a $22.1 \%$ probability of achieving $8 \%$ or higher return and even with an $8.00 \%$ Mean Return, there is a $50 \%$ probability of achieving $8 \%$ or lower return

## Likelihood of Funding Pension Liability ${ }^{\dagger}$




## Attributes of Selected Retirement Plans

| Plan Type | Investment Risk/Upside |  | Fixed/Known <br> Retirement <br> Payment | Portable | Transferable <br> At Death |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Distribution <br> Period | Yefined | Plan Sponsor | Plan Sponsor | Yes |
| Benefit | No | No |  |  |  |
| Defined <br> Contribution | Participant | Participant | No/Yes $\dagger$ | Yes | Yes |
| Cash-Value <br> Pension | Plan Sponsor or <br> Participant* | Plan Sponsor or <br> Participant* | No/Yes $\dagger$ | Varies $\ddagger$ | Varies $\ddagger$ |

* Typically, the Plan Sponsor will credit a fixed or market-based return (e.g., Moody A-Rated Corporate Bond Yield) but may be invested as rest of Defined Contribution Plan
$\dagger$ The cash balance at retirement may be annuitized as part of the Plan, if available, or may used to purchase an immediate annuity from a third-party provider
$\ddagger$ Feature may or may not be available during employment but is available after retirement


## Attributes of Defined Contribution Plans

## An individually-owned Defined Contribution Plan has at least two significant advantages over a Defined Benefit Plan:

1) From an investment perspective:
a) because each participant has his/her own portfolio, the employee can create a personalized investment strategy using their own time horizon which raises their expected returns. For example:

| Years to Retirement | Percentage in |  | Expected Annual Return |  | Annual Volatility |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Stocks | Bonds | Stated | Compounded | For 1 Year | Time-Adjusted |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | To Retirement | To Average Payout* |
| 16 to 40 | 100\% | 0\% | 10.49\% | 9.00\% | 18.11\% | 3.42\% | 2.94\% |
| 11 to 15 | 80\% | 20\% | 9.46\% | 8.45\% | 15.05\% | 3.89\% | 3.14\% |
| 6 to 10 | 75\% | 25\% | 9.20\% | 8.26\% | 14.30\% | 5.06\% | 3.37\% |
| 0 to 5 | 60\% | 40\% | 8.43\% | 7.75\% | 12.09\% | 7.65\% | 3.42\% |

[^0]
## Likelihood of Funding Pension Liability ${ }^{\dagger}$




## Attributes of Defined Contribution Plans (Continued)

An individually-owned Defined Contribution Plan has at least two significant advantages over a Defined Benefit Plan:

1) From an investment perspective (continued):
b) because each participant has his/her own portfolio, the employee benefits from up-side investment performance and results
2) From a portability perspective: the employee has an asset which they do not forfeit in the case of change of employment and death:
a) The employee can take the fund balance with them if they change employers
b) The heirs of the employee inherit the fund balance when the individual dies

## Likelihood of Funding Pension Liability $\dagger$



## Conclusions of Analysis of Current KPERS Plan

- Plan is likely to underfunded retirement liabilities for a large cohort of employees, especially given current bond market yields and prospective returns
- Defined Contribution Plan design offers high likelihood of delivering higher accumulated fund balances by utilizing more aggressive - yet prudent - personalized investment strategies
- Defined Contribution Plan design could enable the State to be more competitive with other employers by offering retirement fund portability and inheritability


## A Possible Way Forward for KPERS

> "Tie Off" Current Defined Benefit Plan

1) Do not create any new retirement liabilities under current plan/terms
2) Discontinue salary-based contributions to fund
3) Determine current unfunded liabilities (current assets less PV of current retirement benefits)
$\rightarrow$ Issue debt at current low interest rates to fully fund Plan
> Create Blended DB/DC Plan
For Defined Benefit Component:
4) Modify benefit earned by year of employment to produce adequate funding at target likelihood of success
$\rightarrow$ Benefit rate will decline for each year of employment as employee's age increases (years to retirement decreases), such as the following:

| Age | 25 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 45 | 50 | 55 | 60 | 64 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Annual Retirement Benefit as \% of Year's Salary | 4.33\% | 3.49\% | 2.82\% | 2.27\% | 1.83\% | 1.48\% | 1.19\% | 0.96\% | 0.81\% |
| Benefit Factor for Early Retirement |  |  | 5 Years Early |  |  | 10 Years Early |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 74.5\% of Full Benefit |  |  | 57.0\% of Full Benefit |  |  |  |

2) Apply DB Component to a percentage of salary or to the first $\$ X, 000$ of salary

## A Possible Way Forward for KPERS (Continued)

$>$ Create Blended DB/DC Plan (Continued)
For Defined Contribution Component:

1) Create DC Plan Component
2) Make DC Plan option available for $100 \%$ of salary at time of Plan revision and for all future new hires
3) Provide education and targeted-mix funds for employees to address tendency to "sub-optimize" asset allocation of investments
4) Arrange for annuitization/immediate-annuity option for DC plan balance at retirement to create fixed income stream for retiring employees (to be provided by State or by third-party provider)
or
$>$ Create 100\% Defined Contribution Plan

- With features 1), 3) and 4) above


## Using Debt to Reduce Funding of Existing Shortfall



## Using Debt to Reduce Funding of Existing Shortfall

| Funding Options |  | Dollars in Billions |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Total Contributions Less Debt Proceeds |  | Net Present Value of Total Contributions Less Debt Proceeds |  |
|  |  | Amount | Change from No Debt | Amount | Change from No Debt |
| No Debt |  | 37.4 | NA | 10.9 | NA |
|  | 30 Years | 23.7 | (13.7) | 3.9 | (7.0) |
|  | 60 Years | 27.7 | (9.7) | 3.7 | (7.2) |
|  | 30 Years | 14.1 | (23.3) | (0.9) | (11.8) |
|  | 60 Years | 20.8 | (16.6) | (1.3) | (12.2) |

Implications:
> Use of debt decreases overall future funding needs both in total amount and in present value
$>$ Borrowing for 60 years vs 30 years does not appear to provide significant benefit
Although there are many different debt and investment strategies and annual funding patterns which should be studied

## Likelihood of Success Using Debt


$>$ There is a very high likelihood that the proceeds from a 30-year debt issuance invested in the KPERS fund will earn a return in excess of the debt cost (3.9\% estimated currently)
$>$ But there are many permutations of debt-issuance and investment strategies to boost the KPERS fund returns, each will different levels of returns and risks

## Likelihood of Success Using Debt

| Terms of Debt |  | Investment Mix (Stks/Bnds) | Expected Annual Return |  | Volatility of Annual Return |  | Prob of Rtn > Debt Rate |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Years } \\ & \text { to } \\ & \text { Mat } \end{aligned}$ | Int Rate |  | Stated | Compound | 1 Year | Over Term |  |
| 30 | 3.90\% | KPERS Fund | 7.50\% | 7.00\% | 10.29\% | 1.88\% | 95.1\% |
|  |  | 30\%/70\% | 6.91\% | 6.58\% | 8.43\% | 1.54\% | 95.9\% |
|  |  | 0\%/100\%† | 5.65\% | NA | 6.48\% | NA | $\approx 100 \%$ |
| 10 | 2.65\% | 30\%/70\% | 6.91\% | 6.58\% | 8.43\% | 2.66\% | 92.9\% |
|  |  | 0\%/100\% $\ddagger$ | 4.75\% | NA | 4.55\% | NA | $\approx 100 \%$ |

† Bond Portfolio with 90\% A-Rated 30-year Corporates and 10\% Low-Grades
$\ddagger$ Bond Portfolio with 90\% A-Rated 10-year Corporates and 10\% Low-Grades

## Summary of KPERS Plan Analysis

$>$ Stop "Digging"! The current plan has a significant likelihood of underfunding a large cohort of employees: Tie it off to discontinue the creation of new retirement liabilities and fund the current shortfall with debt
> Implement a new plan which has a targeted likelihood (hopefully greater than 50\%) of producing adequate funding, by either:

- Creating a blended DB/DC plan with revised guaranteed retirement benefits (lower than those of the current plan and adjusted for early retirees) for the DB component and a lowcost DC component, or
- Implementing a $100 \%$ DC plan with low costs, employee education and annuitization options for retirees


[^0]:    * Assumes retirement payout of 20 years

