Report Highlights

University of New Orleans
University of Louisiana System

Audit Control # 80200087
Financial Audit Services • June 2021

Why We Conducted This Audit

We performed certain procedures at the University of New Orleans (UNO) as a part of the University of Louisiana System audit, the Single Audit of the State of Louisiana, and to evaluate UNO’s accountability over public funds for the period July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020.

What We Found

- UNO overpaid employees an estimated $172,800 as a result of the execution of a change in payment structure for its non-academic, unclassified employees in January 2019. As a part of the transition to a new software system, UNO had to transition unclassified employees from a semi-monthly (twice a month) payroll with 24 pay periods in a year to a bi-weekly (every two weeks) payroll with 26 pay periods in a year.
- UNO did not have a documented risk assessment as required by the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act and UNO’s Program Participation Agreement with the U.S. Department of Education for the federal Student Financial Assistance programs.
- UNO did not perform monthly reconciliations of the School Account Statement data files to the institution’s financial records for Federal Direct Student Loan borrowers, as required by federal regulations.
- UNO employees did not follow established payroll policies and procedures for the certification and approval of time and attendance records.
- In analyzing financial trends of UNO over the past five fiscal years, revenues and expenses increased by 12.6% and 14.1%, respectively. Total expenses increased from the prior year by 3.3%, and total revenues increased by 5.2%. The majority of the increase in revenues relates to increases in state appropriations and federal non-operating revenues, which increased by approximately $7.5 million and $3.7 million, respectively. These increases are mainly due to the receipt of supplemental appropriations in Act 255 of the 2020 Regular Session and additional grant funds, both as a result of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding.

Source: Fiscal Year 2016-2020 Annual Fiscal Reports, as adjusted, and Board of Regents website

View the full report, including management’s responses, at www.la.la.gov.