

Committee on Faculty Benefits and Housing
Report to the C-FSC meeting of December 1, 2020

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Vincent Renzi, chair

The University has now confirmed that the rollout of the streamlined retirement plan investments options will take place in April, 2021. They have also confirmed changes to the funds line-up approved at the October 28th meeting of the Retirement Plan Investment Committee, revising the list that had been presented to us this past year by Patricia Halley, Assistant Vice President for Global Benefits.

These all represent minor adjustments in the line-up, with the exception of the removal of the Templeton Global Bond Fund. This fund had been proposed to answer the request we had made in our resolution of March 8, 2018, calling for the inclusion of the Vanguard Total International Bond Fund. In point of fact, the Templeton fund was never a good substitute for the suggested Vanguard fund, because its portfolio includes a substantial holding of U.S. bonds, whereas the Vanguard fund's portfolio consists solely of bonds apart from the U.S. In that sense, the decision to drop it is welcome.

Although it will be possible for participants to access the Vanguard Total International Bond fund via the "brokerage window" to be implemented during the retirement plan streamlining, this will not substitute for featuring it as one of the basic funds in the streamlined line-up of investment options. I have, however, received an assurance that the Retirement Plan Investment Committee is open to reconsidering adding the Vanguard fund to the line-up after the implementation is complete and once markets stabilize post-pandemic.

The next meeting of the Retirement Plan Investment Committee is scheduled for December 1, 2020.