# DIMENSIONAL ETF TRUST

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### STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### February 28, 2024

Dimensional ETF Trust (the "Trust") is an open-end management investment company that offers thirty-eight series of shares. This Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") relates to the following portfolios (each, a "Portfolio" and collectively, the "Portfolios"):

Portfolio:	Exchange:	<u>Ticker:</u>
Dimensional US Core Equity Market ETF	NYSE Arca, Inc.	DFAU
Dimensional US Core Equity 1 ETF	NYSE Arca, Inc.	DCOR
Dimensional US High Profitability ETF	NYSE Arca, Inc.	DUHP
Dimensional US Large Cap Value ETF	NYSE Arca, Inc.	DFLV
Dimensional US Small Cap Value ETF	NYSE Arca, Inc.	DFSV
Dimensional US Large Cap Vector ETF	NYSE Arca, Inc.	DFVX
Dimensional US Real Estate ETF	NYSE Arca, Inc.	DFAR

This SAI is not a Prospectus but should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus for the Portfolios dated February 28, 2024, as amended from time to time. The audited financial statements and financial highlights of the Portfolios (excluding the Dimensional US Large Cap Vector ETF) are incorporated by reference from the Portfolios' annual reports to shareholders. A free copy of the Prospectus or annual report can be obtained by contacting your investment representative, writing to the Trust at the above address or by calling the above telephone number.

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#### () GENERAL INFORMATION

The Trust is a Delaware statutory trust organized on June 16, 2020. The Trust is an open-end management investment company, registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"). Each Portfolio offers, issues and redeems shares ("Shares") at net asset value ("NAV") only in large aggregations of Shares (each a "Creation Unit"). Creation Units typically are a specified number of Shares. Generally, a Creation Unit will consist of the following number of Shares or multiples thereof:

<u>Portfolio</u>	Creation Unit
Dimensional US Core Equity Market ETF	50,000 Shares
Dimensional US Core Equity 1 ETF	25,000 Shares
Dimensional US High Profitability ETF	50,000 Shares
Dimensional US Large Cap Value ETF	50,000 Shares
Dimensional US Small Cap Value ETF	50,000 Shares
Dimensional US Large Cap Vector ETF	50,000 Shares
Dimensional US Real Estate ETF	50,000 Shares

In the event of liquidation of a Portfolio, the Trust may lower the number of Shares in a Creation Unit. In its discretion, Dimensional Fund Advisors LP (the "Advisor" or "Dimensional") reserves the right to increase or decrease the number of a Portfolio's Shares that constitute a Creation Unit. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to declare a split or a consolidation in the number of Shares outstanding of a Portfolio, and to make a corresponding change in the number of Shares constituting a Creation Unit. Each Portfolio may issue Creation Units of its Shares to Authorized Participants (as defined in the "Creation and Redemption of Creation Units" section of this SAI) in exchange for a designated basket of portfolio investments (including cash in lieu of any portion of such investments), together with the deposit of a specified cash payment and applicable fees as described below. Shares of the Portfolios are listed and trade on NYSE Arca, Inc. (the "Exchange" or "NYSE Arca"), a national securities exchange. Shares of the Portfolios are traded in the secondary market and elsewhere at market prices that may be at, above or below a Portfolio's NAV. Shares of the Portfolios are redeemable only in Creation Units by Authorized Participants in exchange for a designated basket of portfolio investments (including cash in lieu of any portion of such investments) together with a specified amount of cash and applicable fees as described below.

The Trust reserves the right to permit or require that creations and redemptions of Shares be effected entirely in cash, in-kind or a combination thereof. Fees imposed by a Portfolio in connection with creations and redemptions of Shares ("Transaction Fees") and other costs associated with creations or redemptions that include cash may be higher than Transaction Fees and other costs associated with in-kind creations or redemptions. In all cases, conditions with respect to creations and redemptions of Shares and fees will be limited in accordance with the requirements of SEC rules and regulations applicable to management investment companies offering redeemable securities. See the "Creation and Redemption of Creation Units" section of this SAI for more information.

Each Portfolio is a separate series of the Trust, and each Share of a Portfolio represents an equal proportionate interest in the Portfolio. All consideration received by the Trust for a Portfolio's Shares and all assets of a Portfolio belong solely to that Portfolio and would be subject to liabilities related thereto.

## () EXCHANGE LISTING AND TRADING

There can be no assurance that the requirements of the Exchange necessary to maintain the listing of Shares of a Portfolio will continue to be met. The Exchange will consider the suspension of trading in, and will commence delisting proceedings of, the Shares of a Portfolio under any of the following circumstances: (i) if the Exchange becomes aware that the Portfolio is no longer eligible to operate in reliance on Rule 6c-11 under the 1940 Act; (ii) if the Portfolio no longer complies with the requirements set forth in the relevant listing standards of the Exchange; (iii) if following the initial 12-month period beginning upon the commencement of trading of the Portfolio, there are fewer than 50 beneficial holders of the Shares; or (iv) any other event shall occur or condition shall exist that, in the opinion of the Exchange, makes further dealings on the Exchange inadvisable. The Exchange will remove the Shares of a Portfolio from listing and trading upon termination of the Portfolio.

As is the case with other stocks traded on the Exchange, brokers' commissions on transactions will be based on negotiated commission rates at customary levels. Negotiated commission rates only apply to investors who will buy and sell Shares of a Portfolio in secondary market transactions through brokers on the Exchange and does not apply to investors such as market makers, large investors and institutions who wish to deal in Creation Units directly with the Portfolio.

The Trust reserves the right to adjust the price levels of the Shares in the future to help maintain convenient trading ranges for investors. Any adjustments would be accomplished through stock splits or reverse stock splits, which would have no effect on the net assets of a Portfolio.

#### **Continuous Offering**

The method by which Creation Units are created and traded may raise certain issues under applicable securities laws. Because new Creation Units are issued and sold by a Portfolio on an ongoing basis, at any point a "distribution," as such term is used in the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "1933 Act"), may occur. Broker-dealers and other persons are cautioned that some activities on their part may, depending on the circumstances, result in their being deemed participants in a distribution in a manner that could render them statutory underwriters and subject them to the prospectus delivery requirement and liability provisions of the 1933 Act.

For example, a broker-dealer firm or its client may be deemed a statutory underwriter if it takes Creation Units after placing an order with the Portfolios' distributor, breaks them down into constituent Shares and sells such Shares directly to customers or if it chooses to couple the creation of new Shares with an active selling effort involving solicitation of secondary market demand for Shares. A determination of whether one is an underwriter for purposes of the 1933 Act must take into account all of the facts and circumstances pertaining to the activities of the broker-dealer or its client in the particular case and the examples mentioned above should not be considered a complete description of all the activities that could lead to a categorization as an underwriter.

Broker-dealer firms should also note that dealers who are not "underwriters" but are effecting transactions in Shares, whether or not participating in the distribution of Shares, generally are required to deliver a prospectus. This is because the prospectus delivery exemption in Section 4(a)(3) of the 1933 Act is not available in respect of such transactions as a result of Section 24(d) of the 1940 Act. Firms that incur a prospectus delivery obligation with respect to Shares of a Portfolio are reminded that, pursuant to Rule 153 under the 1933 Act, a prospectus delivery obligation under Section 5(b)(2) of the 1933 Act owed to an exchange member in connection with a sale on the Exchange generally is satisfied by the fact that the prospectus is available at the Exchange upon request. The prospectus delivery mechanism provided in Rule 153 is available only with respect to transactions on an exchange.

The Advisor or its affiliates may purchase shares of a Portfolio through a broker-dealer to "seed" a Portfolio as it is launched, or may purchase shares of a Portfolio from other broker-dealers that have previously provided "seed" capital for a Portfolio when it was launched, or otherwise in secondary market transactions.

### () PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS, POLICIES AND INVESTMENT PROCESS

The following information supplements the information set forth in the Prospectus of the Portfolios. Unless otherwise indicated, the following information applies to each Portfolio. Capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this SAI have the meaning assigned to them in the Prospectus.

Dimensional serves as investment advisor to each of the Portfolios. The Advisor is organized as a Delaware limited partnership and is controlled and operated by its general partner, Dimensional Holdings Inc., a Delaware corporation.

Each Portfolio is diversified under the federal securities laws and regulations.

Because the structure of the Portfolios is based on the relative market capitalizations of eligible holdings, it is possible that the Portfolios might include at least 5% of the outstanding voting securities of one or more issuers. In such circumstances, a Portfolio and the issuer would be deemed affiliated persons and certain requirements under

the federal securities laws and regulations regulating dealings between investment companies and their affiliates might become applicable.

Each of the Portfolios has adopted a non-fundamental policy as required by Rule 35d-1 under the 1940 Act that, under normal circumstances, at least 80% of the value of the Portfolio's net assets, plus the amount of any borrowings for investment purposes, will be invested in a specific type of investment. For purposes of each 80% policy, the value of the derivatives in which a Portfolio invests will be calculated in the same way that the values of derivatives are calculated when calculating a Portfolio's NAV. Derivative instruments are valued at market price (not notional value) and may be fair valued, for purposes of calculating a Portfolio's NAV. Additionally, if a Portfolio changes its 80% non-fundamental policy, the Portfolio will notify shareholders at least 60 days before the change and will change the name of the Portfolio. For more information on each Portfolio's specific 80% policy, see the Portfolio's "PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES" section in its Prospectus.

With respect to each Portfolio (except the Dimensional US Real Estate ETF), the Advisor has adopted a process that monitors environmental, social, and governance news and large share price movements of eligible portfolio companies to identify issuers whose future financial data may be negatively impacted to a significant degree by environmental, social, or governance factors. The Advisor may use third party tools to assist in filtering news focused on environmental, social and governance issues. Companies that are identified through this process are escalated to the members of the Advisor's portfolio management team for further evaluation. After review, if the portfolio management team determines that an issuer's future financial data is likely to be significantly impacted, the issuer may be underweighted, temporarily excluded from further investment, or divested from a Portfolio.

#### () BROKERAGE TRANSACTIONS

The following discussion relates to the policies of the Portfolios with respect to brokerage commissions. The Portfolios will incur brokerage costs when engaging in portfolio transactions for securities. However, the Portfolios will not incur any brokerage costs in connection with their purchase or redemption of shares of other investment companies managed by the Advisor.

The following table reports brokerage commissions paid by the Portfolios during the fiscal years ended October 31, 2023, October 31, 2022 and October 31, 2021.

	<b>FISCAL</b>	<b>FISCAL</b>	<b>FISCAL</b>
	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<b>YEAR</b>
	<u>ENDED</u>	<b>ENDED</b>	ENDED
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Dimensional US Core Equity Market ETF <sup>1</sup>	\$67,415	\$18,220	\$4,131
Dimensional US Core Equity 1 ETF <sup>2</sup>	\$199	N/A	N/A
Dimensional US High Profitability ETF <sup>3</sup>	\$9,944	\$1,395	N/A
Dimensional US Large Cap Value ETF <sup>4</sup>	\$8,127	N/A	N/A
Dimensional US Small Cap Value ETF <sup>3</sup>	\$80,243	\$15,184	N/A
Dimensional US Large Cap Vector ETF*	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dimensional US Real Estate ETF <sup>3</sup>	\$16,016	\$1,974	N/A

The Portfolio commenced operations on November 17, 2020.

Portfolio transactions of the Portfolios will be placed with a view to receiving the best price and execution. In addition, the Advisor will seek to acquire and dispose of securities in a manner which would cause as little fluctuation in the market prices of securities being purchased or sold as possible in light of the size of the transactions being effected, and brokers will be selected with this goal in view. The Advisor monitors the

The Portfolio commenced operations on September 12, 2023.

The Portfolio commenced operations on February 23, 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Portfolio commenced operations on December 6, 2022.

<sup>\*</sup> The Portfolio had not commenced operations as of October 31, 2023.

performance of brokers which effect transactions for the Portfolios to determine the effect that the brokers' trading has on the market prices of the securities in which the Portfolios invest. The Advisor also checks the rate of commission, if any, being paid by the Portfolios to their brokers to ascertain that the rates are competitive with those charged by other brokers for similar services.

Subject to the duty to seek to obtain best price and execution, transactions of the Portfolios may be placed with brokers that have assisted in the sale of Portfolio shares. The Advisor, however, pursuant to policies and procedures approved by the Board of Trustees of the Trust, is prohibited from selecting brokers and dealers to effect the portfolio securities transactions for a Portfolio based (in whole or in part) on a broker's or dealer's promotion or sale of shares issued by a Portfolio or any other registered investment companies.

Companies eligible for purchase by the Portfolios may be thinly traded securities. The Advisor believes that it needs maximum flexibility to effect trades on a best execution basis. As deemed appropriate, the Advisor places buy and sell orders for the Portfolios with various brokerage firms that may act as principal or agent. The Advisor may also make use of direct market access and algorithmic, program or electronic trading methods. The Advisor may extensively use electronic trading systems as such systems can provide the ability to customize the orders placed and can assist in the Advisor's execution strategies.

Transactions also may be placed with brokers who provide the Advisor or the sub-advisors with investment research, such as: reports concerning individual issuers; general economic or industry reports or research data compilations; compilations of securities prices, earnings, dividends, and similar data; computerized databases; quotation services; trade analytics; ancillary brokerage services; and services of economic or other consultants. The Investment Management Agreement for each Portfolio permits the Advisor knowingly to pay commissions on these transactions that are greater than another broker, dealer, or exchange member might charge if the Advisor, in good faith, determines that the commissions paid are reasonable in relation to the research or brokerage services provided by the broker or dealer when viewed in terms of either a particular transaction or the Advisor's overall responsibilities to the accounts under its management. Research services furnished by brokers through whom securities transactions are effected may be used by the Advisor in servicing all of its accounts and not all such services may be used by the Advisor with respect to the Portfolios.

During the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023, the Portfolios and the Advisor did not through an agreement or understanding with a broker, or otherwise through an internal allocation procedure, direct any Portfolio's brokerage transactions to a broker because of research services provided.

The Portfolios may purchase securities of their regular brokers or dealers (as defined in Rule 10b-1 of the 1940 Act). The table below lists the regular brokers or dealers of each Portfolio whose securities (or securities of the broker's or dealer's parent company) were acquired by the Portfolio during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023, as well as the value of such securities held by the Portfolio as of October 31, 2023.

<u>Portfolio</u>	Broker or Dealer	Value of Securities
Dimensional US Core Equity Market ETF	Bank of America – Merrill Lynch	\$14,318,503
Dimensional US Core Equity Market ETF	Goldman Sachs	\$7,682,851
Dimensional US Core Equity Market ETF	Citigroup	\$6,238,196
Dimensional US Core Equity Market ETF	Jefferies Group Inc.	\$847,203
Dimensional US Core Equity Market ETF	Virtu Financial, Inc.	\$151,193
Dimensional US Core Equity 1 ETF	Goldman Sachs	\$217,688
Dimensional US Core Equity 1 ETF	Citigroup	\$151,168
Dimensional US Core Equity 1 ETF	Jefferies Group Inc.	\$41,190
Dimensional US Core Equity 1 ETF	Virtu Financial Inc.	\$518
Dimensional US Large Cap Value ETF	Goldman Sachs	\$10,515,836
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<u>Portfolio</u>	Broker or Dealer	Value of Securities
Dimensional US Large Cap Value ETF	Bank of America – Merrill Lynch	\$10,192,421
Dimensional US Large Cap Value ETF	Citigroup	\$6,969,077
Dimensional US Large Cap Value ETF	Jefferies Group Inc.	\$2,188
Dimensional US Small Cap Value ETF	Jefferies Group Inc.	\$1,709,498

To the extent creation or redemption transactions are conducted on a cash or "cash in lieu" basis, a Portfolio may contemporaneously transact with broker-dealers for the purchase or sale of portfolio securities in connection with such transactions. Such orders may be placed with an Authorized Participant in its capacity as broker-dealer, a broker-dealer that is affiliated with the Authorized Participant, or a third-party broker-dealer.

Specifically, following a Portfolio's receipt of a creation or redemption order, to the extent such purchases or redemptions consist of a cash portion, the Portfolio may enter an order with the Authorized Participant, its affiliated broker-dealer or a third-party broker-dealer to purchase or sell the portfolio securities, as applicable. The executing broker-dealer will be required to guarantee that the Portfolio will achieve execution of its order at a price at least as favorable to the Portfolio as the Portfolio's valuation of the portfolio securities used for purposes of calculating the NAV applied to the creation or redemption transaction giving rise to the order (the "Price Guarantee"). Whether the execution of the order is at a price at least as favorable to the Portfolio will depend on the results achieved by the executing firm and will vary depending on market activity, timing and a variety of other factors.

An Authorized Participant is required to deposit an amount with a Portfolio in order to ensure that the execution of the order on the terms noted above will be honored on orders arising from creation transactions executed by an Authorized Participant or its affiliate as broker-dealer. If the broker-dealer executing the order achieves executions in market transactions at a price equal to or more favorable than a Portfolio's valuation of the portfolio securities, the Portfolio receives the benefit of the favorable executions and the deposit is returned to the Authorized Participant. If, however, the broker-dealer executing the order is unable to achieve a price at least equal to a Portfolio's valuation of the securities, the Portfolio retains the portion of the deposit equal to the full amount of the execution shortfall (including any taxes, brokerage commissions or other costs) and may require the Authorized Participant to deposit any additional amount required to cover the full amount of the actual execution transaction.

An Authorized Participant agrees to pay the shortfall amount in order to ensure that a guarantee on execution will be honored for brokerage orders arising from redemption transactions executed by an Authorized Participant or its affiliate as broker-dealer. If the broker-dealer executing the order achieves executions in market transactions at a price equal to or more favorable than a Portfolio's valuation of the portfolio securities, the Portfolio receives the benefit of the favorable executions. If, however, the broker-dealer is unable to achieve executions in market transactions at a price at least equal to the Portfolio's valuation of the securities, the Portfolio will be entitled to the portion of the offset equal to the full amount of the execution shortfall (including any taxes, brokerage commissions or other costs).

# **<u>0</u> INVESTMENT LIMITATIONS**

Each of the Portfolios has adopted certain limitations which may not be changed with respect to any Portfolio without the approval of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Portfolio. A "majority" is defined as the lesser of: (1) at least 67% of the voting securities of the Portfolio (to be affected by the proposed change) present at a meeting, if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities of the Portfolio are present or represented by proxy, or (2) more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities of such Portfolio.

The Portfolios will not:

1) borrow money, except to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act, or any rules, exemptions or interpretations thereunder that may be adopted, granted or issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC");

- 2) make loans, except to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act, or any rules, exemptions or interpretations thereunder that may be adopted, granted or issued by the SEC; provided that in no event shall the Portfolio be permitted to make a loan to a natural person;
- 3) purchase or sell real estate, unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments, and provided that this restriction does not prevent the Portfolio from: (i) purchasing or selling securities or instruments secured by real estate or interests therein, securities or instruments representing interests in real estate or securities or instruments of issuers that invest, deal or otherwise engage in transactions in real estate or interests therein; and (ii) purchasing or selling real estate mortgage loans;
- 4) purchase or sell physical commodities, unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments, and provided that this limitation does not prevent the Portfolio from (i) purchasing or selling securities of companies that purchase or sell commodities or that invest in commodities; (ii) engaging in any transaction involving currencies, options, forwards, futures contracts, options on futures contracts, swaps, hybrid instruments or other derivatives; or (iii) investing in securities, or transacting in other instruments, that are linked to or secured by physical or other commodities;
- 5) purchase the securities of any one issuer, if immediately after such investment, the Portfolio would not qualify as a "diversified company" as that term is defined by the 1940 Act, as amended, and as modified or interpreted by regulatory authority having jurisdiction, from time to time;
- 6) engage in the business of underwriting securities issued by others;
- 7) concentrate (invest more than 25% of its net assets) in securities of issuers in a particular industry (other than securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or any of its agencies or securities of other investment companies), except that the Dimensional US Real Estate ETF shall invest more than 25% of its total assets in securities of companies in the real estate industry; or
- 8) issue senior securities (as such term is defined in Section 18(f) of the 1940 Act), except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act.

With respect to the investment limitation described in (1) above, the Portfolios will maintain asset coverage of at least 300% (as described in the 1940 Act), inclusive of any amounts borrowed, with respect to any borrowings made by a Portfolio. Under the 1940 Act, an open-end investment company may borrow up to 331/3% of its total assets (including the amount borrowed) from banks, and may borrow up to an additional 5% of its total assets, for temporary purposes, from any other person. The Portfolios do not currently intend to borrow money for investment purposes.

Although the investment limitation described in (2) above prohibits loans, each Portfolio is authorized to lend portfolio securities under the conditions and restrictions described in the Portfolios' Prospectus. Investment limitation (2) above also does not, among other things, prevent the Portfolios from engaging in repurchase agreements, acquiring debt or loan instruments in the future or participating in an interfund lending order granted by the SEC.

In applying the investment limitation described in (7) above, a Portfolio will consider the investments of other investment companies in which the Portfolio invests to the extent it has sufficient information about the holdings of such investment companies.

With respect to the investment limitation described in (8) above, a Portfolio will not issue senior securities, except that the Portfolio may borrow money as described above. A Portfolio may also borrow money for temporary purposes, but not in excess of 5% of the Portfolio's total assets. Further, a transaction or agreement that otherwise might be deemed to create leverage, such as a forward or futures contract, option, swap or when-issued security, delayed delivery or forward commitment transaction, will not be considered a senior security to the extent such investments are purchased and held in compliance with the requirements of the 1940 Act and rules thereunder.

Pursuant to Rule 22e-4 under the 1940 Act (the "Liquidity Rule"), a Portfolio may not acquire any "illiquid investment" if, immediately after the acquisition, the Portfolio would have invested more than 15% of its net assets

in illiquid investments that are assets. Illiquid investments are investments that the Portfolio reasonably expects cannot be sold or disposed of in current market conditions in seven calendar days or less without the sale or disposition significantly changing the market value of the investment, as determined pursuant to the Trust's liquidity risk management program (the "Liquidity Program"). As required by the Liquidity Rule, the Trust has implemented the Liquidity Program, and the Board, including a majority of the disinterested Trustees, has appointed a liquidity risk management program administrator (the "Liquidity Program Administrator") to administer such program. The Liquidity Program Administrator's responsibilities include, among others, determining the liquidity classification of a Portfolio's investments, if applicable, and monitoring compliance with the 15% limit on illiquid investments.

Pursuant to Rule 144A under the 1933 Act, the Portfolios may purchase certain unregistered (i.e. restricted) securities upon a determination that a liquid institutional market exists for the securities. If it is determined that a liquid market does exist, the securities will not be subject to the 15% limitation on illiquid investments. Among other considerations, the Advisor may consider the number of dealers making a market in such securities when determining whether a liquid market exists. After purchase, the Portfolios will continue to monitor the liquidity of Rule 144A securities.

The investment limitations described above do not prohibit a Portfolio from purchasing or selling futures contracts and options on futures contracts, to the extent otherwise permitted under a Portfolio's investment strategies. Except with respect to a Portfolio's limitation on borrowing, illiquid investments, or otherwise indicated, with respect to the investment limitations described above, all limitations applicable to the Portfolios' investments apply only at the time that a transaction is undertaken.

## () FUTURES CONTRACTS

Each Portfolio may purchase or sell futures contracts and options on futures contracts for equity securities and indices to increase or decrease market exposure based on actual or expected cash inflows to or outflows from the Portfolio. The Portfolios, however, do not intend to sell futures contracts to establish short positions in individual securities.

Futures contracts provide for the future sale by one party and purchase by another party of a specified amount of defined securities at a specified future time and at a specified price. Futures contracts that are standardized as to maturity date and underlying financial instrument are traded on national futures exchanges. Each Portfolio will be required to make a margin deposit in cash or government securities with a futures commission merchant ("FCM") to initiate and maintain positions in futures contracts. Minimal initial margin requirements are established by the futures exchanges and FCMs may establish margin requirements which are higher than the exchange requirements. A Portfolio also will incur brokerage costs in connection with entering into futures contracts. After a futures contract position is opened, the value of the contract is marked to market daily. If the futures contract price changes, to the extent that the margin on deposit does not satisfy margin requirements, payment of additional "variation" margin to be held by the FCM will be required. Conversely, a reduction in the required margin would result in excess margin that can be refunded to the custodial accounts of the Portfolio. Variation margin payments may be made to and from the futures broker for as long as the contract remains open. Each Portfolio expects to earn income on its margin deposits.

At any time prior to the expiration of a futures contract, a Portfolio may elect to close the position by taking an opposite position, which will operate to terminate its existing position in the contract. Positions in futures contracts may be closed out only on the exchange on which they were entered into (or through a linked exchange). No secondary market for such contracts exists. Although a Portfolio may enter into futures contracts only if there is an active market for such contracts, there is no assurance that an active market will exist for any particular futures contract at any specific time. Most futures exchanges limit the amount of fluctuation permitted in futures contract prices during a single trading day. Once the daily limit has been reached in a particular contract, no trades may be made that day at a price beyond that limit or trading may be suspended for specified periods during the day. It is possible that futures contract prices could move to the daily limit for several consecutive trading days with little or no trading, thereby preventing prompt liquidation of futures positions at an advantageous price and subjecting a Portfolio to substantial losses. In such event, and in the event of adverse price movements, the Portfolio would be required to make daily cash payments of variation margin. In such situations, if the Portfolio had insufficient cash, it might have to sell securities to meet daily variation margin requirements at a time when it would be disadvantageous

to do so. In addition, if the transaction is entered into for hedging purposes, in such circumstances a Portfolio may realize a loss on a futures contract or option that is not offset by an increase in the value of the hedged position. Losses incurred in futures transactions and the costs of these transactions will affect the performance of the Portfolio.

## () SWAPS

The Portfolios also may enter into equity swaps, including total return swaps and dynamic portfolio total return swaps ("DTRS"). In a standard swap transaction, two parties agree to exchange the returns, differentials in rates of return or some other amount earned or realized on a predetermined asset (or group of assets) which may be adjusted for transaction costs, interest payments, dividends paid on the reference asset or other factors. The gross returns to be exchanged or "swapped" between the parties are generally calculated with respect to a "notional amount," for example, the increase or decrease in value of a particular dollar amount invested in the asset. The Portfolios may use equity swaps to invest in a market without owning or taking physical custody of securities, including in circumstances where direct investment may be restricted or is otherwise deemed impractical or disadvantageous.

Equity total return swaps can create long or short economic exposure to an underlying equity security, or to a basket of securities. Equity swap contracts may be structured in different ways. For example, under an equity total return swap contract, one party may agree to make payments to another based on the total economic performance of a notional amount of the underlying security or securities (including dividends and changes in market value) during a specified period, in return for periodic payments based on the application of a fixed or variable interest rate to the same notional amount. The purchaser of a long total return swap is paid the amount of any increase in value and pays the amount of any decrease in value, while the purchaser of a short total return swap is paid the amount of any decrease and pays the amount of any increase.

The Portfolios may enter into swaps, including DTRS, in order to access a specific equity market without purchasing or selling the underlying securities represented in the DTRS. DTRS are designed to replicate the performance of an underlying reference asset such as a portfolio of equities or ETFs. For example, the issuer of the DTRS agreement may agree to pay a Portfolio an amount equal to the performance of the underlying equities in a given period netted against a floating rate plus a spread or a fixed rate in the same period paid to the issuer by the Portfolio. The reference rate for the floating rate is typically based on an official interbank benchmark rate. The cash flows in a DTRS may be exchanged at maturity or periodically at each reset (e.g., monthly or quarterly). No notional amounts are exchanged at the start or at the maturity of the DTRS. In addition, pursuant to the terms of a DTRS, the underlying equities can be traded in the course of the day thereby changing the composition of the underlying equity portfolio, which provides a Portfolio with the ability to vary the market exposure obtained through investment in the DTRS. DTRS are subject to transaction costs, financing costs and other fees which will be borne by the Portfolio in connection with its investments in these instruments.

The swaps in which the Portfolios invest involve greater risks than if the Portfolios had invested in the reference assets directly, since, in addition to general market risks, these instruments are subject to counterparty risk, valuation risk, illiquidity risk and interest rate risk, among other risks. Adverse changes in market values, interest rates and currency exchange rates, or in the creditworthiness of swap counterparties and the issuers of the underlying assets may negatively affect the investment performance of a Portfolio and the investment performance of the Portfolio may be less favorable than it would have been if these investment techniques were not used. Swaps carry counterparty risks that cannot be fully anticipated. A Portfolio's ability to realize a profit from swaps transactions will depend on the ability of the financial institutions with which it enters into the transactions to meet their obligations to the Portfolio. If a counterparty's creditworthiness declines, the value of the agreement would be likely to decline, potentially resulting in losses to a Portfolio. If a default occurs by the other party to such transaction, the Portfolio will have contractual remedies pursuant to the agreements related to the transaction, which may be limited by applicable law in the case of a counterparty's insolvency. In addition, the Portfolios may experience difficulty in valuing the swap or in determining the amounts owed to or by the counterparty, regardless of whether the counterparty has defaulted. Some swap agreements entail complex terms and may require a greater degree of subjectivity in their valuation. Under certain circumstances, suitable transactions may not be available to a Portfolio, or the Portfolio may be unable to close out its position under such transactions at the same time, or at the same price, as if it had purchased comparable publicly traded securities. Moreover, participants in the swap markets are not

required to make continuous markets in the swap contracts they trade. Participants could refuse to quote prices for swap contracts or quote prices with an unusually wide spread between the price at which they are prepared to buy and the price at which they are prepared to sell. The Advisor, under the supervision of the Board of Trustees, is responsible for determining and monitoring the liquidity of the Portfolios' swaps transactions in accordance with the Trust's Liquidity Program.

As described above, some types of swap agreements, including DTRS, are negotiated bilaterally with a swap dealer and traded OTC between the two parties ("uncleared swaps"), while other swaps are transacted through an FCM and cleared through a clearinghouse that serves as a central counterparty ("cleared swaps"), and may be traded on swap execution facilities ("exchanges"). Parties to uncleared swaps face greater counterparty credit risk than those engaging in cleared swaps since performance of uncleared swap obligations is the responsibility only of the swap counterparty rather than a clearing house, as is the case with cleared swaps. As a result, the Portfolio bears the risk of loss of the amount expected to be received under a swap agreement in the event of the default, insolvency or bankruptcy of a swap agreement counterparty beyond any collateral received. In such an event, as noted above, a Portfolio will have contractual remedies pursuant to the swap agreements, but bankruptcy and insolvency laws could affect the Portfolio's rights as a creditor.

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (the "Dodd-Frank Act") and implementing rules adopted by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") currently require the clearing and exchange-trading of the most common types of credit default index swaps and interest rate swaps, and it is expected that additional categories of swaps will in the future be designated as subject to mandatory clearing and trade execution requirements. Central clearing is intended to reduce counterparty credit risk and increase liquidity, but central clearing does not eliminate these risks completely. There is also a risk of loss by a Portfolio of the initial and variation margin deposits in the event of bankruptcy of the FCM with which the Portfolio has an open position, or the central counterparty in a swap contract. The assets of the Portfolio may not be fully protected in the event of the bankruptcy of the FCM or central counterparty because the Portfolio might be limited to recovering only a pro rata share of all available funds and margin segregated on behalf of an FCM's customers. If an FCM does not provide accurate reporting, the Portfolio is also subject to the risk that the FCM could use the Portfolio's assets, which are held in an omnibus account with assets belonging to the FCM's other customers, to satisfy its own financial obligations or the payment obligations of another customer to the central counterparty. Credit risk of cleared swap participants is concentrated in a few clearinghouses, and the consequences of insolvency of a clearinghouse are not clear.

The Advisor and the Trust do not consider a Portfolio's obligations under swap contracts senior securities and, accordingly, the Portfolios will not treat them as being subject to the Portfolios' borrowing or senior securities restrictions to the extent such investments are purchased and held in compliance with the requirements of the 1940 Act and the rules thereunder. To the extent that a Portfolio cannot dispose of a swap in the ordinary course of business within seven calendar days or less without the sale or disposition significantly changing the market value of the investment, the Portfolio will treat the swap as illiquid and subject to its overall limit on illiquid investments of 15% of the Portfolio's net assets.

The Dodd-Frank Act and related regulatory developments imposed comprehensive regulatory requirements on swaps and swap market participants. The regulatory framework includes: (1) registration and regulation of swap dealers and major swap participants; (2) requiring central clearing and execution of standardized swaps; (3) imposing margin requirements on swap transactions; (4) regulating and monitoring swap transactions through position limits and large trader reporting requirements; and (5) imposing record keeping and centralized and public reporting requirements, on an anonymous basis, for most swaps. The CFTC is responsible for the regulation of most swaps. The SEC has jurisdiction over a small segment of the market referred to as "security-based swaps," which includes swaps on single securities or credits, or narrow-based indices of securities or credits.

The regulation of cleared and uncleared swaps, as well as other derivatives, is a rapidly changing area of law and is subject to modification by government and judicial action. In addition, the SEC, CFTC and the exchanges are authorized to take extraordinary actions in the event of a market emergency, including, for example, the implementation or reduction of speculative position limits, the implementation of higher margin requirements, the establishment of daily price limits and the suspension of trading. It is not possible to predict fully the effects of current or future regulation. The requirements, even if not directly applicable to the Portfolios, may increase the cost

of the Portfolios' investments and cost of doing business. It is possible that developments in the swaps market, including potential government regulation, could adversely affect a Portfolio's ability to terminate existing swap agreements or to realize amounts to be received under such agreements.

## () EXCLUSION FROM COMMODITY POOL OPERATOR STATUS

The Advisor has claimed an exclusion from the definition of the term "commodity pool operator" under the Commodity Exchange Act ("CEA") with respect to the Portfolios described in this SAI, and, therefore, is not subject to registration or regulation as a pool operator under the CEA with respect to such Portfolios. The CFTC has neither reviewed nor approved the Advisor's reliance on these exclusions, the investment strategies of the Portfolios, or this SAI.

The terms of the commodity pool operator ("CPO") exclusion require that each Portfolio, among other things, adhere to certain limits on its investments in "commodity interests." Commodity interests include commodity futures, commodity options and swaps, which in turn include non-deliverable foreign currency forward contracts. Generally, the exclusion from CPO regulation on which the Advisor relies requires each Portfolio to meet one of the following tests for its commodity interest positions, other than positions entered into for bona fide hedging purposes (as defined in the rules of the CFTC): either (1) the aggregate initial margin and premiums required to establish positions in commodity interests may not exceed 5% of the liquidation value of the portfolio of the Portfolio (after taking into account unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such positions); or (2) the aggregate net notional value of the Portfolio's commodity interest positions, determined at the time the most recent such position was established, may not exceed 100% of the liquidation value of the Portfolio's portfolio (after taking into account unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such positions). In addition to meeting one of these trading limitations, each Portfolio may not be marketed as a commodity pool or otherwise as a vehicle for trading in the commodity futures, commodity options or swaps markets. If, in the future, a Portfolio can no longer satisfy these requirements, the Advisor would withdraw its notice claiming an exclusion from the definition of a CPO, and the Advisor would be subject to registration and regulation as a CPO with respect to the Portfolio, in accordance with CFTC rules that apply to CPOs of registered investment companies. Generally, these rules allow for substituted compliance with CFTC disclosure and shareholder reporting requirements, based on the Advisor's compliance with comparable SEC requirements. However, as a result of CFTC regulation with respect to a Portfolio, the Portfolio may incur additional compliance and other expenses.

## () GENERAL MARKET AND GEOPOLITICAL RISKS

The value of a Portfolio's securities changes daily due to economic and other events that affect market prices generally, as well as those that affect particular regions, countries, industries, or issuers. Economies and financial markets throughout the world have become increasingly interconnected, which increases the likelihood that events or conditions in one region or country will adversely affect markets or issuers in other regions or countries. Portfolio securities may be negatively impacted by inflation (or expectations for inflation), interest rates, global demand for particular products/services or resources, natural disasters, pandemics, epidemics, terrorism, war, military confrontations, regulatory events and governmental or quasi-governmental actions, among others. Natural and environmental disasters, including weather-related phenomena, also can adversely affect individual issuers, sectors, industries, markets, currencies, countries, or regions. The occurrence of global events similar to those in recent years (e.g., natural disasters, virus epidemics, social and political discord, and terrorist attacks around the world) may result in market volatility and have long term effects on both the U.S. and global economies and financial markets. The risks associated with such events may be greater in developing or emerging market countries, many of which have less developed political, financial, healthcare, and/or emergency management systems. Negative global events also can disrupt the operations and processes of any of the service providers for a Portfolio. Similarly, negative global events, in some cases, could constitute a force majeure event under contracts with service providers or contracts entered into with counterparties for certain transactions.

# () POLITICAL, UNITED KINGDOM AND EUROPEAN MARKET RELATED RISKS

Portfolios that have significant exposure to certain countries can be expected to be impacted by the political and economic conditions within such countries. There is continuing uncertainty regarding the ramifications of the United Kingdom's (UK) vote to exit the European Union (EU) in June 2016 (Brexit). On January 31, 2020, the UK officially withdrew from the EU and on May 1, 2021, the UK and EU formally entered into the EU-UK Trade and

Cooperation Agreement (Agreement). While the Agreement is viewed as a positive step towards finalizing the framework of the future relationship between the EU and UK, many aspects of the relationship are still under negotiation and it is unclear when these negotiations will be complete. For example, the Agreement is limited with respect to its treatment of the trade of services. As the outcomes of these negotiations remain unclear, the effects on the UK, EU and the broader global economy cannot be determined at this time. Brexit may cause greater market volatility and illiquidity, currency fluctuations, deterioration in economic activity, a decrease in business confidence, and increased likelihood of a recession in the UK. While it is not possible to determine the precise impact these events may have on a Portfolio, during this period and beyond, the impact on the UK, EU countries, other countries or parties that transact with the UK and EU, and the broader global economy could be significant and could adversely affect the value and liquidity of a Portfolio's investments. In addition, if one or more other countries were to exit the EU or abandon the use of the euro as a currency, the value of investments tied to those countries or the euro could decline significantly and unpredictably.

#### () CASH MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The Portfolios engage in cash management practices in order to earn income on uncommitted cash balances. Generally, cash is uncommitted pending investment in other securities, payment of redemptions, or in other circumstances where the Advisor believes liquidity is necessary or desirable. For example, a Portfolio may make cash investments for temporary defensive purposes during periods in which market, economic, or political conditions warrant. In addition, a Portfolio may enter into arrangements with its custodian whereby it may earn a credit on its cash balances maintained in its non-interest bearing U.S. Dollar custody cash account to be applied against fund service fees payable to the custodian or the custodian's subsidiaries for fund services provided.

The Portfolios may invest cash in the following permissible investments:

Permissible Cash Investments*
Short-term repurchase agreements; fixed income securities, such as money
market instruments; index futures contracts and options thereon; affiliated and unaffiliated registered and unregistered money market funds**

<sup>\*</sup> With respect to fixed income instruments, except in connection with corporate actions, the Portfolios will invest in fixed income instruments that at the time of purchase have an investment grade rating by a rating agency or are deemed to be investment grade by the Advisor.

# () INTERFUND BORROWING AND LENDING

The DFA Fund Complex (defined below) has received exemptive relief from the SEC which permits the registered investment companies to participate in an interfund lending program among portfolios and series managed by the Advisor (the "Portfolios/Series") (portfolios that operate as feeder portfolios do not participate in the program). The interfund lending program allows the participating Portfolios/Series to borrow money from and loan money to each other for temporary or emergency purposes. The program is subject to a number of conditions designed to ensure fair and equitable treatment of the participating Portfolios/Series, including the following: (1) no Portfolio/Series may borrow money through the program unless it receives a more favorable interest rate than a rate approximating the lowest interest rate at which bank loans would be available to any of the participating Portfolios/Series under a loan agreement; and (2) no Portfolio/Series may lend money through the program unless it receives a more favorable return than that available from an investment in overnight repurchase agreements or the yield of any money market fund in which the Portfolio/Series could invest. In addition, a Portfolio/Series may participate in the program only if and to the extent that such participation is consistent with its investment objectives, policies and limitations. Interfund loans and borrowings have a maximum duration of seven days and loans may be called on one business day's notice.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Investments in money market mutual funds may involve duplication of certain fees and expenses.

A participating Portfolio/Series may not lend to another Portfolio/Series under the interfund lending program if the interfund loan would cause its aggregate outstanding interfund loans to exceed 15% of its current net assets at the time of the loan. Interfund loans by a Portfolio/Series to any one Portfolio/Series may not exceed 5% of net assets of the lending Portfolio/Series.

The restrictions discussed above and the other conditions of the SEC exemptive order permitting interfund lending are designed to minimize the risks associated with interfund lending for both the lending Portfolio/Series and the borrowing Portfolio/Series. However, no borrowing or lending activity is without risk. If a Portfolio/Series borrows money from another Portfolio/Series, there is a risk that the interfund loan could be called on one business day's notice or not renewed, in which case the Portfolio/Series may have to borrow from a bank at higher rates if an interfund loan were not available from another Portfolio/Series. A delay in repayment to a lending Portfolio/Series could result in a lost opportunity or additional lending costs, and interfund loans are subject to the risk that the borrowing Portfolio/Series could be unable to repay the loan when due.

### () WHEN-ISSUED SECURITIES, DELAYED DELIVERY, AND FORWARD COMMITMENT TRANSACTIONS

Each Portfolio may purchase eligible securities or sell securities it is entitled to receive on a when-issued basis. When purchasing securities on a when-issued basis, the price or yield is agreed to at the time of purchase, but the payment and settlement dates are not fixed until the securities are issued. It is possible that the securities will never be issued, and the commitment cancelled. In addition, each Portfolio may purchase or sell eligible securities for delayed delivery or on a forward commitment basis where the Portfolio contracts to purchase or sell such securities at a fixed price at a future date beyond the normal settlement time. Each Portfolio may renegotiate a commitment or sell a security it has committed to purchase prior to the settlement date, if deemed advisable.

While the payment obligation and, if applicable, interest rate are set at the time a Portfolio enters into a when-issued, delayed delivery, to-be-announced, or forward commitment transaction, no interest or dividends accrue to the purchaser prior to the settlement date. In addition, the value of a security purchased or sold is subject to market fluctuations and may be worth more or less on the settlement date than the price a Portfolio committed to pay or receive for the security. A Portfolio will lose money if the value of a purchased security falls below the purchase price and a Portfolio will not benefit from the gain if a security sold appreciates above the sales price during the commitment period.

## <u>()</u> EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS

The Portfolios may invest in exchange traded funds ("ETFs") and similarly structured pooled investments for the purpose of gaining exposure to the equity markets while maintaining liquidity. An ETF is an investment company classified as an open-end investment company or unit investment trust that is traded similar to a publicly traded company. ETFs in which the Portfolios invest are passively managed and attempt to track or replicate a desired index, such as a sector, market or global segment. The risks and costs of investing in ETFs are comparable to investing in a publicly traded company. The goal of a passively managed ETF is to correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of its underlying index. The risk of not correlating to the index is an additional risk to the investors of such ETFs. When a Portfolio invests in an ETF, shareholders of the Portfolio bear their proportionate share of the underlying ETF's fees and expenses.

#### () PORTFOLIO TURNOVER RATES

Generally, securities will be purchased by the Portfolios with the expectation that they will be held for longer than one year. In addition, variations in turnover rates occur because securities are sold when, in the Advisor's judgment, the return will be increased as a result of portfolio transactions after taking into account the cost of trading.

#### () TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

#### **Trustees**

Organization of the Board

The Board of Trustees of the Trust (the "Board") is responsible for establishing the Trust's policies and for overseeing the management of the Trust. The Board elects the officers of the Trust, who, along with third party service providers, are responsible for administering the day-to-day operations of the Trust. The Board of the Trust is comprised of two interested Trustees and seven disinterested Trustees. Gerard K. O'Reilly, an interested Trustee, is Chairman of the Board. The disinterested Trustees of the Board designated Douglas W. Diamond as the lead disinterested Trustee. As the lead disinterested Trustee, Mr. Diamond, among other duties: acts as a principal contact for management for communications to the disinterested Trustees in between regular Board meetings; assists in the coordination and preparation of quarterly Board meeting agendas; raises and discusses issues with counsel to the disinterested Trustees; raises issues and discusses ideas with management on behalf of the disinterested Trustees in between regular meetings of the Board; and chairs executive sessions and separate meetings of the disinterested Trustees (other than Committee meetings, which are chaired by the respective Committee Chairperson). David G. Booth serves as Chairman Emeritus to the Board. The Board has designated David G. Booth, a former Chairman of the Trust, to serve as Chairman Emeritus to the Board in recognition of his years of service to both the Trust and Advisor. The Chairman Emeritus, which is a non-voting position, provides advice and counsel to the Trustees in connection with the Trustees' management of the business and affairs of the Trust. The Board believes the existing Board structure for the Trust is appropriate because it provides the disinterested Trustees with adequate influence over the governance of the Board and the Trust, while also providing the Board with the invaluable insight of the interested Trustees, who, as both officers of the Trust and the Advisor, participate in the day-to-day management of the Trust's affairs, including risk management.

The agenda for each quarterly meeting of the Board is provided prior to the meeting to the lead disinterested Trustee in order to provide an opportunity to contact Trust management and/or the disinterested Trustees' independent counsel regarding agenda items. In addition, the disinterested Trustees regularly communicate with Mr. O'Reilly and Mr. Butler regarding items of interest to them in between regularly scheduled meetings of the Board. The Board of the Trust meets in person at least four times each year and by telephone at other times. At each in-person meeting, the disinterested Trustees meet in executive session with their independent counsel to discuss matters outside the presence of management.

The Board has four standing committees. The Audit Committee, Nominating and Governance Committee (the "Nominating Committee"), and Mutual Funds-ETF Relations Committee are composed entirely of disinterested Trustees. As described below, through these Committees, the disinterested Trustees have direct oversight of the Trust's accounting and financial reporting policies, the selection and nomination of candidates to the Board, and the operation and expense allocations of the portfolios of the Trust. The Investment Strategy Committee (the "Strategy Committee") assists the Board in carrying out its fiduciary duties with respect to the oversight of the Trust and the performance of its series.

The Board's Audit Committee is comprised of Reena Aggarwal, Francis A. Longstaff, Abbie J. Smith, and Ingrid M. Werner. The Audit Committee for the Board oversees the Trust's accounting and financial reporting policies and practices, the Trust's internal controls, the Trust's financial statements and the independent audits thereof, and performs other oversight functions as requested by the Board. The Audit Committee recommends the appointment of the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm and also acts as a liaison between the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm and the full Board. There were three Audit Committee meetings held for the Trust during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023.

The Board's Nominating Committee is comprised of Reena Aggarwal, Douglas W. Diamond, Francis A. Longstaff and Heather E. Tookes. The Nominating Committee for the Board makes recommendations for nominations of disinterested and interested members on the Board to the disinterested Board members and to the full Board. The Nominating Committee works closely with the other disinterested Trustees to evaluate a candidate's qualification for Board membership and the independence of such candidate from the Advisor and other principal service providers. The Nominating Committee also periodically reviews the Board governance practices, policies,

procedures, and operations; reviews the membership of each committee of the Board; reviews and makes recommendations regarding the disinterested Trustees' compensation; oversees the annual self-assessment of the Board and each committee; considers and recommends to the Board, the selection of "independent legal counsel" (as that term is defined in the 1940 Act); and monitors and considers corporate governance issues that may arise from time to time. There were two Nominating Committee meetings held for the Trust during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023.

The Strategy Committee is comprised of Gerard K. O'Reilly, Douglas W. Diamond, Darrell Duffie, and Heather E. Tookes. At the request of the Board or the Advisor, the Strategy Committee (i) reviews the design of possible new series of the Trust, (ii) reviews performance of existing series of the Trust, and discusses and recommends possible enhancements to the series' investment strategies, (iii) reviews proposals by the Advisor to modify or enhance the investment strategies or policies of each series, and (iv) considers issues relating to investment services for each series of the Trust. There were two Strategy Committee meetings held for the Trust during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023.

The Mutual Funds-ETF Relations Committee is comprised of Reena Aggarwal, Darrell Duffie, and Ingrid M. Werner. At the request of the Board, the Mutual Funds-ETF Relations Committee (i) reviews any newly-proposed expenses to be borne by the Portfolios or changes to the existing expense allocations among the ETFs in the Dimensional ETF Trust ("Dimensional ETFs"), portfolios in the DFA mutual fund complex ("Fund Complex"), and the Advisor, (ii) considers any conflicts of interest that may arise in the operations of the Dimensional ETFs and the portfolios in the Fund Complex, (iii) reviews and considers relevant information relating to the operations of the Dimensional ETFs, and (iv) considers asset flows and performance differences between the similarly managed mutual funds and the ETFs in the DFA Fund Complex (defined below). There were two Mutual Funds-ETF Relations Committee meetings held for the Trust during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023.

The Board of the Trust, including all of the disinterested Trustees, oversees and approves the contracts of the third party service providers that provide advisory, administrative, custodial and other services to the Trust.

#### Board Oversight of Risk Management

The Board, as a whole, considers risk management issues as part of its general oversight responsibilities throughout the year at regular board meetings, through regular reports that have been developed by Trust management and the Advisor. These reports address certain investment, valuation, liquidity and compliance matters. The Board also may receive special written reports or presentations on a variety of risk issues, either upon the Board's request or upon the initiative of the Advisor. In addition, the Audit Committee of the Board meets regularly with management of the Advisor to review reports on the Advisor's examinations of functions and processes that affect the Trust.

With respect to investment risk, the Board receives regular written reports describing and analyzing the investment performance of the Trust's series. The Board discusses these reports and the portfolios' performance and investment risks with management of the Advisor at the Board's regular meetings. The Investment Committee of the Advisor meets regularly to discuss a variety of issues, including the impact that the investment in particular securities or instruments, such as derivatives, may have on the series. To the extent that the Investment Committee of the Advisor decides to materially change an investment strategy or policy of a series and such change could have a significant impact on the series' risk profile, the Advisor will present such change to the Board for their approval.

With respect to valuation, the Advisor and the Trust's administrative and accounting agent provide regular written reports to the Board that enable the Board to review the Advisor's fair valuation process. Such reports also include information concerning illiquid and any worthless securities held by each series. In addition, the Trust's Audit Committee reviews valuation procedures and pricing results with the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm in connection with such Committee's review of the results of the audit of each series' year-end financial statements.

With respect to liquidity risk, the Board oversees the Trust's liquidity risk through, among other things, receiving periodic reporting and presentations by investment and other personnel of the Advisor. Additionally, as required by the Liquidity Rule, the Board, including a majority of the disinterested Trustees, approved the Trust's

Liquidity Program, which is reasonably designed to assess and manage the Trust's liquidity risk, and appointed the Liquidity Program Administrator that is responsible for administering the Liquidity Program. The Board also reviews, no less frequently than annually, a written report prepared by the Liquidity Program Administrator that addresses, among other items, the operation of the Liquidity Program and assesses its adequacy and effectiveness of implementation.

With respect to compliance risks, the Board receives regular compliance reports prepared by the Advisor's compliance group and meets regularly with the Trust's Global Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) to discuss compliance issues, including compliance risks. As required under SEC rules, the disinterested Trustees meet in executive session with the CCO, and the Trust's CCO prepares and presents an annual written compliance report to the Board. The Trust's Board adopts compliance policies and procedures for the Trust and receives information about the compliance procedures in place for the Trust's service providers. The compliance policies and procedures are specifically designed to detect and prevent violations of the federal securities laws.

The Advisor periodically provides information to the Board relevant to enterprise risk management describing the way in which certain risks are managed at the complex-wide level by the Advisor. Such presentations include areas such as counter-party risk, material fund vendor or service provider risk, investment risk, reputational risk, personnel risk and business continuity risk.

### Trustee Qualifications

When a vacancy occurs on the Board, the Nominating Committee of the Board evaluates a candidate's qualification for Board membership and the independence of such candidate from the Advisor and other principal service providers. While the Nominating Committee believes that there are no specific minimum qualifications for a candidate to possess or any specific educational background, qualities, skills, or prior business and professional experience that are necessary, in considering a candidate's qualifications, the Nominating Committee may consider the following factors, among others, which may change over time or have different weight: (1) whether or not the person is willing to serve and willing and able to commit the time necessary for the performance of the duties of a Board member; (2) the candidate's judgment, skill, diversity, and experience with investment companies and other organizations of comparable purpose, complexity and size; (3) the business activities of the Trust, including any new marketing or investment initiatives, and whether the candidate possesses relevant experience in these areas; (4) whether the person's business background or other business activities would be incompatible with the Trust's and the Advisor's business purposes; (5) the interplay of the candidate's experience with the experience of other Board members and how the candidate and his or her academic or business experience will be perceived by the Trust's shareholders; and (6) the extent to which the candidate would be a desirable addition to the Board and any committees thereof.

While the Nominating Committee is solely responsible for the selection and recommendation to the Board of disinterested Board candidates, the Nominating Committee will consider nominees recommended by Qualifying Fund Shareholders if a vacancy occurs among Board members. A Qualifying Fund Shareholder is a shareholder, or group of shareholders, that: (i) owns of record, or beneficially through a financial intermediary, 5% or more of the Trust's outstanding shares, and (ii) has owned such shares for 12 months or more prior to submitting the recommendation to the Nominating Committee. Such recommendations shall be directed to the Secretary of the Trust at 6300 Bee Cave Road, Building One, Austin, Texas 78746. The Qualifying Fund Shareholder's letter should include: (i) the name and address of the Qualifying Fund Shareholder making the recommendation; (ii) the number of shares of the Trust that are owned of record and beneficially by such Qualifying Fund Shareholder, and the length of time that such shares have been so owned by the Qualifying Fund Shareholder; (iii) a description of all arrangements and understandings between such Qualifying Fund Shareholder and any other person or persons (naming such person or persons) pursuant to which the recommendation is being made; (iv) the name and address of the nominee; and (v) the nominee's resume or curriculum vitae. The Qualifying Fund Shareholder's letter must be accompanied by a written consent of the individual to stand for election if nominated for the Board and to serve if elected by shareholders. The Nominating Committee also may seek such additional information about the nominee as the Nominating Committee considers appropriate, including information relating to such nominee that is required to be disclosed in solicitations or proxies for the election of Board members.

The Nominating Committee of the Board believes that it is in the best interests of the Trust and its shareholders to obtain highly-qualified individuals to serve as members of the Board. The Trust's Board believes that each Trustee currently serving on the Board has the experience, qualifications, attributes and skills to allow the Board to effectively oversee the management of the Trust and protect the interests of shareholders. The Board noted that each Trustee had professional experience in areas of importance for investment companies. The Board considered that each disinterested Trustee held an academic position in the areas of finance or accounting. Reena Aggarwal, Douglas W. Diamond, Darrell Duffie, Francis A. Longstaff, Heather E. Tookes, and Ingrid M. Werner are each Professors of Finance, while Abbie J. Smith is a Professor of Accounting. The Board also noted that Reena Aggarwal, Darrell Duffie, Abbie J. Smith, Heather E. Tookes, and Ingrid M. Werner each had experience serving as a director or trustee on the boards of operating companies and/or other investment companies. In addition, the Board considered that Gerard K. O'Reilly and David P. Butler contributed valuable experience due to their positions with the Advisor.

Certain biographical information for each disinterested Trustee and each interested Trustee of the Trust is set forth in the tables below, including a description of each Trustee's experience as a Trustee of the Trust and as a director or trustee of other funds, as well as other recent professional experience.

#### **Disinterested Trustees**

Name, Address and Year of Birth	Position	Term of Office <sup>1</sup> and Length of Service		Portfolios within the DFA Fund Complex <sup>2</sup> Overseen	Other Directorships of Public Companies Held During Past 5 Years
Reena Aggarwal c/o Dimensional Fund Advisors LP 6300 Bee Cave Road, Building One Austin, TX 78746	Trustee	Since 2021		investment companies	Director, Cohen & Steers (asset management firm) (since 2017) and Director, Nuveen Churchill Direct Lending (private business development company) (since 2019). Formerly, Director, New York Life Investment Management IndexIQ (2008-2021) (22 funds); and formerly, Director, Brightwood Capital Advisors, L.P. (private equity) (2013-2020).
Douglas W. Diamond c/o Dimensional Fund Advisors LP 6300 Bee Cave Road, Building One Austin, TX 78746	Trustee	Since 2020	Finance, University of Chicago Booth School of Business	161 portfolios in 5 investment companies	None

Name, Address and Year of Birth	Position	Term of Office <sup>1</sup> and Length of Service		Portfolios within the DFA Fund Complex <sup>2</sup> Overseen	Other Directorships of Public Companies Held During Past 5 Years
Darrell Duffie c/o Dimensional Fund Advisors LP 6300 Bee Cave Road, Building One Austin, TX 78746	Trustee	Since 2020	Adams Distinguished Professor of Management and Professor of Finance, Stanford University (since 1984) and Director, TNB Inc. (bank) (since 2020).	161 portfolios in 5 investment companies	None
Francis A. Longstaff c/o Dimensional Fund Advisors LP 6300 Bee Cave Road, Building One Austin, TX 78746	Trustee	Since 2021	Allstate Professor of Insurance and Finance, UCLA, Anderson School of Management (since 1992); Consultant, NERA Economic Consulting (since 2018); Consultant, Charles River Associates (economic consulting firm) (since 2013); Consultant, Simplex Holdings, Inc. (technology firm) (since 1998); and Expert Witness, Analysis Group (economic consulting firm) (since 2012).	161 portfolios in 5 investment companies	None
Abbie J. Smith University of Chicago Booth School of Business 5807 S. Woodlawn Avenue Chicago, IL 60637 1953	Trustee	Since 2020	Boris and Irene Stern Distinguished Service Professor of Accounting and James S. Ely, III Faculty Fellow, University of Chicago Booth School of Business (since 1980).	investment companies	Director (since 2000) and formerly, Audit Committee Chair (2019-2022), HNI Corporation (office furniture); Director and Audit Committee member, Ryder System Inc. (transportation, logistics and supply-chain management) (since 2003); and Trustee (since 2009) and Audit Committee member (since 2022), UBS Funds (3 investment companies within the fund complex) (12 portfolios).
Heather E. Tookes Yale School of Management 165 Whitney Avenue New Haven, CT 06511 1974	Trustee	Since 2021	Deputy Dean for Faculty (since 2022) and Professor of Finance (since 2004), Yale School of Management.	investment companies	Director, Ariel Investments LLC (investment adviser) (since 2017); Director, Charles River Associates (economic consulting firm) (since 2022); and Director, Community Foundation of Greater New Haven

Name, Address and Year of Birth	Position	Term of Office <sup>1</sup> and Length of Service	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years	Portfolios within the DFA Fund Complex <sup>2</sup> Overseen	Other Directorships of Public Companies Held During Past 5 Years
					(community foundation and grant-making) (since 2022). Formerly, Director, Payoneer Inc. (digital payments) (2021-2023).
Ingrid M. Werner c/o Dimensional Fund Advisors LP 6300 Bee Cave Road, Building One Austin, TX 78746 1961	Trustee		Martin and Andrew Murrer Professor of Finance, Fisher College of Business, The Ohio State University (since 1998). Adjunct Member, the Prize Committee for the Swedish Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel (annual award for significant scientific research contribution) (since 2018). Chair, Economic Advisory Committee, FINRA (since 2017). Chairman, Scientific Advisory Board, Swedish House of Finance (institute supporting academic research in finance) (since 2014). Member, Scientific Board, Danish Finance Institute (institute supporting academic research in finance) (since 2017). Fellow, Center for Analytical Finance (academic research) (since 2015). Formerly, President, Western Finance Association (global association of academic researchers and practitioners in finance) (2018-2019); formerly, Member, Academic Board, Mistra Financial Systems (organization funding academic research on environment, governance and climate/sustainability in finance) (2016-2021); formerly, Director, American Finance Association (global association of academic researchers and practitioners in finance) (2019-2022); formerly, Associate Editor, Journal of Finance (2016-2021); formerly, Member, Scientific Board, Leibniz Institute for Financial Research (institute supporting academic research in finance) (2020-2023).	investment companies	Director, Fourth Swedish AP Fund (pension fund asset management) (since 2017).

## **Interested Trustees**

The following interested Trustees are described as such because each is deemed to be an "interested person," as that term is defined under the 1940 Act, due to his position with the Advisor.

Name, Address and Year of Birth	Position	Term of Office <sup>1</sup> and Length of Service	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years	Portfolios within the DFA Fund Complex <sup>2</sup> Overseen	Other Directorships of Public Companies Held During Past 5 Years
David P. Butler	Trustee		Co-Chief Executive Officer of Dimensional Emerging Markets Value Fund ("DEM"), DFA Investment Dimensions Group	161 portfolios in 5 investment	None
c/o Dimensional	Co-Chief			companies	
Fund Advisors LP	Executive	Co-Chief	("DIG"), The DFA Investment Trust Company ("DFAITC"),	1	
6300 Bee Cave Road, Building One, Austin, TX 78746	Officer	Executive Officer	Dimensional Holdings Inc., Dimensional Fund Advisors LP, Dimensional Investment LLC, and DFA Securities LLC (collectively with DEM, DFAIDG, DIG and DFAITC, the "DFA Entities") (since 2017), DFA Canada LLC (since 2018), Dimensional		

Name, Address and Year of Birth	Position	Term of Office <sup>1</sup> and Length of Service	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years	Portfolios within the DFA Fund Complex <sup>2</sup> Overseen	Other Directorships of Public Companies Held During Past 5 Years
1964			Holdings LLC (since 2017), and the Trust (since 2020); Chief Executive Officer of Dimensional Fund Advisors Canada ULC (since 2018), Director (since 2017) of Dimensional Holdings Inc., Dimensional Fund Advisors Canada ULC, Dimensional Japan Ltd., Dimensional Advisors Ltd., and DFA Australia Limited; Director and Co-Chief Executive Officer (since 2017) of Dimensional Cayman Commodity Fund I Ltd.; Head of Global Financial Advisor Services for Dimensional Investment LLC (since 2017). Formerly, Director (2017-2021) of Dimensional Fund Advisors Ltd.		
Gerard K. O'Reilly c/o Dimensional Fund Advisors LP 6300 Bee Cave Road, Building One, Austin, TX 78746 1976	Trustee Co-Chief Executive Officer and Co- Chief Investment Officer	Trustee since 2021 Co-Chief Executive Officer since 2020 Co-Chief Investment Officer since February 2024	Co-Chief Executive Officer (since 2017), Co-Chief Investment Officer (since February 2024), and Chief Investment Officer (2017 – February 2024) of the DFA Entities; Co-Chief Executive Officer (since 2020), Co-Chief Investment Officer (since February 2024), and Chief Investment Officer (2020 – February 2024) of the Trust; Co-Chief Executive Officer of DFA Canada LLC (since 2018); Co-Chief Investment Officer (since February 2024), and Chief Investment Officer (2017 – February 2024) of Dimensional Fund Advisors Canada ULC; Director (since 2017), Co-Chief Investment Officer (since February 2024), Chief Investment Officer (2017 – February 2024), Chief Investment Officer (2017 – February 2024) and Vice President (since 2014) of DFA Australia Limited; Co-Chief Investment Officer (since February 2024), Chief Investment Officer (2018 – February 2024) and Vice President (since 2017), Co-Chief Investment Officer (since February 2024), and Chief Investment Officer (since February 2024), and Chief Investment Officer (since February 2024) and Chief Investment Officer (since Sebruary 2024) and Chief Investment Officer (since	5 investment companies	None

Each Trustee holds office for an indefinite term until his or her successor is elected and qualified.

Information relating to each Trustee's ownership (including the ownership of his or her immediate family) in the Portfolios and in all five registered investment companies in the DFA Fund Complex as of December 31, 2023 is set forth in the chart below.

Name	Dollar Range of Portfolio Shares Owned	Aggregate Dollar Range of Shares Owned in All Funds Overseen by Trustee in Family of Investment Companies
Disinterested		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Each Trustee is a director or trustee of each of the five registered investment companies within the DFA Fund Complex, which include: the Trust, DEM; DFAIDG; DIG; and DFAITC. Each disinterested Trustee also serves on the Independent Review Committee of the Dimensional Funds, mutual funds registered in the provinces of Canada and managed by the Advisor's affiliate, Dimensional Fund Advisors Canada ULC.

Trustees:		
Reena Aggarwal	None	None Directly; Over \$100,000 in Simulated Funds*
Douglas W. Diamond	None	None Directly; Over \$100,000 in Simulated Funds*
Darrell Duffie	None	\$10,001-\$50,000
Francis A. Longstaff	None	None
Abbie J. Smith	None	None Directly; Over \$100,000 in Simulated Funds*
Heather E. Tookes	None	None Directly; Over \$100,000 in Simulated Funds*
Ingrid M. Werner	Dimensional US Core Equity Market ETF - Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000; Over \$100,000 in Simulated Funds*
Interested Trustees:		
David P. Butler	Dimensional US High Profitability ETF - Over \$100,000  Dimensional US Small Cap Value ETF - Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000
Gerard K. O'Reilly	Dimensional US Core Equity Market ETF - Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000

<sup>\*</sup> As discussed below, the compensation to certain of the disinterested Trustees may be in amounts that correspond to a hypothetical investment in a cross-section of the DFA Funds. Thus, the disinterested Trustees who are so compensated experience the same investment returns that are experienced by shareholders of the DFA Funds although the disinterested Trustees do not directly own shares of the DFA Funds.

Set forth below is a table listing, for each Trustee entitled to receive compensation, the compensation received from the Trust during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023, and the total compensation received from all five registered investment companies for which the Advisor served as investment advisor during that same fiscal period. The table also provides the compensation paid by the Trust to the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023.

Name and Position	Aggregate Compensation from the Trust**	Pension or Retirement Benefits as Part of Expenses	Estimated Annual Benefits upon Retirement	Total Compensation from the Trust and DFA Fund Complex Paid to Trustees*,†
Reena Aggarwal	\$57,267	N/A	N/A	\$400,000
Trustee				
Douglas W. Diamond Lead Disinterested Trustee	\$79,114	N/A	N/A	\$560,000
Darrell Duffie	\$57,267	N/A	N/A	\$400,000
Trustee				
Francis A. Longstaff	\$57,267	N/A	N/A	\$400,000
Trustee				
Abbie J. Smith Trustee	\$60,681	N/A	N/A	\$425,000

Name and Position	Aggregate Compensation from the Trust**	Pension or Retirement Benefits as Part of Expenses	Estimated Annual Benefits upon Retirement	Total Compensation from the Trust and DFA Fund Complex Paid to Trustees*,†
Heather E. Tookes	\$57,267	N/A	N/A	\$400,000
Trustee				
Ingrid M. Werner	\$57,267	N/A	N/A	\$400,000
Trustee				
Randy C. Olson	\$41,872	N/A	N/A	N/A

#### Chief Compliance Officer

- \* Under a deferred compensation plan (the "Plan") adopted effective January 1, 2002, the disinterested Trustees may defer receipt of all or a portion of the compensation for serving as members of the five Boards of Directors/Trustees of the investment companies in the DFA Fund Complex (the "DFA Funds"). Amounts deferred under the Plan are treated as though equivalent dollar amounts had been invested in shares of a cross-section of the DFA Funds (the "Reference Funds" or "Simulated Funds"). The amounts ultimately received by the disinterested Trustees under the Plan will be directly linked to the investment performance of the Reference Funds. Deferral of fees in accordance with the Plan will have a negligible effect on a fund's assets, liabilities, and net income per share, and will not obligate a fund to retain the services of any disinterested Trustee or to pay any particular level of compensation to the disinterested Trustee. The total amount of deferred compensation accrued by the disinterested Trustees from the DFA Fund Complex who participated in the Plan during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023 is as follows: \$15,000 (Ms. Aggarwal), \$148,000 (Ms. Tookes) and \$111,000 (Ms. Werner). A disinterested Trustee's deferred compensation will be distributed at the earlier of: (a) January in the year after the disinterested Trustee's resignation from the Boards of Directors/Trustees of the DFA Funds, or death or disability; or (b) five years following the first deferral, in such amounts as the disinterested Trustee has specified. The obligations of the DFA Funds to make payments under the Plan will be unsecured general obligations of the DFA Funds, payable out of the general assets and property of the DFA Funds.
- † The term DFA Fund Complex refers to the five registered investment companies for which the Advisor performs advisory and administrative services and for which the individuals listed above serve as directors/trustees on the Boards of Directors/Trustees of such companies.
- \*\* Pursuant to a contractual arrangement, the Advisor arranges for the provision of Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO") services with respect to the Dimensional US Core Equity Market ETF, and is liable and responsible for, and administers, payments to the CCO, the disinterested Trustees and counsel to the disinterested Trustees. The Advisor receives a fee of up to 0.0044% of the Dimensional US Core Equity Market ETF's average daily net assets for providing such services and paying such expenses. The Advisor provides CCO services to the Trust.

#### **Officers**

Below is the name, year of birth, information regarding positions with the Trust and the principal occupation for each officer of the Trust. The address of each officer is 6300 Bee Cave Road, Building One, Austin, TX 78746. Each of the officers listed below holds the same office (except as otherwise noted) in the DFA Entities.

Name and Year of Birth	Position	Term of Office <sup>1</sup> and Length of Service	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years
Melissa Barker 1988		December 2023	Assistant Treasurer (since December 2023) of  • DFAIDG, DIG, DFAITC, DEM and the Trust  Senior Tax Manager (since January 2023) of  • Dimensional Fund Advisors LP  Investment Tax Manager (May 2020 – December 2022) of
			<ul> <li>Dimensional Fund Advisors LP</li> <li>Assistant Vice President Tax Services (September 2013 – May 2020) of</li> <li>SS&amp;C ALPS Advisors</li> </ul>

Name and Year of Birth	Position	Term of Office <sup>1</sup> and Length of Service	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years
Valerie A. Brown	Vice President and	Since 2020	Vice President and Assistant Secretary of
1967	Assistant Secretary		all the DFA Entities (since 2001)
			DFA Australia Limited (since 2002)
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Ltd. (since 2002)
			Dimensional Cayman Commodity Fund I Ltd. (since 2010)
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Pte. Ltd. (since 2012)
			Dimensional Hong Kong Limited (since 2012)
			• the Trust (since 2020)
			Director, Vice President and Assistant Secretary (since 2003) of
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Canada ULC
Ryan P. Buechner	Vice President and	Since 2020	Vice President and Assistant Secretary of
1982	Assistant Secretary		DFAIDG, DIG, DFAITC and DEM (since 2019)
			• the Trust (since 2020)
			Vice President (since January 2018) of
			Dimensional Holdings Inc.
			Dimensional Fund Advisors LP
			Dimensional Investment LLC
			DFA Securities LLC
Stephen A. Clark	Executive Vice President	Since 2020	Executive Vice President of
1972	resident		all the DFA Entities (since 2017)
			• the Trust (since 2020)
			Director and Vice President (since 2016) of
			Dimensional Japan Ltd.
			Chairman (since 2018) of
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Canada ULC
			President and Director (since 2016) of
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Canada ULC     Dimensional Fund Advisors Canada
			Vice President (since 2008) and Director (since 2016) of
			DFA Australia Limited  Director (since 2016) of
			Dimensional Advisors Ltd.
			Dimensional Advisors Ltd.     Dimensional Fund Advisors Pte. Ltd.
			Dimensional Hong Kong Limited  Vice President of
			Dimensional Advisors Ltd. (since 2016)
			Dimensional Advisors Ed. (since 2016)     Dimensional Hong Kong Limited (since 2016)
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Pte. Ltd. (since 2019)
			Formerly, Director (2016 – 2021) of
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Ltd.
			Formerly, Vice President (2004 – 2017) of
			all the DFA Entities
			Formerly, Vice President (2010 – 2016) of



Name and Year of Birth	Position	Term of Office <sup>1</sup> and Length of Service	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Canada ULC
			Formerly, Vice President (2016 – 2019) of
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Pte. Ltd.
			Formerly, Interim Chief Executive Officer (2019 – 2020) of
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Pte. Ltd.
			Formerly, Head of Institutional, North America (2012 – 2013) and Head of Global Institutional Services (2014-2018) for
			Dimensional Fund Advisors LP
Lisa M. Dallmer 1972	Chief Operating Officer		Chief Operating Officer (since June 2021) of
1972		2021	the DFA Fund Complex
			Executive Vice President (since January 2020) of
			Dimensional Holdings Inc.
			Dimensional Fund Advisors LP
			Dimensional Investment LLC
			DFA Securities LLC
			Chief Operating Officer (since December 2019) of
			Dimensional Holdings Inc.
			Dimensional Fund Advisors LP
			Dimensional Investment LLC
			DFA Securities LLC
			Vice President (since 2020) of
			DFA Australia Limited
			Dimensional Advisors Ltd.
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Canada ULC
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Pte. Ltd.
			Dimensional Ireland Limited
			Dimensional Japan Ltd.
			Formerly, Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and Treasurer (June 2020 – June 2021) of
			the DFA Fund Complex
			Formerly, Senior Vice President, Business Operations (March 2019 – October 2019) at
			Delphix Inc.
			Formerly, Chief Operating Officer Global Technology & Operations, Managing Director (2014 – 2018) of
			BlackRock Inc.
Bernard J. Grzelak	Vice President	Since June	Vice President (since June 2021) of
1971		2021	the DFA Fund Complex
			Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (since September 2020) of
			DFA Australia Limited
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Canada ULC
			DFA Securities LLC
			Dimensional Advisors Ltd.
			23

Name and Year of Birth	Position	Term of Office <sup>1</sup> and Length of Service	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years
			Dimensional Fund Advisors LP
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Ltd.
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Pte. Ltd.
			Dimensional Holdings Inc.
			Dimensional Hong Kong Limited
			Dimensional Investment LLC
			Vice President (since March 2021) of
			Dimensional Ireland Limited
			Formerly, Partner (2008 – 2020), Chief Operating Officer, Global Funds and Risk (2018 – 2020), Chief Operations Officer (2016 – 2018), and Director of Fund Administration (2003 – 2016) of Lord Abbett & Co. LLC
			Formerly, Chief Financial Officer (2017 - 2020) and Treasurer (2003 – 2017) of
			Lord Abbett Family of Funds
Eric Hall	Vice President and Assistant Treasurer	Since June 2021	Vice President and Assistant Treasurer (since June 2021) of
1978	rissistant freusurer		the DFA Fund Complex
			Formerly, Data Integrity Team Lead (December 2019 – April 2021) of
			Clearwater Analytics
			Formerly, Assistant Vice President and Assistant Treasurer (March 2015 – November 2019) at
			INVESCO, U.S. (formerly, OppenheimerFunds, Inc.)
Jeff J. Jeon	Vice President	Since 2020	Vice President (since 2004) of
1973			all the DFA Entities
			Vice President (since 2020) of
			• the Trust
			Vice President and Assistant Secretary (since 2010) of
			Dimensional Cayman Commodity Fund I Ltd.
			Formerly, Assistant Secretary (2017 – 2019) of
			all the DFA Entities
Joy Lopez	Vice President and Assistant Treasurer	Since 2020	Vice President of
1971			all the DFA Entities (since 2015)
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Ltd. (since 2015)
			• the Trust (since 2020)
			DFA Australia Limited (since 2020)
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Canada ULC (since 2020)
			Dimensional Ireland Limited (since 2020)
			Assistant Treasurer of
			DFAIDG, DIG, DFAITC and DEM (since 2017)
			• the Trust (since 2020)

Name and Year of		Term of Office <sup>1</sup> and Length of	
Birth	Position	Service	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years
Kenneth M. Manell 1972	Vice President	Since 2020	Vice President of
1972			all the DFA Entities (since 2010)  Bit of the DFA Entities (since 2010)  Bit of the DFA Entities (since 2010)  Bit of the DFA Entities (since 2010)
			Dimensional Cayman Commodity Fund I Ltd. (since 2010)      The Action 2020
			• the Trust (since 2020)
Jan Miller	Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and	Since June 2021	Vice President (since January 2023) of
1963	Treasurer		Dimensional Holdings Inc.
			Dimensional Fund Advisors LP
			Dimensional Investment LLC
			DFA Securities LLC
			Vice President (since April 2022) of
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Canada ULC
			Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and Treasurer (since June 2021) of
			the DFA Fund Complex
			Formerly, Director (May 2019 – January 2021) at
			INVESCO, U.S. (formerly, OppenheimerFunds, Inc.)
			Formerly, Vice President and Assistant Treasurer (September 2012 – May 2019) at
			OppenheimerFunds, Inc.
Catherine L. Newell	President and General Counsel	Since 2020	President of
1964			DFAIDG, DIG, DFAITC and DEM (since 2017)
			• the Trust (since 2020)
			General Counsel of
			all the DFA Entities (since 2001)
			Dimensional Fund Advisors LP (since 2006)
			Dimensional Holdings Inc. (since 2006)
			Dimensional Investment LLC (since 2009)
			DFA Canada LLC (since 2009)
			• the Trust (since 2020)
			Executive Vice President (since 2017) of
			Dimensional Fund Advisors LP
			Dimensional Holdings Inc.
			DFA Securities LLC
			Dimensional Investment LLC
			Secretary of
			Dimensional Fund Advisors LP (since 2006)
			Dimensional Holdings Inc. (since 2006)
			DFA Securities LLC (since 2006)
			Dimensional Investment LLC (since 2009)
			Vice President (since 1997) and Secretary (since 2002) of
			DFA Australia Limited
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Ltd.
	1	I	<u>1</u> 25

Name and Year of Birth	Position	Term of Office <sup>1</sup> and Length of Service	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years
Birtii	rosition		
			Vice President and Secretary of
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Canada ULC (since 2003)  PER Control VICE (1992)  PER CONTROL VIC
			DFA Canada LLC (since 2009)  Divining Control of the Control
			Dimensional Cayman Commodity Fund I Ltd. (since 2010)
			Dimensional Japan Ltd. (since 2012)
			Dimensional Advisors Ltd (since 2014)
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Pte. Ltd. (since 2012)      Dimensional Fund Advisors Pte. Ltd. (since
			Vice President and Assistant Secretary (since 2012) of
			Dimensional Hong Kong Limited
			Director of
			Dimensional Australia Limited (since 2007)
			Dimensional Funds plc (since 2002)
			Dimensional Funds II plc (since 2006)
			Director of Dimensional Japan Ltd. (since 2012)
			Dimensional Advisors Ltd. (since 2012)
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Pte. Ltd. (since 2012)
			Dimensional Hong Kong Limited (since 2012)
			Dimensional Ireland Limited (since 2018)
			Formerly, Vice President and Secretary (2010 – 2014) of
			Dimensional SmartNest (US) LLC
			Formerly, Vice President (1997 – 2017) and Secretary (2000 – 2017) of
			DFAIDG, DIG, DFAITC and DEM
			Formerly, Vice President of
			Dimensional Fund Advisors LP (1997 – 2017)
			• Dimensional Holdings Inc. (2006 – 2017)
			• DFA Securities LLC (1997 – 2017)
			Dimensional Investment LLC (2009 – 2017)
			Formerly, Director (2002 – 2021) of
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Ltd.
Selwyn J. Notelovitz		September	Vice President (since September 2021) of
1961		2021	the DFA Fund Complex
			Vice President (since December 2012) and Chief Compliance Officer (since July 2020) of
			DFA Securities LLC
			Dimensional Fund Advisors LP
			Dimensional Holdings Inc.
			Dimensional Investment LLC
			Chief Compliance Officer (since July 2020) of:
			DFA Australia Limited
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Ltd.
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Canada ULC
			Formerly, Deputy Chief Compliance Officer (2013 – 2020) of:

Name and Year of Birth	Position	Term of Office <sup>1</sup> and Length of Service	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years
Birtii	Position	Service	
			the DFA Fund Complex
			DFA Securities LLC
			Dimensional Fund Advisors LP
			Dimensional Holdings Inc.
			Dimensional Investment LLC
			Formerly, Vice President (2013 – 2020) of:
			the DFA Fund Complex
			Formerly, Director (2019 – 2021) of:
			Dimensional Ireland Limited
Carolyn L. O	Vice President and Secretary	Since 2020	Vice President and Secretary of
1974			DFAIDG, DIG, DFAITC and DEM (since 2010 and 2017, respectively)
			• the Trust (since 2020)
			Vice President (since 2010) and Assistant Secretary (since 2016) of
			Dimensional Fund Advisors LP
			Dimensional Holdings Inc.
			Dimensional Investment LLC
			Vice President of
			DFA Securities LLC (since 2010)
			Dimensional Cayman Commodity Fund I Ltd. (since 2010)
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Canada ULC (since 2016)
			Assistant Secretary (since 2016) of
			DFA Securities LLC
Randy C. Olson 1980		Since 2020	Chief Compliance Officer (since 2020) of
1980	Officer		the DFA Fund Complex
			Vice President (since 2016) of
			DFA Securities LLC
			Dimensional Fund Advisors LP
			Dimensional Holdings Inc.
			Dimensional Investment LLC
			Formerly, Vice President – Senior Compliance Officer of
			<ul> <li>Dimensional Investment Advisors LP (January 2020 – August 2020 and July 2014 – March 2017)</li> </ul>
			Formerly, Vice President – Head of Compliance & Operations Asia Ex-Japan of
			Dimensional Investment Advisors LP (April 2017 – January 2020)
Savina B. Rizova			Co-Chief Investment Officer (since February 2024 of)
1981	Officer	2024	DFAIDG, DIG, DFAITC, DEM and the Trust
			DFA Australia Limited
			DFA Securities LLC
			Dimensional Cayman Commodity Fund I Ltd.
			27

Name and Year of Birth	Position	Term of Office <sup>1</sup> and Length of Service	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years
Ditti	Toshion		Dimensional Fund Advisors Canada ULC     Dimensional Fund Advisors LP     Dimensional Holdings Inc.     Dimensional Holdings LLC     Dimensional Investment LLC     Dimensional Japan Ltd.  Global Head of Research (since April 2020) of     Dimensional Fund Advisors LP
			Head of Research (August 2019 – March 2020) Co-Head of Research (January 2018 – August 2019) Head of Research Strategy (May 2017 – December 2017) of  Dimensional Fund Advisors LP  Vice President (since January 2012) of  Dimensional Holdings Inc.  Dimensional Fund Advisors LP  Dimensional Fund Advisors LP  Dimensional Investment LLC  DFA Securities LLC
James J. Taylor 1983	Vice President and Assistant Treasurer	Since 2020	Vice President and Assistant Treasurer (since 2020) of  the DFA Fund Complex  Vice President of  Dimensional Holdings Inc. (since 2016)  Dimensional Fund Advisors LP (since 2016)  Dimensional Investment LLC (since 2016)  DFA Securities LLC (since 2016)  Dimensional Fund Advisors Canada ULC (since 2020)

Each officer holds office for an indefinite term at the pleasure of the Board and until his or her successor is elected and qualified.

As of January 31, 2024, the Trustees and officers as a group owned less than 1% of the outstanding shares of the Portfolios described in this SAI.

## () SERVICES TO THE TRUST

#### **Administrative Services**

Citi Fund Services Ohio, Inc. ("CFSO"), 4400 Easton Commons, Suite 200, Columbus, Ohio 43219, serves as the accounting and administration services and dividend disbursing agent for each Portfolio. The services provided by CFSO are subject to supervision by the executive officers and the Board of Trustees of the Trust, and include day-to-day keeping and maintenance of certain records, preparation of financial and regulatory reports, fund accounting and tax services, and dividend disbursing agency services. For the administrative and accounting services provided by CFSO, CFSO receives reimbursement for certain out-of-pocket costs and compensation in the form of transaction fees and asset-based fees which are aggregated and paid monthly.

The fee schedule is set forth in the table below:

Net Asset Value of the Dimensional ETFs (Excluding Fund of Funds)	Annual Basis Point Rate
•	

\$0 - \$10 Billion	0.35
Over \$10 Billion - \$50 Billion	0.30
Over \$50 Billion	0.25

The fees paid to CFSO under the fee schedule are allocated to the Portfolio based on the Portfolio's pro-rata portion of the aggregate average net assets of the Dimensional ETFs (excluding fund of funds). Separately, any Portfolio that operates as a fund of funds pays an annual fee of \$15,000, in lieu of the fee schedule above. Under the unitary fee structure in place for the Dimensional US Core Equity Market ETF, fees for administrative services are paid by the Advisor from its management fee.

#### Custodian

Citibank, N.A. (the "Custodian"), 111 Wall Street, New York, NY, 10005, serves as the custodian for the Portfolios.

The Custodian maintains a separate account or accounts for a Portfolio; receives, holds, and releases portfolio securities on account of the Portfolio; makes receipts and disbursements of money on behalf of the Portfolio; and collects and receives income and other payments and distributions on account of the Portfolio's portfolio securities. Under the unitary fee structure in place for the Dimensional US Core Equity Market ETF, fees for custody services are paid by the Advisor from its management fee.

#### **Transfer Agent**

Citibank, N.A., 111 Wall Street, New York, NY, 10005, serves as the transfer agent for the Portfolios.

#### Distributor

DFA Securities LLC ("DFAS" or the "Distributor"), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Advisor, acts as the principal underwriter in the continuous public offering of the Trust's shares. DFAS is registered as a broker-dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. The principal business address of DFAS is 6300 Bee Cave Road, Austin, Texas 78746.

Shares are continuously offered for sale by the Trust through the Distributor or its agent only in Creation Units, as described in the Prospectus and below in the "Creation and Redemption of Creation Units" section of this SAI. Portfolio shares in amounts less than Creation Units are generally not distributed by the Distributor or its agent. The Distributor or its agent will arrange for the delivery of the prospectus and, upon request, this SAI to persons purchasing Creation Units and will maintain records of both orders placed with it or its agents and confirmations of acceptance furnished by it or its agents.

The Distributor may enter into agreements with securities dealers ("Soliciting Dealers") who will solicit purchases of Creation Units of Portfolio shares. Such Soliciting Dealers may also be Authorized Participants, Depository Trust Company ("DTC") participants and/or investor services organizations.

The Distributor may be entitled to payments from the Trust under the Rule 12b-1 plan. Except as noted, the Distributor received no other compensation from the Trust for acting as underwriter. In accordance with the Rule 12b-1 plan, each Portfolio is authorized to pay Rule 12b-1 fees to the Distributor of up to 0.25% of the Portfolio's average daily net assets per year for any activities primarily intended to result in the sale of Creation Units of the Portfolio or the provision of investor services, including but not limited to: (i) marketing and promotional services, including advertising; (ii) facilitating communications with beneficial owners of Shares of the Portfolios; (iii) wholesaling services; and (iv) such other services and obligations as may be set forth in the Distribution Agreement with the Distributor. The 12b-1 Plan is a compensation plan. Thus, to the extent that the fee is authorized, it is payable regardless of the distribution-related expenses actually incurred and so the amount of distribution fees paid by the shares during any year may be more than actual expenses incurred pursuant to the 12b-1 Plan. A Portfolio will not pay more than the maximum amount allowed under the 12b-1 Plan.

The Rule 12b-1 plan is intended to permit the financing of a broad array of distribution-related activities and services, as well as shareholder services, for the benefit of investors. These activities and services are intended to make the Shares an attractive investment alternative, which may lead to increased assets, investment opportunities and diversification. No fees are currently paid by any Portfolio under the Rule 12b-1 plan and there are no current plans to impose such fees. In the event such fees were to be charged, over time they would increase the cost of an investment in a Portfolio. If fees were charged under the Plan, the Trustees would receive and review at the end of each quarter a written report provided by the Distributor of the amounts expended under the Plan and the purpose for which such expenditures were made.

The Rule 12b-1 plan will remain in effect for a period of one year and is renewable from year to year with respect to a Portfolio, so long as its continuance is approved at least annually in accordance with the requirements of the 1940 Act. The Rule 12b-1 plan may not be amended to increase materially the amount of fees paid by any Portfolio unless such amendment is approved by a 1940 Act majority vote of the outstanding Shares and by a vote of the majority of those Disinterested Trustees who have no direct or indirect financial interest in the Rule 12b-1 plan or in any agreements related thereto ("Rule 12b-1 Trustees"). The Rule 12b-1 plan is terminable with respect to a Portfolio at any time by a vote of a majority of the Rule 12b-1 Trustees or by a 1940 Act majority vote of the outstanding Shares.

## **Legal Counsel**

Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP serves as legal counsel to the Trust. Its address is 2600 One Commerce Square, Philadelphia, PA 19103-7098.

### **Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP ("PwC") is the independent registered public accounting firm to the Trust and audits the annual financial statements of the Trust. PwC's address is Two Commerce Square, Suite 1800, 2001 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-7042.

### **Investment Management**

Dimensional Fund Advisors LP, located at 6300 Bee Cave Road, Building One, Austin, TX 78746, serves as investment advisor to the Portfolios. Pursuant to an Investment Management Agreement with each Portfolio, the Advisor is responsible for the management of the Portfolio's respective assets.

## Payments by the Advisor to Certain Third Parties Not Affiliated with the Advisor

The Advisor and its advisory affiliates have entered into arrangements with certain unaffiliated third parties pursuant to which the Advisor or its advisory affiliates make payments from their own assets or provide services to such unaffiliated third parties as further described below. Certain of the unaffiliated third parties who have entered into such arrangements with the Advisor or its advisory affiliates are affiliated with independent financial advisors ("FAs") whose clients may invest in the Portfolios or other investment companies advised by the Advisor ("DFA Advised Funds"). Generally, the Advisor does not consider the existence of such arrangements with an affiliate, by itself, to be determinative in assessing whether an FA is independent.

## Training and Education Related Benefits Provided by the Advisor

From time to time, the Advisor or its affiliates provide certain non-advisory services (such as data collection and analysis or other consulting services) to financial intermediaries ("Intermediaries") that may be involved in the distribution of DFA Advised Funds and may recommend the purchase of such DFA Advised Funds for their clients. Intermediaries may include, without limitation, FAs, broker-dealers, institutional investment consultants, and plan service providers (such as recordkeepers). The Advisor or its affiliates also may provide services to Intermediaries, including: (i) personnel and outside consultants for purposes of continuing education, internal strategic planning and, for FAs, practice management; (ii) analysis, including historical market analysis and

risk/return analysis; (iii) continuing education to investment advisers (some of whom may be dual registered investment advisers/broker-dealers); and (iv) other services.

The Advisor regularly provides educational speakers and facilities for conferences or events for Intermediaries, customers or clients of the Intermediaries, or such customers' or clients' service providers, and also may sponsor such events. For its sponsored events, the Advisor typically pays any associated food, beverage, and facilities-related expenses and speakers' fees. The Advisor has consulting arrangements with certain speakers, who may be affiliated with a client of the Advisor. The Advisor or its affiliates sometimes pay a fee to attend, speak at or assist in sponsoring conferences or events organized by others, and on occasion, pay travel accommodations of certain participants attending such conferences or events. The Advisor's sponsorship of conferences or events organized by others from time to time includes direct payments to vendors on behalf of, and/or reimbursement of expenses incurred by, the organizers of such events. Also, from time to time, the Advisor makes direct payments to vendors on behalf of, and/or reimbursement of expenses incurred by, Intermediaries in connection with the Intermediaries hosting educational, training, customer appreciation, or other events for such Intermediaries and/or their customers. Personnel of the Advisor may or may not be present at any of the conferences or events hosted by third parties described above. The Advisor generally will promote its participation in or sponsorship of such conferences or events in marketing or advertising materials. At the request of a client or potential client, the Advisor or its affiliates may also refer such client to one or more Intermediaries.

The provision of these services, arrangements and payments described above by the Advisor present conflicts of interest because they provide incentives for Intermediaries, customers or clients of Intermediaries, or such customers' or clients' service providers to recommend, or otherwise make available, the Advisor's strategies or DFA Advised Funds to their clients in order to receive or continue to benefit from these arrangements from the Advisor or its affiliates. However, the provision of these services, arrangements and payments by the Advisor or its affiliates is not dependent on the amount of DFA Advised Funds or strategies sold or recommended by such Intermediaries, customers or clients of Intermediaries, or such customers' or clients' service providers.

### Consultation Referral Fees Paid by the Advisor

From time to time, consultants of the Advisor are paid a commission for client referrals. Such commissions typically are calculated based on a flat fee, percentage of total fees received by the Advisor as a result of such referrals, or other means agreed to between the Advisor and the consultants.

#### Payments to Intermediaries by the Advisor

Additionally, the Advisor or its advisory affiliates may enter into arrangements with, and/or make payments from their own assets to, certain Intermediaries to enable access to DFA Advised Funds on platforms and through programs or products made available by such Intermediaries or to assist such Intermediaries to upgrade existing technology systems, or implement new technology systems, platforms, programs, or products in order to improve the methods through which the Intermediaries provide services to the Advisor and its advisory affiliates, and/or their clients. The Advisor or its advisory affiliates may also make payments to Intermediaries related to marketing activities and presentations, educational training programs, conferences, data provision services, or making shares of the DFA Advised Funds available to their customers generally and in certain investment programs. The Advisor may make payments to Intermediaries and other financial service providers for data regarding DFA Advised Funds, such as statistical information regarding sales of shares of DFA Advised Funds through Intermediaries. Such arrangements or payments may establish contractual obligations on the part of such Intermediaries to provide DFA Advised Funds, the Advisor, or their clients with certain exclusive or preferred access to the use of the subject technology or programs or preferable placement or inclusion with such Intermediaries' platforms, programs or products. Payments of this type are sometimes referred to as revenue-sharing payments. Any payments made pursuant to such arrangements may vary in any year and may be different for different Intermediaries. In certain cases, the payments described here may be subject to certain minimum payment levels, be a fixed amount, and/or depend on assets invested in a particular fund through such Intermediary.

The services, arrangements, and payments described above, which may be significant to the Intermediaries, present conflicts of interest because they provide incentives for Intermediaries, customers or clients of Intermediaries, or such customers' or clients' service providers, to recommend, or otherwise make available, DFA

Advised Funds to their clients in order to receive or continue to benefit from these arrangements from the Advisor or its affiliates.

As of January 31, 2024, the Intermediaries receiving such payments include: Betterment Holdings, Inc., Charles Schwab & Co. Inc., Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company, LPL Financial LLC, Principal Life Insurance Company, Raymond James & Associates, Inc., Standard Retirement Services, Transamerica Retirement Solutions, LLC, and UBS Financial Services Inc. Any additions, modifications, or deletions to this list of financial intermediaries that have occurred since the date of this SAI are not included in this list. Please contact your salesperson, advisor, broker or other investment professional for more information regarding any such payments or financial incentives his or her intermediary firm may receive.

Any payments described above made by the Advisor, or an affiliate of the Advisor, will be made from their own assets and not from the assets of the Portfolios. As a result, such payments are not reflected in the fees and expenses listed in the fees and expenses sections of the Portfolios' prospectuses.

#### Data Services Purchased by the Advisor

The Advisor purchases certain data services and products used by the Advisor for sales, distribution and research purposes. In limited circumstances, a data vendor or its affiliate also provides investment consulting services, and such vendor or affiliated entity may refer one or more of its consulting clients to DFA Advised Funds. Any investment consulting services and referrals are unrelated to the Advisor's process for the review and purchase of certain data services.

#### () MANAGEMENT FEES

David G. Booth, as a director and officer of the Advisor and shareholder of the Advisor's general partner, and Rex A. Sinquefield, as a shareholder of the Advisor's general partner, acting together, could be deemed controlling persons of the Advisor. Mr. Booth also serves as Chairman Emeritus of the Trust. For the services it provides as investment advisor to each Portfolio, the Advisor is paid a monthly fee calculated as a percentage of average net assets of the Portfolio.

For the fiscal years ended October 31, 2023, October 31, 2022 and October 31, 2021, the Portfolios paid management fees as set forth in the following table (the dollar amount is shown prior to any fee waivers by the Advisor).

<u>Portfolio</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2023</u> (000)	<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2022</u> (000)	<u>Fiscal Year Ended 2021</u> ( <u>000)</u>
Dimensional US Core Equity Market ETF(a)	\$4,041	\$2,412	\$839
Dimensional US Core Equity 1 ETF(b)	\$10 <sup>1</sup>	N/A	N/A
Dimensional US High Profitability ETF(b)	\$4,218	\$745	N/A
Dimensional US Large Cap Value ETF(b)	\$958 <sup>2</sup>	N/A	N/A
Dimensional US Small Cap Value ETF(b)	\$3,767 <sup>3</sup>	\$559 <sup>5</sup>	N/A
Dimensional US Large Cap Vector ETF(b)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dimensional US Real Estate ETF(b)	\$989 <sup>4</sup>	\$161 <sup>6</sup>	N/A

<sup>1 \$(20)</sup> after waiver

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> \$878 after waiver

<sup>3 \$3,772</sup> after recoupment of fees previously waived

<sup>4 \$910</sup> after waiver

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> \$554 after waiver

#### § \$143 after waiver

- (a) The Dimensional US Core Equity Market ETF commenced operations on November 17, 2020. Pursuant to the Investment Management Agreement for the Portfolio, the Advisor is responsible for substantially all ordinary fund operating expenses, except for (i) the Portfolio's management fee; (ii) payments under the Portfolio's 12b-1 plan (if any); (iii) brokerage expenses (including any costs incidental to transactions in portfolio securities, instruments and other investments; (iv) taxes; (v) interest expenses (including borrowing costs and dividend expenses on securities sold short and overdraft charges); (vi) litigation expenses (including litigation to which the Trust or Portfolio may be a party and indemnification of the Trustees and officers with respect thereto); (vii) Trustees' fees and expenses; (viii) legal expenses of counsel to the Independent Trustees; (ix) Chief Compliance Officer compensation; (x) acquired fund fees and expenses (if any); and (xi) other non-routine or extraordinary expenses.
- (b) The Dimensional US High Profitability ETF, Dimensional US Real Estate ETF, and Dimensional US Small Cap Value ETF commenced operations on February 23, 2022, the Dimensional US Core Equity 1 ETF commenced operations on September 12, 2023 and the Dimensional US Large Cap Vector ETF commenced operations on November 1, 2023. Pursuant to a Fee Waiver and/or Expense Assumption Agreement for each of these Portfolios, the Advisor has agreed to waive certain fees and in certain instances, assume certain expenses of the Portfolio, as described below. The Fee Waiver and/or Expense Assumption Agreement will remain in effect through February 28, 2025, and may only be terminated by the Trust's Board of Trustees prior to that date. The Fee Waiver and/or Expense Assumption Agreement shall continue in effect from year to year thereafter unless terminated by the Trust or the Advisor. With respect to each Fee Waiver and/or Expense Assumption Agreement, prior year waived fees and/or assumed expenses can be recaptured only if the expense ratio following such recapture would be less than the expense cap that was in place when such prior year fees were waived and/or expenses assumed, and less than the current expense cap in place for a Portfolio. A Portfolio is not obligated to reimburse the Advisor for fees previously waived or expenses previously assumed by the Advisor more than thirty-six months before the date of such reimbursement.

The Advisor has contractually agreed to waive all or a portion of its management fee and assume the ordinary operating expenses of each of the Portfolios (excluding the expenses that the Portfolio incurs indirectly through its investment in other investment companies) ("Portfolio Expenses") to the extent necessary to limit the Portfolio Expenses of each Portfolio, on an annualized basis, to the rates listed below as a percentage of the respective Portfolio's average net assets (the "Expense Limitation Amount"). At any time that the Portfolio Expenses of a Portfolio are less than the Expense Limitation Amount for the Portfolio, the Advisor retains the right to recover any fees previously waived and/or expenses previously assumed to the extent that such recovery will not cause the annualized Portfolio Expenses for such Portfolio to exceed the applicable Expense Limitation Amount identified below.

<u>Portfolio</u>	Expense Limitation Amount
Dimensional US Core Equity 1 ETF	0.14%
Dimensional US High Profitability ETF	0.22%
Dimensional US Large Cap Value ETF	0.22%
Dimensional US Small Cap Value ETF	0.31%
Dimensional US Large Cap Vector ETF	0.22%
Dimensional US Real Estate ETF	0.19%

Because the Dimensional US Large Cap Value ETF and Dimensional US Core Equity 1 ETF had not commenced operations as of the fiscal year ended October 31, 2022, the Portfolios did

not pay any management fees for the fiscal years ended October 31, 2022 and October 31, 2021. Because the Dimensional US Large Cap Vector ETF had not commenced operations as of the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023, the Portfolio did not pay any management fees for the fiscal years ended October 31, 2023, October 31, 2022 and October 31, 2021.

# () PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

In accordance with the team approach used to manage the Portfolios, the portfolio managers and portfolio traders implement the policies and procedures established by the Investment Committee. The portfolio managers and portfolio traders also make daily investment decisions regarding the Portfolios based on the parameters established by the Investment Committee. The individuals named below are the portfolio managers that coordinate the efforts of all other portfolio managers or trading personnel with respect to the day-to-day management of the Portfolios indicated.

Dimensional US Core Equity Market ETF

Jed S. Fogdall, Joseph F. Hohn and Joel P. Schneider

Dimensional US Core Equity 1 ETF, Dimensional US High Profitability ETF, Jed S. Fogdall, John A. Hertzer, Joseph F. Hohn and Allen Pu Dimensional US Large Cap Value ETF, Dimensional US Large Cap Vector ETF and Dimensional US Real Estate ETF

Dimensional US Small Cap Value ETF

Jed S. Fogdall, Joseph F. Hohn, Joel P. Schneider and Marc C. Leblond

## **Other Managed Accounts**

In addition to the Portfolios, each portfolio manager manages: (i) other U.S. registered investment companies advised or sub-advised by the Advisor; (ii) other pooled investment vehicles that are not U.S. registered investment companies; and (iii) other accounts managed for organizations and individuals. The following table sets forth information regarding the total accounts for which each portfolio manager has the primary responsibility for coordinating the day-to-day management responsibilities.

Name of Portfolio Manager	Number of Accounts Managed and Total Assets by Category				
	As of October 31, 2023				
Jed S. Fogdall	<ul> <li>126 U.S. registered mutual funds with \$420,106 million in total assets under management.</li> <li>28 unregistered pooled investment vehicles with \$20,069 million in total assets under management, of which</li> </ul>				
	<ul> <li>1 account with \$152 million in assets may be subject to a performance fee.</li> <li>706 other accounts with \$22,808 million in total assets under management, of which 4 accounts with \$1,941 million in assets may be subject to a performance fee.</li> </ul>				
John A. Hertzer	29 U.S. registered mutual funds with \$154,835 million in total assets under management.				
	• 3 unregistered pooled investment vehicles with \$4,023 million in total assets under management.				
	• 4 other accounts with \$7,685 million in total assets under management.				
Joseph F. Hohn	32 U.S. registered mutual funds with \$103,166 million in total assets under management.				
	• 7 unregistered pooled investment vehicles with \$1,019 million in total assets under management.				
	• 0 other accounts.				
Marc C. Leblond	14 U.S. registered mutual funds with \$60,694 million in total assets under management.				
	<ul> <li>3 unregistered pooled investment vehicles with \$1,341 million in total assets under management, of which 1 account with \$152 million in assets may be subject to a performance fee.</li> </ul>				
	• 12 other accounts with \$3,560 million in total assets under management.				
	34				

Allen Pu	•	54 U.S. registered mutual funds with \$128,355 million in total assets under management.
	•	15 unregistered pooled investment vehicles with \$14,270 million in total assets under management.
	•	0 other accounts.
Joel P. Schneider	•	41 U.S. registered mutual funds with \$133,953 million in total assets under management.
		6
	•	0 unregistered pooled investment vehicles.

## **Description of Compensation Structure**

Portfolio managers receive a base salary and bonus. Compensation of a portfolio manager is determined at the discretion of the Advisor and is based on a portfolio manager's experience, responsibilities, the perception of the quality of his or her work efforts, and other subjective factors. The compensation of portfolio managers is not directly based upon the performance of the Portfolios or other accounts that the portfolio managers manage. The Advisor reviews the compensation of each portfolio manager annually and may make modifications in compensation as its Compensation Committee deems necessary to reflect changes in the market. Each portfolio manager's compensation consists of the following:

- Base salary. Each portfolio manager is paid a base salary. The Advisor considers the factors described above to determine each portfolio manager's base salary.
- **Semi-Annual Bonus.** Each portfolio manager may receive a semi-annual bonus. The amount of the bonus paid to each portfolio manager is based upon the factors described above.

Portfolio managers may be awarded the right to purchase restricted shares of the stock of the Advisor, as determined from time to time, by the Board of Directors of the Advisor or its delegates. Portfolio managers also participate in benefit and retirement plans and other programs available generally to all employees.

In addition, portfolio managers may be given the option of participating in the Advisor's Long Term Incentive Plan. The level of participation for eligible employees may be dependent on overall level of compensation, among other considerations. Participation in this program is not based on or related to the performance of any individual strategies or any particular client accounts.

# **Potential Conflicts of Interest**

Conflicts of interest may arise in the portfolio managers' management of the Portfolios, along with other investment companies within the DFA Fund Complex (herein referred to as "portfolios"). Actual or apparent conflicts of interest may arise when a portfolio manager has the primary day-to-day responsibilities with respect to more than one portfolio and account. Other accounts include registered mutual funds and exchange-traded funds (other than the portfolios), other unregistered pooled investment vehicles, and other accounts managed for organizations and individuals ("Accounts"). An Account may have similar investment objectives to a portfolio, or may purchase, sell or hold securities that are eligible to be purchased, sold or held by a portfolio. Actual or apparent conflicts of interest include:

- <u>Time Management</u>. The management of multiple portfolios and/or Accounts may result in a portfolio manager devoting unequal time and attention to the management of each portfolio and/or Account. The Advisor seeks to manage such competing interests for the time and attention of portfolio managers by having portfolio managers focus on a particular investment discipline. Most Accounts managed by a portfolio manager are managed using the same investment approaches that are used in connection with the management of the portfolios.
- <u>Investment Opportunities</u>. It is possible that at times identical securities will be held by more than one portfolio and/or Account. However, positions in the same security may vary and the length of time that any portfolio or Account may choose to hold its investment in the same security may likewise vary. If a portfolio manager identifies a limited investment opportunity that may be suitable for more than one portfolio or Account, a portfolio may not be able to take full advantage of that opportunity

due to an allocation of filled purchase or sale orders across all eligible portfolios and Accounts. To deal with these situations, the Advisor has adopted procedures for allocating portfolio transactions across multiple portfolios and Accounts.

- Broker Selection. With respect to securities transactions for the portfolios, the Advisor determines which broker to use to execute each order, consistent with its duty to seek best execution of the transaction. However, with respect to certain Accounts (such as separate accounts), the Advisor may be limited by the client with respect to the selection of brokers or may be instructed to direct trades through a particular broker. In these cases, the Advisor or its affiliates may place separate, non-simultaneous, transactions for a portfolio and another Account that may temporarily affect the market price of the security or the execution of the transaction, or both, to the detriment of the portfolio or the Account.
- Performance-Based Fees. For some Accounts, the Advisor may be compensated based on the profitability of the
  Account, such as by a performance-based management fee. These incentive compensation structures may create a
  conflict of interest for the Advisor with regard to Accounts where the Advisor is paid based on a percentage of assets
  because the portfolio manager may have an incentive to allocate securities preferentially to the Accounts where the
  Advisor might share in investment gains.
- <u>Investment in an Account</u>. A portfolio manager or his/her relatives may invest in an Account that he or she manages and a conflict may arise where he or she may therefore have an incentive to treat the Account in which the portfolio manager or his/her relatives invest preferentially as compared to a portfolio or other Accounts for which he or she has portfolio management responsibilities.

The Advisor and the Trust have adopted certain compliance procedures that are reasonably designed to address these types of conflicts. However, there is no guarantee that such procedures will detect each and every situation in which a conflict arises.

#### **Investments in Each Portfolio**

Information relating to each portfolio manager's ownership (including the ownership of his or her immediate family) in the Portfolios contained in this SAI that he or she manages as of October 31, 2023 is set forth in the chart below.

Portfolio	Portfolio Manager(s)	Dollar Range of Portfolio Shares Owned
Dimensional US Core Equity Market ETF	Jed S. Fogdall	None
	Joseph F. Hohn	None
	Joel P. Schneider	None
Dimensional US Core Equity 1 ETF	Jed S. Fogdall	None
	John A. Hertzer	None
	Joseph F. Hohn	None
	Allen Pu	None
Dimensional US High Profitability ETF	Jed S. Fogdall	None
	John A. Hertzer	\$1 - \$10,000
	Joseph F. Hohn	None
	Allen Pu	None
Dimensional US Large Cap Value ETF	Jed S. Fogdall	None
	John A. Hertzer	None
	Joseph F. Hohn	None
	Allen Pu	None

Portfolio	Portfolio Manager(s)	Dollar Range of Portfolio Shares Owned
Dimensional US Small Cap Value ETF	Jed S. Fogdall	None
	Joseph F. Hohn	None
	Joel P. Schneider	None
	Marc C. Leblond	\$10,001 - \$50,000
Dimensional US Large Cap Vector ETF*	Jed S. Fogdall	None
	John A. Hertzer	None
	Joseph F. Hohn	None
	Allen Pu	None
Dimensional US Real Estate ETF	Jed S. Fogdall	None
	John A. Hertzer	None
	Joseph F. Hohn	None
	Allen Pu	None

The Portfolio had not commenced operations of October 31, 2023. Accordingly, the portfolio managers did not own any shares of the Portfolio as of October 31, 2023.

## () CODE OF ETHICS

The Trust, the Advisor has adopted a Code of Ethics, under Rule 17j-1 of the 1940 Act, for certain access persons of the Portfolios. The Code of Ethics is designed to ensure that access persons act in the interest of the Portfolios and their shareholders with respect to any personal trading of securities. Under the Code of Ethics, access persons are generally prohibited from knowingly buying or selling securities (except for mutual funds, U.S. government securities and money market instruments) which are being purchased, sold or considered for purchase or sale by a Portfolio unless their proposed purchases are approved in advance. The Code of Ethics also contains certain reporting requirements and securities trading clearance procedures.

# () SHAREHOLDER RIGHTS

The Trust currently has authorized and allocated to each Portfolio an unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest with no par value. The Trustees of the Trust may, at any time and from time to time, by resolution, authorize the establishment and division of additional shares of the Trust into an unlimited number of series and the division of any series (including the Portfolios) into two or more classes. When issued in accordance with the Trust's registration statement, governing instruments and applicable law (all as may be amended from time to time), all of the Trust's shares are fully paid and non-assessable. Shares do not have preemptive rights.

Each Share issued by a Portfolio has a pro rata interest in the assets of the Portfolio. Each Share has one vote with respect to matters upon which a shareholder vote is required consistent with the requirements of the 1940 Act and the rules promulgated thereunder. However, matters affecting only one particular Portfolio or class can be voted on only by shareholders in such Portfolio or class. The shares of the Trust are not entitled to cumulative voting, meaning that holders of more than 50% of the Trust's shares may elect the entire Board. All shareholders are entitled to receive dividend and/or capital gains when and as declared by the Trustees from time to time and as discussed in the Prospectus.

The Agreement and Declaration of Trust (the "Declaration") provides that by virtue of becoming a shareholder of the Trust, each shareholder shall be held expressly to have agreed to be bound by the provisions of the Declaration. However, shareholders should be aware that they cannot waive their rights under the federal securities laws. The Declaration provides a detailed process for the bringing of derivative actions by shareholders for claims other than federal securities law claims beyond the process otherwise required by law. This derivative actions process is intended to permit legitimate inquiries and claims while avoiding the time, expense, distraction, and other harm that can be caused to a Portfolio or its shareholders as a result of spurious shareholder demands and derivative actions. Prior to bringing a derivative action, a demand by the complaining shareholder must first be made on the Trustees. The Declaration details conditions that must be met with respect to the demand. Following receipt of the

demand, the Trustees must be afforded a reasonable amount of time to investigate and consider the demand. The Trustees will be entitled to retain counsel or other advisors in considering the merits of the request and shall require an undertaking by the shareholders making such request to reimburse the Trust for the expense of any such advisors in the event that the Trustees determine not to bring such action.

The Declaration also requires that actions by shareholders against a Portfolio be brought only in a certain federal court in Texas, or if not permitted to be brought in federal court, then in the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware as required by applicable law, or the Superior Court of Delaware, and that the right to jury trial be waived to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Book Entry Only System. The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the relevant information included in the Prospectus. DTC Acts as securities depository for Shares. Shares of the Portfolios are represented by securities registered in the name of DTC or its nominee and deposited with, or on behalf of, DTC.

DTC, a limited-purpose trust company, was created to hold securities of its participants (the "DTC Participants") and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions among the DTC Participants in such securities through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of the DTC Participants, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. DTC Participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations, some of whom (and/or their representatives) own DTC. More specifically, DTC is owned by a number of its DTC Participants and by the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"), NYSE MKT and FINRA. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a DTC Participant, either directly or indirectly (the "Indirect Participants").

Beneficial ownership of Shares is limited to DTC Participants, Indirect Participants and persons holding interests through DTC Participants and Indirect Participants. Ownership of beneficial interests in Shares (owners of such beneficial interests are referred to herein as "Beneficial Owners") is shown on, and the transfer of ownership is effected only through, records maintained by DTC (with respect to DTC Participants) and on the records of DTC Participants (with respect to Indirect Participants and Beneficial Owners that are not DTC Participants). Beneficial Owners will receive from or through the DTC Participant a written confirmation relating to their purchase and sale of Shares. No Beneficial Owner shall have the right to receive a certificate representing such Shares.

Conveyance of all notices, statements and other communications to Beneficial Owners is effected as follows. Pursuant to the Depositary Agreement between the Trust and DTC, DTC is required to make available to the Trust upon request and for a fee to be charged to the Trust a listing of the Shares of a Portfolio held by each DTC Participant. The Trust shall inquire of each such DTC Participant as to the number of Beneficial Owners holding Shares, directly or indirectly, through such DTC Participant. The Trust shall provide each such DTC Participant with copies of such notice, statement or other communication, in such form, number and at such place as such DTC Participant may reasonably request, in order that such notice, statement or communication may be transmitted by such DTC Participant, directly or indirectly, to such Beneficial Owners. In addition, the Trust shall pay to each such DTC Participant a fair and reasonable amount as reimbursement for the expenses attendant to such transmittal, all subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

Portfolio distributions shall be made to DTC or its nominee, Cede & Co., as the registered holder of all Portfolio Shares. DTC or its nominee, upon receipt of any such distributions, shall immediately credit DTC Participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in Shares of a Portfolio as shown on the records of DTC or its nominee. Payments by DTC Participants to Indirect Participants and Beneficial Owners of Shares held through such DTC Participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in a "street name," and will be the responsibility of such DTC Participants.

The Trust has no responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or notices to Beneficial Owners, or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in such Shares, or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial ownership interests, or for any other aspect of the relationship between DTC and the DTC Participants or the relationship between such DTC Participants and the

Indirect Participants and Beneficial Owners owning through such DTC Participants. DTC may decide to discontinue providing its service with respect to Shares at any time by giving reasonable notice to the Trust and discharging its responsibilities with respect thereto under applicable law. Under such circumstances, the Trust shall take action to find a replacement for DTC to perform its functions at a comparable cost.

# () PRINCIPAL HOLDERS OF SECURITIES

Although the Trust does not have information concerning the beneficial ownership of shares held in the names of the DTC participants, as of January 31, 2024, the following DTC participants owned of record 5% or more of the outstanding shares of the Portfolios, as set forth below:

# DIMENSIONAL US CORE EQUITY MARKET ETF

Charles Schwab & Co, Inc. 66.11 211 Main St. San Francisco, CA 94105-1905

National Financial Services, LLC 17.52 245 Summer St. Boston, MA 02210-1133

# **DIMENSIONAL US CORE EQUITY 1 ETF**

Charles Schwab & Co, Inc.<sup>1</sup> 60.60%

Citibank, National Association 14.98% 5800 S. Corporate Pl.
Sious Falls, SD 57108-5027

National Financial Services, LLC<sup>1</sup> 10.11%

# DIMENSIONAL US HIGH PROFITABILITY ETF

Charles Schwab & Co, Inc. 1 59.03%

National Financial Services, LLC<sup>1</sup> 19.29%

# DIMENSIONAL US LARGE CAP VALUE ETF

Charles Schwab & Co, Inc. 1 61.88%

National Financial Services, LLC<sup>1</sup> 27.15%

## DIMENSIONAL US SMALL CAP VALUE ETF

Charles Schwab & Co, Inc. 1 55.47%

National Financial Services, LLC<sup>1</sup> 19.01%

## DIMENSIONAL US LARGE CAP VECTOR ETF

Charles Schwab & Co, Inc.<sup>1</sup> 93.87%

## DIMENSIONAL US REAL ESTATE ETF

Charles Schwab & Co, Inc. 1 61.63%

National Financial Services, LLC<sup>1</sup>

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To the best knowledge of the Trust, no other DTC participant held of record more than 5% of the outstanding shares of a Portfolio.

Following the creation of the initial Creation Unit(s) of shares of a Portfolio and immediately prior to the commencement of trading in the Portfolio's shares, a holder of shares, including the Advisor, may be a "control person" of the Portfolio, as defined in the 1940 Act. A Portfolio cannot predict the length of time for which one or more shareholders may remain a control person of the Portfolio.

# () CREATION AND REDEMPTION OF CREATION UNITS

#### General

Each Portfolio issues Shares only in Creation Units on a continuous basis through the Distributor or its agent, without a sales load, at its NAV next determined after receipt, on any Business Day (as defined below), of an order received by the Transfer Agent in proper form. A "Business Day" with respect to each Portfolio is any day on which the Exchange on which the Portfolio is listed for trading is open for business. As of the date of this SAI, the Exchanges observe the following holidays: New Year's Day (observed), Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Washington's Birthday, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth National Independence Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. On days when the Exchanges close earlier than normal, the Portfolios may require orders to be placed earlier in the day. Although it is expected that the same holidays will be observed in the future, the Exchanges may modify their holiday schedule or hours of operation at any time.

Each Portfolio effects creations and redemptions only to and from broker-dealers and large institutional investors that have entered into authorized participant agreements, as described further below. Each Portfolio may issue and redeem Creation Units of its Shares in exchange for a designated basket of portfolio investments (including any portion of such investments for which cash may be substituted), together with an amount of cash and any applicable fees, as described below, or Shares may be offered and redeemed partially or solely for cash. For each Portfolio, the Trust reserves the right to permit or require that creations and redemptions of Shares be effected entirely in cash, in-kind or a combination thereof.

To the extent the Portfolios engage in in-kind transactions, the Portfolios intend to comply with the U.S. federal securities laws in accepting securities for deposit and satisfying redemptions with redemption securities by, among other means, assuring that any securities accepted for deposit and any securities used to satisfy redemption requests will be sold in transactions that would be exempt from registration under the 1933 Act. Further, an Authorized Participant (as defined below under "Procedures for Creation of Creation Units") that is not a "qualified institutional buyer," as such term is defined under Rule 144A of the 1933 Act, will not be able to receive securities that are restricted securities eligible for resale under Rule 144A.

The Portfolios may utilize custom creation or redemption baskets consistent with Rule 6c-11. Custom orders may be required to be received by the Transfer Agent by 3:00 p.m., Eastern Time, to be effectuated based on the Portfolio's NAV on that Business Day. A custom order may be placed when, for example, an Authorized Participant cannot transact in an instrument in the in-kind creation or redemption basket and therefore has additional cash included in lieu of such instrument. The Trust has adopted policies and procedures that govern the construction and acceptance of baskets, including heightened requirements for certain types of custom baskets. These policies and procedures provide detailed parameters for the construction and acceptance of custom baskets that are in the best interests of a Portfolio and its shareholders, including the process for any revisions to, or deviations from, those

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See address for shareholder previously noted above in list.

parameters, and specify the titles or roles of the employees of the Advisor who are required to review each custom basket for compliance with the parameters.

Persons placing or effectuating custom orders should be mindful of time deadlines imposed by intermediaries, which may impact the successful processing of such orders.

## **Creations**

Deposit of Investments/Delivery of Cash. The consideration for purchase of Creation Units of a Portfolio may consist of the in-kind deposit of a designated portfolio of investments (including cash in lieu of any portion of such investments) determined by the Portfolio ("Deposit Securities") and generally a specified amount of cash (the "Cash Component"), computed as described below, together with applicable creation transaction fees (as described below). Together, the Deposit Securities and the Cash Component constitute the "Fund Deposit," applicable to creation requests received in proper form, subject to amendment or correction as described below.

The Cash Component, also commonly referred to as the balancing amount, is an amount equal to the difference between (i) the NAV of Portfolio Shares (per Creation Unit); and (ii) the "Deposit Amount," which is the amount equal to the market value of the Deposit Securities and/or cash in lieu of all or a portion of the Deposit Securities. The Cash Component serves the function of compensating for any differences between the NAV per Creation Unit and the Deposit Amount. If the Cash Component is a positive number (i.e., the NAV per Creation Unit exceeds the Deposit Amount), the Authorized Participant will deliver the Cash Component. If the Cash Component is a negative number (i.e., the NAV per Creation Unit is less than the Deposit Amount), the Authorized Participant will receive the Cash Component. Payment of any tax, stamp duty or other similar fees and expenses payable upon transfer of beneficial ownership of the Deposit Securities are the sole responsibility of the Authorized Participant purchasing the Creation Unit.

Creation Units may also be sold partially or solely for cash. When partial or full cash purchases of Creation Units are available or specified for a Portfolio, such purchases will be effected in essentially the same manner as in-kind purchases of Creation Units. In the case of a partial or full cash purchase, the Authorized Participant must pay the cash equivalent of the Deposit Securities it would have otherwise delivered in an in-kind purchase, in addition to the same Cash Component required to be paid by an in-kind purchaser. In addition, to offset brokerage and other costs associated with using cash to purchase the requisite Deposit Securities, the Authorized Participant must pay the Transaction Fees required by each Portfolio. If the Authorized Participant acts as a broker for the Portfolio in connection with the purchase of Deposit Securities, the Authorized Participant will also be required to pay certain brokerage commissions, taxes, and transaction and market impact costs.

The Custodian, through the National Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC"), makes available on each Business Day, prior to the opening of business on the Exchange (currently 9:30 a.m., Eastern Time), the list of the names and the required quantities of each Deposit Security and the amount of the Cash Component to be included in the current Fund Deposit (based on information at the end of the previous Business Day and subject to possible amendment or correction) for the Portfolios.

The Portfolios reserve the right to accept a nonconforming (i.e., custom) Fund Deposit. In addition, the composition of the Fund Deposit may change as, among other things, corporate actions, investment rebalancing, and investment decisions by the Advisor are implemented for a Portfolio. The composition of the Fund Deposit may also change in response to adjustments to the weighting or composition of the component securities constituting a Portfolio's investment portfolio. All questions as to the composition of the in-kind creation basket to be included in the Fund Deposit and the validity, form, eligibility, and acceptance for deposit of any instrument shall be determined by the Trust, and the Trust's determination shall be final and binding.

Procedures for Creation of Creation Units. To be eligible to place orders with the Distributor to create a Creation Unit of a Portfolio, an entity must be (i) a "Participating Party," i.e., a broker-dealer or other participant in the clearing process through the Continuous Net Settlement System of the NSCC (the "Clearing Process"); or (ii) a DTC Participant (see "Book Entry Only System"), and, in each case, must have executed an authorized participant agreement with the Distributor with respect to creations and redemptions of Creation Units ("Participant Agreement") (discussed further below). A Participating Party and DTC Participant are collectively referred to as

"Authorized Participants." Investors should contact the Distributor for a list of current Authorized Participants. All Shares of the Portfolios, however created, will be entered on the records of DTC in the name of Cede & Co. for the account of a DTC Participant.

Placement of Creation Orders. All orders to create Creation Units must be placed for one or more Creation Unit sized aggregations of a specified number of Shares. All standard orders to create Creation Units, whether through the Clearing Process (through a Participating Party) or outside the Clearing Process (through a DTC Participant), must be received by the Transfer Agent no later than the order cut-off time designated by the Trust ("Closing Time") on the date such order is placed in order for the creation of Creation Units to be effected based on the NAV of Shares of the Portfolio as next determined on such date after receipt of the order in proper form. With certain exceptions, the Closing Time for a Portfolio usually is the closing time of the regular trading session on the Exchange—i.e., ordinarily 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time. Subject to the provisions of the applicable Participant Agreement, in the case of custom orders, the order must generally be received by the Transfer Agent no later than 3:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on the date such order is placed. The date on which an order to create Creation Units (or an order to redeem Creation Units as discussed below) is placed is referred to as the "Transmittal Date." Orders must be transmitted by an Authorized Participant by telephone or other transmission method acceptable to the Distributor and the Transfer Agent as described below in this SAI and pursuant to procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement. Severe economic or market disruptions or changes, or telephone or other communication systems failure, may impede the ability to reach the Distributor, Transfer Agent or Authorized Participant.

Investors other than Authorized Participants are responsible for making arrangements for a creation request to be made through an Authorized Participant. Orders to create Creation Units of a Portfolio shall be placed with an Authorized Participant, as applicable, in the form required by such Authorized Participant. The Authorized Participant must make available on or before the prescribed settlement date, by means satisfactory to a Portfolio, immediately available or same day funds estimated by the Portfolio to be sufficient to pay the Cash Component next determined after acceptance of the purchase order, together with the applicable purchase transaction fees. Those placing orders should ascertain the applicable deadline for cash transfers by contacting the operations department of the broker or depositary institution effectuating the transfer of the Cash Component. In addition, the Authorized Participant may request the investor to make certain representations or enter into agreements with respect to the order, *i.e.*, to provide for payments of cash, when required. Investors should be aware that their particular broker may not have executed a Participant Agreement and, therefore, orders to create Creation Units of a Portfolio have to be placed by the investor's broker through an Authorized Participant that has executed a Participant Agreement. At any given time there may be only a limited number of broker-dealers that have executed a Participant Agreement. Those placing orders for Creation Units through the Clearing Process should afford sufficient time to permit proper submission of the order to the Transfer Agent prior to the Closing Time on the Transmittal Date.

Orders for creation that are effected outside the Clearing Process are likely to require transmittal by the DTC Participant earlier on the Transmittal Date than orders effected using the Clearing Process. Those persons placing orders outside the Clearing Process should ascertain the deadlines applicable to DTC and the Federal Reserve Bank wire system by contacting the broker or depository institution effecting such transfer of the Fund Deposit.

An order to create Creation Units is deemed received on the Transmittal Date if (i) such order is received by the Transfer Agent not later than the Closing Time on such Transmittal Date and (ii) all other procedures with respect to creation orders are properly followed. The delivery of Creation Units so created will generally occur no later than the second Business Day following the day on which the purchase order is deemed received by the Transfer Agent ("T+2"). However, the Trust reserves the right to settle Creation Unit transactions on a basis other than T+2 if necessary or appropriate under the circumstances.

If the Cash Component and the Deposit Securities are not received by the applicable deadline specified by the Transfer Agent on the Settlement Date, the creation order may be canceled. Upon written notice to the Transfer Agent, such cancelled order may be resubmitted the following Business Day using a newly constituted Fund Deposit as specified by the Portfolio.

Acceptance of Orders for Creation Units. Subject to the conditions that (i) an irrevocable purchase order has been submitted by the Authorized Participant (either on its own or another investor's behalf) and (ii)

arrangements satisfactory to a Portfolio are in place for payment of the Cash Component and any other cash amounts which may be due, the Portfolio will accept the order, subject to the Portfolio's right (and the right of the Distributor and the Transfer Agent) to reject any order until acceptance, as set forth below.

Once an order has been accepted, upon the next determination of the NAV of a Portfolio's Shares, the Portfolio will confirm the issuance of a Creation Unit, against receipt of payment, at such NAV. The Transfer Agent will then transmit a confirmation of acceptance to the Authorized Participant that placed the order.

A Portfolio reserves the right (to the extent consistent with the provisions of Rule 6c-11 under the 1940 Act and the SEC's positions thereunder) to reject or revoke a creation order for any reason, including if: (a) the order is not in proper form; (b) the Deposit Securities delivered do not conform to the identity and number of shares specified, as described above; (c) the investor(s), upon obtaining the Shares ordered, would own 80% or more of the currently outstanding Shares of the Portfolio; (d) the acceptance of the Fund Deposit would, in the opinion of counsel, be unlawful; or (e) in the event that circumstances outside the control of the Portfolio, the Distributor, the Transfer Agent or the Advisor make it for all practical purposes impossible to process creation orders. Examples of such circumstances include acts of God or public service or utility problems such as fires, floods, extreme weather conditions and power outages resulting in telephone, telecopy and computer failures; market conditions or activities causing trading halts; systems failures involving computer or other information systems affecting the Portfolio, Advisor, the Distributor, Transfer Agent, DTC, NSCC or any other participant in the creation process, and similar extraordinary events. The Transfer Agent shall notify a prospective creator of a Creation Unit and/or the Authorized Participant acting on behalf of the creator of a Creation Unit of the rejection of the order of such person. The Portfolios, Custodian, sub-custodian, the Distributor and the Transfer Agent are under no duty, however, to give notification of any defects or irregularities in the delivery of Fund Deposits nor shall any of them incur any liability for failure to give such notification.

Issuance of Creation Units. Except as provided herein, a Creation Unit will not be issued until the transfer of good title to the applicable Portfolio of the Deposit Securities and the payment of the Cash Component and applicable creation transaction fees have been completed. When the Custodian or applicable sub-custodian has confirmed that the securities included in the Fund Deposit (or the cash value thereof) have been delivered to the account of the Custodian or relevant sub-custodian(s), the Transfer Agent and the Advisor shall be notified of such delivery and the applicable Portfolio will issue and cause the delivery of the Creation Unit.

A Portfolio may issue Creation Units to such Authorized Participant, notwithstanding the fact that the corresponding Fund Deposits have not been received in part or in whole, in reliance on the undertaking of the Authorized Participant to deliver the missing Deposit Securities as soon as possible, which undertaking shall be secured by such Authorized Participant's delivery and maintenance of collateral having a value at least equal to 105%, and up to 115%, of the value of the missing Deposit Securities, which percentage the Advisor may change at any time, in its sole discretion, of the value of the missing Deposit Securities. The Trust may use such cash deposit at any time to buy Deposit Securities for the Portfolio. The only collateral that is acceptable to a Portfolio is cash in U.S. dollars. Such cash collateral generally must be delivered no later than 2 p.m., Eastern Time, on the next Business Day after the Transmittal Date or such other time as designated by the Custodian. The Portfolio may buy the missing Deposit Securities at any time, and the Authorized Participant will be subject to liability for any shortfall between the cost to the Portfolio of purchasing such securities and the value of the cash collateral including, without limitation, liability for related brokerage, borrowings and other charges.

In certain cases, Authorized Participants may create and redeem Creation Units on the same trade date and in these instances, a Portfolio reserves the right to settle these transactions on a net basis or require a representation from the Authorized Participants that the creation and redemption transactions are for separate beneficial owners. All questions as to the number of shares of each security in the Deposit Securities and the validity, form, eligibility and acceptance for deposit of any securities to be delivered shall be determined by the Portfolio and the Portfolio's determination shall be final and binding.

Creation Transaction Fee. A standard creation transaction fee is imposed to offset the transfer and other transaction costs associated with the issuance of Creation Units. The standard creation transaction fee is charged to the Authorized Participant on the day such Authorized Participant creates a Creation Unit, and is the same, regardless of the number of Creation Units purchased by the Authorized Participant on the applicable Business Day.

From time to time and for such periods as the Advisor may deem appropriate, the Advisor may increase, decrease or otherwise modify the creation transaction fee to an amount that, in its judgment, is necessary or appropriate to recoup for a Portfolio the costs it may incur as a result of such purchases, or to otherwise eliminate or reduce so far as practicable any dilution of the value of the Shares. The Authorized Participant may also be required to cover certain brokerage, tax, foreign exchange, execution, market impact and other costs and expenses related to the execution of trades resulting from such transaction (up to the maximum amount shown below). Authorized Participants will also bear the costs of transferring the Deposit Securities to a Portfolio. Investors who use the services of a broker or other financial intermediary to acquire Portfolio shares may be charged a fee for such services.

The following table sets forth each Portfolio's standard creation transaction fees and maximum additional charge (as described above):

Portfolio	Standard Creation Transaction Fee	Maximum Additional Charge for Creations*		
Dimensional US Core Equity Market ETF	\$800	3%		
Dimensional US Equity 1 ETF	\$800	3%		
Dimensional US High Profitability ETF	\$100	3%		
Dimensional US Large Cap Vector ETF	\$150	3%		
Dimensional US Large Cap Value ETF	\$100	3%		
Dimensional US Small Cap Value ETF	\$400	3%		
Dimensional US Real Estate ETF	\$100	3%		

<sup>\*</sup> As a percentage of the NAV per Creation Unit.

If a purchase consists of a cash portion and the Portfolio places a brokerage transaction to purchase portfolio securities with the Authorized Participant or its affiliated broker-dealer, the Authorized Participant (or its affiliated broker-dealer) may be required, in its capacity as broker-dealer with respect to that transaction, to cover certain brokerage, tax, foreign exchange, execution, and price movement costs through a Price Guarantee, as described in the Brokerage Transactions section of this SAI.

# Redemptions

Redemption of Creation Units. Shares may be redeemed only in Creation Units at their NAV next determined after receipt of a redemption request in proper form by the Transfer Agent and only on a Business Day. The Portfolios will not redeem Shares in amounts less than Creation Units. Beneficial owners must accumulate enough Shares in the secondary market to constitute a Creation Unit in order to have such Shares redeemed by a Portfolio. There can be no assurance, however, that there will be sufficient liquidity in the public trading market at any time to permit assembly of a Creation Unit. Investors should expect to incur brokerage and other costs in connection with assembling a sufficient number of Portfolio Shares to constitute a redeemable Creation Unit.

When in-kind redemptions are available or specified for a Portfolio, the redemption proceeds for a Creation Unit generally consist of a designated portfolio of investments including cash in lieu of all or a portion of such investments ("Fund Instruments") plus or minus the Cash Component, as next determined after a receipt of a request in proper form, together with the applicable redemption transaction fees (as described below) and, if applicable, any operational processing and brokerage costs, transfer fees or stamp taxes. The Fund Instruments together with the Cash Component comprise the "Fund Redemption." The Cash Component, also commonly referred to as the balancing amount, included in the Fund Redemption is a compensating cash payment equal to the difference, if any, between (i) the NAV attributable to a Creation Unit and (ii) the aggregate market value of the Fund Instruments (i.e., securities or other instruments in the in-kind redemption basket) and/or the cash in-lieu of all or a portion of the Fund Instruments. In the event that the Fund Instruments and the cash in lieu have a value greater than the NAV of the Portfolio Shares, the Cash Component is required to be paid by the redeeming shareholder. If the NAV attributable to a Creation Unit exceeds the market value of the Fund Instruments and the cash in-lieu amount, if any, the Portfolio pays the Cash Component to the redeeming shareholder.

Creation Units may also be redeemed partially or solely for cash. A Portfolio may pay out the proceeds of redemptions of Creation Unit solely in cash or through any combination of cash or securities. In addition, an investor may request a redemption in cash that the Portfolio may, in its sole discretion, permit. In either case, the investor will receive a cash payment equal to the NAV of its Shares based on the NAV of Shares of the Portfolio next determined after the redemption request is received in proper form (minus applicable redemption transaction fees and an additional charge for requested cash redemptions specified below, to offset the brokerage and other transaction costs associated with the disposition of Fund Instruments). Proceeds will be paid to the Authorized Participant redeeming Shares on behalf of the redeeming investor as soon as practicable after the date of redemption. If the Authorized Participant acts as a broker for the Portfolio in connection with the sale of Fund Instruments, the Authorized Participant will also be required to pay certain brokerage commissions, taxes, and transaction and market impact costs.

The Custodian, through the NSCC, makes available prior to the opening of business on the Exchange (currently 9:30 a.m., Eastern Time) on each Business Day, the identity of the Fund Instruments and Cash Component that will be applicable (based on information at the end of the previous Business Day and subject to possible amendment or correction) to redemption requests received in proper form on that day. Fund Instruments received on redemption may not be identical to Deposit Securities that are applicable to creations of Creation Units.

The Portfolios reserve the right to deliver a nonconforming (i.e., custom) Fund Redemption. All questions as to the composition of the in-kind redemption basket to be included in the Fund Redemption shall be determined by the Trust, in accordance with applicable law, and the Trust's determination shall be final and binding. The Portfolios reserve the right to make redemption payments in cash, in-kind or a combination of each.

Deliveries of Fund Redemptions will generally be made within two Business Days ("T+2"). However, the Portfolios reserve the right to settle redemption transactions on a basis other than T+2 if necessary or appropriate under the circumstances and consistent with applicable law. Delayed settlement may occur due to a number of different reasons, including, without limitation, settlement cycles for the underlying securities, unscheduled market closings, an effort to link distribution to dividend record dates and ex-dates and newly announced holidays.

Because the portfolio securities of a Portfolio may trade on exchange(s) on days that the Exchange is closed or are otherwise not Business Days for the Portfolio, investors may not be able purchase or sell shares of the Portfolio on the Exchange on days when the NAV of the Portfolio could be significantly affected by events in the relevant non-U.S. markets. The right of redemption may be suspended or the date of payment postponed (i) for any period during which the Exchange is closed (other than customary weekend and holiday closings); (ii) for any period during which trading on the Exchange is suspended or restricted; (iii) for any period during which an emergency exists as a result of which disposal of the Shares of a Portfolio or determination of a Portfolio's NAV is not reasonably practicable; or (iv) in such other circumstances as is permitted by the SEC.

If an Authorized Participant has submitted a redemption request in proper form but is unable to transfer all or part of the Creation Unit to be redeemed to a Portfolio, at or prior to 2 p.m., Eastern Time on the prescribed settlement date, the Transfer Agent may accept the redemption request in reliance on the undertaking by the Authorized Participant to deliver the missing Shares as soon as possible. Such undertaking shall be secured by the Authorized Participant's delivery and maintenance of collateral consisting of cash, in U.S. dollars in immediately available funds, having a value at least equal to 105%, and up to 115%, of the value of the missing Shares, which percentage the Trust may change at any time, in its sole discretion, of the value of the missing Shares. Such cash collateral must be delivered no later than 2 p.m., Eastern Time, on the prescribed settlement date and shall be held by the Custodian and marked-to-market daily. The fees of the Custodian and any sub-custodians in respect of the delivery, maintenance and redelivery of the cash collateral shall be payable by the Authorized Participant. The Portfolio may purchase missing Portfolio Shares or acquire the Fund Instruments and the Cash Component underlying such Shares, and the Authorized Participant will be subject to liability for any shortfall between the cost of the Portfolio acquiring such Shares, the Fund Instruments or Cash Component and the value of the cash collateral including, without limitation, liability for related brokerage and other charges.

Placement of Redemption Orders. Investors other than Authorized Participants are responsible for making arrangements for an order to redeem to be made through an Authorized Participant. An order to redeem Creation Units is deemed received by the Trust on the Transmittal Date if: (i) such order is received by the Transfer Agent not

later than the Closing Time on the Transmittal Date; and (ii) all other procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement and this Statement of Additional Information are properly followed. If the Transfer Agent does not receive the Shares through DTC by 2 p.m., Eastern Time, on the prescribed settlement date, the redemption request may be deemed rejected. Investors should be aware that the deadline for the transfers of shares through the DTC may be significantly earlier than the close of business on the Exchange.

An order to redeem Creation Units made in proper form but received by the Trust after the Closing Time, will be deemed received on the next Business Day immediately following the Transmittal Date and will be effected at the NAV next determined on such next Business Day. On days when the Exchange closes earlier than normal, orders to redeem Creation Units may need to be placed earlier in the day.

Redemption Transaction Fee. A standard redemption transaction fee is imposed to offset transfer and other transaction costs that may be incurred by a Portfolio. The standard redemption transaction fee is charged to the Authorized Participant on the day such Authorized Participant redeems a Creation Unit, and is the same regardless of the number of Creation Units redeemed by an Authorized Participant on the applicable Business Day. From time to time and for such periods as the Advisor may deem appropriate, the Advisor may increase, decrease or otherwise modify the redemption transaction fee to an amount that, in its judgment, is necessary or appropriate to recoup for the Portfolio the costs it may incur as a result of such redemption, or to otherwise eliminate or reduce so far as practicable any dilution of the value of the Shares. The Authorized Participant may also be required to cover certain brokerage, tax, foreign exchange, execution, market impact and other costs and expenses related to the execution of trades resulting from such transaction (up to the maximum amount shown below). Authorized Participants will also bear the costs of transferring the Fund Instruments from a Portfolio to their account on their order. Investors who use the services of a broker or other financial intermediary to dispose of Portfolio shares may be charged a fee for such services.

The following table sets forth each Portfolio's standard redemption transaction fees and maximum additional charge (as described above):

Portfolio	Standard Redemption Transaction Fee	Maximum Additional Charge for Redemptions*		
Dimensional US Core Equity Market ETF	\$800	2%		
Dimensional US Core Equity 1 ETF	\$800	2%		
Dimensional US High Profitability ETF	\$100	2%		
Dimensional US Large Cap Value ETF	\$100	2%		
Dimensional US Small Cap Value ETF	\$400	2%		
Dimensional US Large Cap Vector ETF	\$150	2%		
Dimensional US Real Estate ETF	\$100	2%		

<sup>\*</sup> As a percentage of the NAV per Creation Unit, inclusive of the standard redemption transaction fee.

If a redemption consists of a cash portion and a Portfolio places a brokerage transaction to sell portfolio securities with the Authorized Participant or its affiliated broker-dealer, the Authorized Participant (or its affiliated broker-dealer) may be required, in its capacity as broker-dealer with respect to that transaction, to cover certain brokerage, tax, foreign exchange, execution, and price movement costs through a Price Guarantee, as described in the Brokerage Transactions section of this SAI.

# () TAXATION OF THE PORTFOLIOS AND THEIR SHAREHOLDERS

The following is a summary of some of the federal income tax consequences of investing in a Portfolio (sometimes referred to "the Portfolio"). Unless you are invested in the Portfolio through a qualified retirement plan, you should consider the tax implications of investing and consult your own tax advisor. No attempt is made to present a detailed explanation of the tax treatment of the Portfolio or its shareholders, and the discussion here and in the Prospectus is not intended as a substitute for careful tax planning.

This "TAXATION OF THE PORTFOLIOS AND THEIR SHAREHOLDERS" section is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and applicable regulations in effect on the date of this

SAI. Future legislative, regulatory or administrative changes, including provisions of current law that sunset and thereafter no longer apply, or court decisions may significantly change the tax rules applicable to the Portfolio and its shareholders. Any of these changes or court decisions may have a retroactive effect.

This is for general information only and not tax advice and does not purport to deal with all federal tax consequences applicable to all categories of investors, some of which may be subject to special rules. You should consult your own tax advisor regarding your particular circumstances before making an investment in the Portfolio.

## **Taxation of the Portfolio**

The Portfolio has elected and intends to qualify (or, if newly organized, intends to elect and qualify) each year as a regulated investment company (sometimes referred to as a "regulated investment company," "RIC" or "portfolio") under Subchapter M of the Code. If the Portfolio qualifies, the Portfolio will not be subject to federal income tax on the portion of its investment company taxable income (that is, generally, taxable interest, dividends, net short-term capital gains, and other taxable ordinary income, net of expenses, without regard to the deduction for dividends paid) and net capital gain (that is, the excess of net long-term capital gains over net short-term capital losses) that it distributes.

*Qualification as a regulated investment company.* In order to qualify for treatment as a regulated investment company, the Portfolio must satisfy the following requirements:

- Distribution Requirement the Portfolio must distribute an amount equal to the sum of at least 90% of its investment company taxable income and 90% of its net tax-exempt income, if any, for the tax year (including, for purposes of satisfying this distribution requirement, certain distributions made by the Portfolio after the close of its taxable year that are treated as made during such taxable year).
- Income Requirement the Portfolio must derive at least 90% of its gross income from dividends, interest, certain payments with respect to securities loans, and gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities or foreign currencies, or other income (including, but not limited to, gains from options, futures or forward contracts) derived from its business of investing in such stock, securities or currencies and net income derived from qualified publicly traded partnerships ("QPTPs").
- Asset Diversification Test the Portfolio must satisfy the following asset diversification test at the close of each quarter of the Portfolio's tax year: (1) at least 50% of the value of the Portfolio's assets must consist of cash and cash items, U.S. Government securities, securities of other regulated investment companies, and securities of other issuers (as to which the Portfolio has not invested more than 5% of the value of the Portfolio's total assets in securities of an issuer and as to which the Portfolio does not hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of the issuer); and (2) no more than 25% of the value of the Portfolio's total assets may be invested in the securities of any one issuer (other than U.S. Government securities or securities of other regulated investment companies) or of two or more issuers which the Portfolio controls and which are engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses, or, collectively, in the securities of one or more QPTPs.

In some circumstances, the character and timing of income realized by the Portfolio for purposes of the Income Requirement or the identification of the issuer for purposes of the Asset Diversification Test is uncertain under current law with respect to a particular investment, and an adverse determination or future guidance by the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") with respect to such type of investment may adversely affect the Portfolio's ability to satisfy these requirements. See "**Tax Treatment of Portfolio Transactions**" below with respect to the application of these requirements to certain types of investments. In other circumstances, the Portfolio may be required to sell portfolio holdings in order to meet the Income Requirement, Distribution Requirement, or Asset Diversification Test which may have a negative impact on the Portfolio's income and performance.

The Portfolio may use "equalization accounting" (in lieu of making some cash distributions) in determining the portion of its income and gains that has been distributed. If the Portfolio uses equalization accounting, it will allocate a portion of its undistributed investment company taxable income and net capital gain to redemptions of Portfolio shares and will correspondingly reduce the amount of such income and gains that it distributes in cash. If

the IRS determines that the Portfolio's allocation is improper and that the Portfolio has under-distributed its income and gain for any taxable year, the Portfolio may be liable for federal income and/or excise tax. If, as a result of such adjustment, the Portfolio fails to satisfy the Distribution Requirement, the Portfolio will not qualify that year as a regulated investment company, the effect of which is described in the following paragraph.

If for any taxable year the Portfolio does not qualify as a regulated investment company, all of its taxable income (including its net capital gain) would be subject to tax at the corporate income tax rate without any deduction for dividends paid, and the dividends would be taxable to the shareholders as ordinary income (or possibly as qualified dividend income) to the extent of the Portfolio's current and accumulated earnings and profits. Failure to qualify as a regulated investment company would thus have a negative impact on the Portfolio's income and performance. Subject to savings provisions for certain inadvertent failures to satisfy the Income Requirement or Asset Diversification Test which, in general, are limited to those due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, it is possible that the Portfolio will not qualify as a regulated investment company in any given tax year. Even if such savings provisions apply, the Portfolio may be subject to a monetary sanction of \$50,000 or more. Moreover, the Board reserves the right not to maintain the qualification of the Portfolio as a regulated investment company if it determines such a course of action to be beneficial to shareholders.

Portfolio turnover. For investors that hold their Portfolio shares in a taxable account, a high portfolio turnover rate may result in higher taxes. This is because a portfolio with a high turnover rate is likely to accelerate the recognition of capital gains and more of such gains are likely to be taxable as short-term rather than long-term capital gains in contrast to a comparable portfolio with a low turnover rate. Any such higher taxes would reduce the Portfolio's after-tax performance. See "Taxation of Portfolio Distributions – Distributions of capital gains" below. For non-U.S. investors, any such acceleration of the recognition of capital gains that results in more short-term and less long-term capital gains being recognized by the Portfolio may cause such investors to be subject to increased U.S. withholding taxes. See "Non-U.S. Investors – Capital gain dividends and short-term capital gain dividends" below.

Capital loss carryovers. The capital losses of the Portfolio, if any, do not flow through to shareholders. Rather, the Portfolio may use its capital losses, subject to applicable limitations, to offset its capital gains without being required to pay taxes on or distribute such gains that are offset by the losses. If the Portfolio has a "net capital loss" (that is, capital losses in excess of capital gains), the excess (if any) of the Portfolio's net short-term capital losses over its net long-term capital gains is treated as a short-term capital loss arising on the first day of the Portfolio's next taxable year, and the excess (if any) of the Portfolio's next longterm capital losses over its net short-term capital gains is treated as a long-term capital loss arising on the first day of the Portfolio's next taxable year. Any such net capital losses of the Portfolio that are not used to offset capital gains may be carried forward indefinitely to reduce any future capital gains realized by the Portfolio in succeeding taxable years. The amount of capital losses that can be carried forward and used in any single year is subject to an annual limitation if there is a more than 50% "change in ownership" of the Portfolio. An ownership change generally results when shareholders owning 5% or more of the Portfolio increase their aggregate holdings by more than 50% over a three-year look-back period. An ownership change could result in capital loss carryovers being used at a slower rate, thereby reducing the Portfolio's ability to offset capital gains with those losses. An increase in the amount of taxable gains distributed to the Portfolio's shareholders could result from an ownership change. The Portfolio undertakes no obligation to avoid or prevent an ownership change, which can occur in the normal course of shareholder purchases and sales or as a result of engaging in a tax-free reorganization with another portfolio. Moreover, because of circumstances beyond the Portfolio's control, there can be no assurance that the Portfolio will not experience, or has not already experienced, an ownership change.

Deferral of late year losses. The Portfolio may elect to treat part or all of any "qualified late year loss" as if it had been incurred in the succeeding taxable year in determining the Portfolio's taxable income, net capital gain, net short-term capital gain, and earnings and profits. The effect of this election is to treat any such "qualified late year loss" as if it had been incurred in the succeeding taxable year in characterizing Portfolio distributions for any calendar year (see "Taxation of Portfolio Distributions – Distributions of capital gains" below). A "qualified late year loss" includes:

- any net capital loss incurred after October 31 of the current taxable year, or, if there is no such loss, any net long-term
  capital loss or any net short-term capital loss incurred after October 31 of the current taxable year ("post-October
  capital losses"), and
- the sum of (1) the excess, if any, of (a) specified losses incurred after October 31 of the current taxable year, over (b) specified gains incurred after October 31 of the current taxable year and (2) the excess, if any, of (a) ordinary losses incurred after December 31 of the current taxable year, over (b) the ordinary income incurred after December 31 of the current taxable year.

The terms "specified losses" and "specified gains" mean ordinary losses and gains from the sale, exchange, or other disposition of property (including the termination of a position with respect to such property), foreign currency losses and gains, and losses and gains resulting from holding stock in a passive foreign investment company ("PFIC") for which a mark-to-market election is in effect. The terms "ordinary losses" and "ordinary income" mean other ordinary losses and income that are not described in the preceding sentence. Since the Portfolio has a fiscal year ending in October, the amount of qualified late-year losses (if any) is computed without regard to any items of income, gain, or loss that are (a) post-October capital losses, (b) specified losses, and (c) specified gains.

Undistributed capital gains. The Portfolio may retain or distribute its net capital gain for each taxable year. The Portfolio currently intends to distribute net capital gains. If the Portfolio elects to retain its net capital gain, the Portfolio will be taxed thereon (except to the extent of any available capital loss carryovers) at the corporate income tax rate. If the Portfolio elects to retain its net capital gain, it is expected that the Portfolio also will elect to have shareholders treated as if each received a distribution of its pro rata share of such gain, with the result that each shareholder will be required to report its pro rata share of such gain on its tax return as long-term capital gain, will receive a refundable tax credit for its pro rata share of tax paid by the Portfolio on the gain, and will increase the tax basis for its shares by an amount equal to the deemed distribution less the tax credit.

Excise tax distribution requirements. To avoid a 4% nondeductible federal excise tax, the Portfolio must distribute by December 31 of each year an amount equal to at least: (1) 98% of its ordinary income for the calendar year, (2) 98.2% of capital gain net income (that is, the excess of the gains from sales or exchanges of capital assets over the losses from such sales or exchanges) for the one-year period ended on October 31 of such calendar year, and (3) any prior year undistributed ordinary income and capital gain net income. The Portfolio may elect to defer to the following year any net ordinary loss incurred for the portion of the calendar year which is after the beginning of the Portfolio's taxable year. Also, the Portfolio will defer any "specified gain" or "specified loss" which would be properly taken into account for the portion of the calendar year after October 31. Any net ordinary loss, specified gain, or specified loss deferred shall be treated as arising on January 1 of the following calendar year. Generally, the Portfolio intends to make sufficient distributions prior to the end of each calendar year to avoid any material liability for federal income and excise tax, but can give no assurances that all or a portion of such liability will be avoided. In addition, under certain circumstances, temporary timing or permanent differences in the realization of income and expense for book and tax purposes can result in the Portfolio having to pay an excise tax.

Foreign income tax. Investment income received by the Portfolio from sources within foreign countries may be subject to foreign income tax withheld at the source and the amount of tax withheld generally will be treated as an expense of the Portfolio. Any foreign withholding taxes could reduce the Portfolio's distributions. The United States has entered into tax treaties with many foreign countries which entitle the Portfolio to a reduced rate of, or exemption from, tax on such income. Some countries require the filing of a tax reclaim or other forms to receive the benefit of the reduced tax rate; whether or when the Portfolio will receive the tax reclaim is within the control of the individual country. Information required on these forms may not be available such as shareholder information; therefore, the Portfolio may not receive the reduced treaty rates or potential reclaims. Other countries have conflicting and changing instructions and restrictive timing requirements which may cause the Portfolio not to receive the reduced treaty rates or potential reclaims. Other countries may subject capital gains realized by the Portfolio on sale or disposition of securities of that country to taxation. It is impossible to determine the effective rate of foreign tax in advance since the amount of the Portfolio's assets to be invested in various countries is not known. Under certain circumstances, the Portfolio may elect to pass-through foreign tax credits, although it reserves the right not to do so. In some instances it may be more costly to pursue tax reclaims than the value of the benefits received by the Portfolio. If the Portfolio makes such an election and obtains a refund of foreign taxes paid by the

Portfolio in a prior year, the Portfolio may be eligible to reduce the amount of foreign taxes reported by the Portfolio to its shareholders, generally by the amount of the foreign taxes refunded, for the year in which the refund is received. See "**Taxation of Portfolio Distributions** – *Pass-through of foreign tax credits*" below.

Purchase of shares. As a result of tax requirements, the Trust on behalf of the Portfolio has the right to reject an order to purchase shares if the purchaser (or group of purchasers acting in concert with each other) would, upon obtaining the shares so ordered, own 80% or more of the outstanding shares of the Portfolio and if, pursuant to Sections 351 and 362 of the Code, the Portfolio would have a basis in the deposit securities different from the market value of such securities on the date of deposit. The Trust also has the right to require information necessary to determine beneficial share ownership for purposes of the 80% determination.

#### **Taxation of Portfolio Distributions**

Distributions of net investment income. The Portfolio receives ordinary income generally in the form of dividends and/or interest on its investments. The Portfolio may also recognize ordinary income from other sources, including, but not limited to, certain gains on foreign currency-related transactions. This income, less expenses incurred in the operation of the Portfolio, constitutes the Portfolio's net investment income from which dividends may be paid. If you are a taxable investor, distributions of net investment income generally are taxable as ordinary income to the extent of the Portfolio's earnings and profits. In the case of a Portfolio whose strategy includes investing in stocks of corporations, a portion of the income dividends paid by the Portfolio may be qualified dividends eligible to be taxed at reduced rates.

Distributions of capital gains. The Portfolio may realize a capital gain or loss in connection with sales or other dispositions of its portfolio securities. Distributions derived from the excess of net short-term capital gain over net long-term capital loss will be taxable to you as ordinary income. Distributions from the excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss will be taxable to you as long-term capital gain, regardless of how long you have held your shares in the Portfolio. Any net capital gain of the Portfolio generally will be distributed once each year, and may be distributed more frequently, if necessary, to reduce or eliminate federal excise or income taxes on the Portfolio.

Returns of capital. Distributions by the Portfolio that are not paid from earnings and profits will be treated as a return of capital to the extent of (and in reduction of) the shareholder's tax basis in his shares; any excess will be treated as gain from the sale of his shares. Thus, the portion of a distribution that constitutes a return of capital will decrease the shareholder's tax basis in his Portfolio shares (but not below zero), and will result in an increase in the amount of gain (or decrease in the amount of loss) that will be recognized by the shareholder for tax purposes on the later sale of such Portfolio shares. Return of capital distributions can occur for a number of reasons including, among others, the Portfolio over-estimates the income to be received from certain investments such as those classified as partnerships or equity real estate investment trusts ("REITs").

Qualified dividend income for individuals. Amounts reported by the Portfolio as derived from qualified dividend income will be taxed in the hands of individuals and other noncorporate shareholders at the rates applicable to long-term capital gain. "Qualified dividend income" means dividends paid to the Portfolio (a) by domestic corporations, (b) by foreign corporations that are either (i) incorporated in a possession of the United States, or (ii) are eligible for benefits under certain income tax treaties with the United States that include an exchange of information program, or (c) with respect to stock of a foreign corporation that is readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States. Both the Portfolio and the investor must meet certain holding period requirements to qualify Portfolio dividends for this treatment. Specifically, the Portfolio must hold the stock for at least 61 days during the 121-day period beginning 60 days before the Portfolio distribution goes exdividend. Income derived from investments in derivatives, fixed-income securities, U.S. REITs, PFICs, and income received "in lieu of" dividends in a securities lending transaction generally is not eligible for treatment as qualified dividend income.

Dividends-received deduction for corporations. For corporate shareholders, a portion of the dividends paid by the Portfolio may qualify for the 50% corporate dividends-received deduction. The portion of dividends paid by the Portfolio that so qualifies will be reported by the Portfolio each year and cannot exceed the gross amount of

dividends received by the Portfolio from domestic (U.S.) corporations. The availability of the dividends-received deduction is subject to certain holding period and debt financing restrictions that apply to both the Portfolio and the investor. Specifically, the amount that the Portfolio may report as eligible for the dividends-received deduction will be reduced or eliminated if the shares on which the dividends earned by the Portfolio were debt-financed or held by the Portfolio for less than a minimum period of time, generally 46 days during a 91-day period beginning 45 days before the stock becomes ex-dividend. Similarly, if your Portfolio shares are debt-financed or held by you for less than a 46-day period then the dividends-received deduction for Portfolio dividends on your shares may also be reduced or eliminated. Income derived by the Portfolio from investments in derivatives, fixed-income and foreign securities generally is not eligible for this treatment.

Qualified REIT dividends. Under 2017 legislation commonly known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act "qualified REIT dividends" (i.e., ordinary REIT dividends other than capital gain dividends and portions of REIT dividends designated as qualified dividend income) are treated as eligible for a 20% deduction by noncorporate taxpayers. This deduction, if allowed in full, equates to a maximum effective tax rate of 29.6% (37% top rate applied to income after 20% deduction). A Portfolio may choose to report the special character of "qualified REIT dividends" provided both the Portfolio and the shareholder meet certain holding period requirements. The amount of a RIC's dividends eligible for the 20% deduction for a taxable year is limited to the excess of the RIC's qualified REIT dividends for the taxable year over allocable expenses. A noncorporate shareholder receiving such dividends would treat them as eligible for the 20% deduction, provided the shareholder meets certain holding period requirements for its shares in the RIC (i.e., generally, Portfolio shares must be held by the shareholder for more than 45 days during the 91-day period beginning on the date on which the shares become ex-dividend with respect to such dividend).

Impact of realized but undistributed income and gains, and net unrealized appreciation of portfolio securities. At the time of your purchase of shares, the Portfolio's NAV may reflect undistributed income, undistributed capital gains, or net unrealized appreciation of portfolio securities held by the Portfolio. A subsequent distribution of such amounts, although constituting a return of your investment, would be taxable, and would be taxed as ordinary income (some portion of which may be taxed as qualified dividend income), capital gains, or some combination of both, unless you are investing through a tax-advantaged arrangement, such as a 401(k) plan or an individual retirement account. The Portfolio may be able to reduce the amount of such distributions from capital gains by utilizing its capital loss carryovers, if any.

Pass-through of foreign tax credits. If at the end of the fiscal year, more than 50% in value of the total assets of the Portfolio are invested in securities of foreign corporations, the Portfolio may elect to pass through to its shareholders their pro rata share of foreign income taxes paid by the Portfolio. If this election is made, the Portfolio may report more taxable income to you than it actually distributes. You will then be entitled either to deduct your share of these taxes in computing your taxable income or to claim a foreign tax credit for these taxes against your U.S. federal income tax (subject to limitations for certain shareholders). The Portfolio will provide the information necessary to claim this deduction or credit if it makes this election. No deduction for foreign tax may be claimed by a noncorporate shareholder who does not itemize deductions or who is subject to the alternative minimum tax. The Portfolio reserves the right not to pass through the amount of foreign income taxes paid by the Portfolio. Additionally, any foreign tax withheld on payments made "in lieu of" dividends or interest will not qualify for the pass-through of foreign tax credits. See "Tax Treatment of Portfolio Transactions – Securities lending" below.

U.S. Government securities. To the extent the Portfolio invests in certain U.S. Government obligations, dividends paid by the Portfolio that are derived from interest on these obligations should be exempt from state and local personal income taxes, subject in some states to minimum investment or reporting requirements that must be met by the Portfolio. The income on portfolio investments in certain securities, such as repurchase agreements, commercial paper and federal agency-backed obligations (e.g., Government National Mortgage Association ("GNMA") or Federal National Mortgage Association ("FNMA") securities), generally does not qualify for tax-free treatment. The rules on exclusion of this income are different for corporate shareholders.

Information on the amount and tax character of distributions. You will be informed of the amount and character of distributions and the tax status of such distributions for federal income tax purposes shortly after the close of each calendar year. If you have not held Portfolio shares for a full year, the Portfolio may report and distribute, as ordinary income, qualified dividends, or capital gains, and in the case of non-U.S. shareholders the

Portfolio may further report and distribute as interest-related dividends and short-term capital gain dividends, a percentage of income that is not equal to the actual amount of such income earned during the period of your investment in the Portfolio. Taxable distributions declared by the Portfolio in October, November, or December to shareholders of record in such month, but paid in January, are taxable as if they were paid in December.

Medicare tax. A 3.8% Medicare tax is imposed on net investment income earned by certain individuals, estates and trusts. "Net investment income," for these purposes, means investment income, including ordinary dividends and capital gain distributions received from the Portfolio and net gains from taxable dispositions of Portfolio shares, reduced by the deductions properly allocable to such income. In the case of an individual, the tax will be imposed on the lesser of (1) the shareholder's net investment income or (2) the amount by which the shareholder's modified adjusted gross income exceeds \$250,000 (if the shareholder is married and filing jointly or a surviving spouse), \$125,000 (if the shareholder is married and filing separately) or \$200,000 (in any other case). This Medicare tax, if applicable, is reported by you on, and paid with, your federal income tax return.

# Sales and Exchanges of Portfolio Shares

In general. If you are a taxable investor, sales and exchanges of Portfolio shares are taxable transactions for federal and state income tax purposes. If you sell your Portfolio shares, the IRS requires you to report any gain or loss on your sale. If you held your shares as a capital asset, the gain or loss that you realize will be capital gain or loss and will be long-term or short-term, generally depending on how long you have held your shares. Capital losses in any year are deductible only to the extent of capital gains plus, in the case of a noncorporate taxpayer, \$3,000 of ordinary income.

Taxes on Purchase and Redemption of Creation Units. An Authorized Participant who exchanges securities for Creation Units generally will recognize a gain or a loss. The gain or loss will be equal to the difference between the market value of the Creation Units at the time of purchase (plus any cash received by the Authorized Participant as part of the issue) and the Authorized Participant's aggregate basis in the securities surrendered (plus any cash paid by the Authorized Participant as part of the issue). An Authorized Participant who exchanges Creation Units for securities generally will recognize a gain or loss equal to the difference between the Authorized Participant's basis in the Creation Units (plus any cash paid by the Authorized Participant as part of the redemption) and the aggregate market value of the securities received (plus any cash received by the Authorized Participant as part of the redemption). The IRS, however, may assert that a loss realized upon an exchange of securities for Creation Units cannot be deducted currently under the rules governing "wash sales," or on the basis that there has been no significant change in economic position. Persons exchanging securities should consult their own tax advisor with respect to whether wash sale rules apply and when a loss might be deductible.

Under current federal tax laws, any capital gain or loss realized upon redemption of Creation Units is generally treated as long-term capital gain or loss if the shares have been held for more than one year and as a short-term capital gain or loss if the shares have been held for one year or less, assuming such Creation Units are held as a capital asset.

If the Portfolio redeems Creation Units in cash, it may recognize more capital gains than it will if it redeems Creation Units in-kind.

Tax basis information. A shareholder's cost basis information will be provided on the sale of any of the shareholder's shares, subject to certain exceptions for exempt recipients. Please contact the broker (or other nominee) that holds your shares with respect to reporting of cost basis and available elections for your account.

Wash sales. All or a portion of any loss that you realize on a sale of your Portfolio shares will be disallowed to the extent that you buy other shares in the Portfolio (through reinvestment of dividends or otherwise) within 30 days before or after your share redemption. Any loss disallowed under these rules will be added to your tax basis in the new shares.

Sales at a loss within six months of purchase. Any loss incurred on a sale of shares held for six months or less will be treated as long-term capital loss to the extent of any long-term capital gain distributed to you on those shares.

Tax shelter reporting. Under Treasury regulations, if a shareholder recognizes a loss with respect to the Portfolio's shares of \$2 million or more for an individual shareholder or \$10 million or more for a corporate shareholder (or certain greater amounts over a combination of years), the shareholder must file with the IRS a disclosure statement on Form 8886. The fact that a loss is reportable under these regulations does not affect the legal determination of whether the taxpayer's treatment of the loss is proper. Shareholders should consult their tax advisors to determine the applicability of these regulations in light of their individual circumstances.

#### **Tax Treatment of Portfolio Transactions**

Set forth below is a general description of the tax treatment of certain types of securities, investment techniques and transactions that may apply to a portfolio and, in turn, affect the amount, character and timing of dividends and distributions payable by the portfolio to its shareholders. This section should be read in conjunction with the discussion in the Prospectus under "Principal Investment Strategies" and "Principal Risks" for a detailed description of the various types of securities and investment techniques that apply to the Portfolio.

In general. In general, gain or loss recognized by a portfolio on the sale or other disposition of portfolio investments will be a capital gain or loss. Such capital gain and loss may be long-term or short-term depending, in general, upon the length of time a particular investment position is maintained and, in some cases, upon the nature of the transaction. Property held for more than one year generally will be eligible for long-term capital gain or loss treatment. The application of certain rules described below may serve to alter the manner in which the holding period for a security is determined or may otherwise affect the characterization as long-term or short-term, and also the timing of the realization and/or character, of certain gains or losses.

Certain fixed-income investments. Gain recognized on the disposition of a debt obligation purchased by a portfolio at a market discount (generally, at a price less than its principal amount) will be treated as ordinary income to the extent of the portion of the market discount that accrued during the period of time the portfolio held the debt obligation unless the portfolio made a current inclusion election to accrue market discount into income as it accrues. If a portfolio purchases a debt obligation (such as a zero coupon security or pay-in-kind security) that was originally issued at a discount, the portfolio generally is required to include in gross income each year the portion of the original issue discount that accrues during such year. Therefore, a portfolio's investment in such securities may cause the portfolio to recognize income and make distributions before it receives any cash payments on the securities. To generate cash to satisfy those distribution requirements, a portfolio may have to sell portfolio securities that it otherwise might have continued to hold or to use cash flows from other sources such as the sale of portfolio shares.

Investments in debt obligations that are at risk of or in default present tax issues for a portfolio. Tax rules are not entirely clear about issues such as whether and to what extent a portfolio should recognize market discount on a debt obligation, when a portfolio may cease to accrue interest, original issue discount or market discount, when and to what extent a portfolio may take deductions for bad debts or worthless securities and how a portfolio should allocate payments received on obligations in default between principal and income. These and other related issues will be addressed by a portfolio in order to ensure that it distributes sufficient income to preserve its status as a regulated investment company.

Options, futures, forward contracts, swap agreements and hedging transactions. In general, option premiums received by a portfolio are not immediately included in the income of the portfolio. Instead, the premiums are recognized when the option contract expires, the option is exercised by the holder, or the portfolio transfers or otherwise terminates the option (e.g., through a closing transaction). If an option written by a portfolio is exercised and the portfolio sells or delivers the underlying stock, the portfolio generally will recognize capital gain or loss equal to (a) sum of the strike price and the option premium received by the portfolio minus (b) the portfolio's basis in the stock. Such gain or loss generally will be short-term or long-term depending upon the holding period of the underlying stock. If securities are purchased by a portfolio pursuant to the exercise of a put option written by it, the portfolio generally will subtract the premium received from its cost basis in the securities

purchased. The gain or loss with respect to any termination of a portfolio's obligation under an option other than through the exercise of the option and related sale or delivery of the underlying stock generally will be short-term gain or loss depending on whether the premium income received by the portfolio is greater or less than the amount paid by the portfolio (if any) in terminating the transaction. Thus, for example, if an option written by a portfolio expires unexercised, the portfolio generally will recognize short-term gain equal to the premium received.

The tax treatment of certain futures contracts entered into by a portfolio as well as listed non-equity options written or purchased by the portfolio on U.S. exchanges (including options on futures contracts, broad-based equity indices and debt securities) may be governed by section 1256 of the Code ("section 1256 contracts"). Gains or losses on section 1256 contracts generally are considered 60% long-term and 40% short-term capital gains or losses ("60/40"), although certain foreign currency gains and losses from such contracts may be treated as ordinary in character. Also, any section 1256 contracts held by a portfolio at the end of each taxable year (and, for purposes of the 4% excise tax, on certain other dates as prescribed under the Code) are "marked to market" with the result that unrealized gains or losses are treated as though they were realized and the resulting gain or loss is treated as ordinary or 60/40 gain or loss, as applicable. Section 1256 contracts do not include any interest rate swap, currency swap, basis swap, interest rate cap, interest rate floor, commodity swap, equity swap, equity index swap, credit default swap, or similar agreement.

In addition to the special rules described above in respect of options and futures transactions, a portfolio's transactions in other derivative instruments (including options, forward contracts and swap agreements) as well as its other hedging, short sale, or similar transactions, may be subject to one or more special tax rules (including the constructive sale, notional principal contract, straddle, wash sale and short sale rules). These rules may affect whether gains and losses recognized by a portfolio are treated as ordinary or capital or as short-term or long-term, accelerate the recognition of income or gains to the portfolio, defer losses to the portfolio, and cause adjustments in the holding periods of the portfolio's securities. These rules, therefore, could affect the amount, timing and/or character of distributions. Moreover, because the tax rules applicable to derivative financial instruments are in some cases uncertain under current law, an adverse determination or future guidance by the IRS with respect to these rules (which determination or guidance could be retroactive) may affect whether a portfolio has made sufficient distributions and otherwise satisfied the relevant requirements to maintain its qualification as a regulated investment company and avoid a portfolio-level tax.

Certain of a portfolio's investments in derivatives and foreign currency-denominated instruments, and the portfolio's transactions in foreign currencies and hedging activities, may produce a difference between its book income and its taxable income. If a portfolio's book income is less than the sum of its taxable income and net tax-exempt income (if any), the portfolio could be required to make distributions exceeding book income to qualify as a regulated investment company. If a portfolio's book income exceeds the sum of its taxable income and net tax-exempt income (if any), the distribution of any such excess will be treated as (i) a dividend to the extent of the portfolio's remaining earnings and profits (including current earnings and profits arising from tax-exempt income, reduced by related deductions), (ii) thereafter, as a return of capital to the extent of the recipient's basis in the shares, and (iii) thereafter, as gain from the sale or exchange of a capital asset.

Foreign currency transactions. A portfolio's transactions in foreign currencies, foreign currency-denominated debt obligations and certain foreign currency options, futures contracts and forward contracts (and similar instruments) may give rise to ordinary income or loss to the extent such income or loss results from fluctuations in the value of the foreign currency concerned. This treatment could increase or decrease a portfolio's ordinary income distributions, and may cause some or all of the portfolio's previously distributed income to be classified as a return of capital. In certain cases, a portfolio may make an election to treat such gain or loss as capital.

PFIC securities. The Portfolio may invest in securities of foreign entities that could be deemed for tax purposes to be PFICs. In general, a PFIC is any foreign corporation if 75% or more of its gross income for its taxable year is passive income, or 50% or more of its average assets (by value) are held for the production of passive income. When investing in PFIC securities, the Portfolio intends to mark-to-market these securities and recognize any unrealized gains as ordinary income at the end of its fiscal year. Deductions for losses are allowable only to the extent of any current or previously recognized gains. These gains (reduced by allowable losses) are treated as ordinary income that the Portfolio is required to distribute, even though it has not sold or received dividends from

these securities. You should also be aware that the designation of a foreign security as a PFIC security will cause its income dividends to fall outside of the definition of qualified foreign corporation dividends. These dividends generally will not qualify for the reduced rate of taxation on qualified dividends when distributed to you by the Portfolio. Due to various complexities in identifying PFICs, the Portfolio can give no assurances that it will be able to identify portfolio securities in foreign corporations that are PFICs in time for the Portfolio to make a mark-to-market election. If the Portfolio is unable to identify an investment as a PFIC and thus does not make a mark-to-market election, the Portfolio may be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a portion of any "excess distribution" or gain from the disposition of such shares even if such income is distributed as a taxable dividend by the Portfolio to its shareholders. Additional charges in the nature of interest may be imposed on the Portfolio in respect of deferred taxes arising from such distributions or gains. Any such taxes or interest charges could in turn reduce the Portfolio's distributions paid.

Investments in non-U.S. REITs. While non-U.S. REITs often use complex acquisition structures that seek to minimize taxation in the source country, an investment by a Portfolio in a non-U.S. REIT may subject the Portfolio, directly or indirectly, to corporate taxes, withholding taxes, transfer taxes and other indirect taxes in the country in which the real estate acquired by the non-U.S. REIT is located. The Portfolio's pro rata share of any such taxes will reduce the Portfolio's return on its investment. A Portfolio's investment in a non-U.S. REIT may be considered an investment in a PFIC, as discussed above in "PFIC securities." Additionally, foreign withholding taxes on distributions from the non-U.S. REIT may be reduced or eliminated under certain tax treaties, as discussed above in "Taxation of the Portfolio — Foreign income tax." Also, the Portfolio in certain limited circumstances may be required to file an income tax return in the source country and pay tax on any gain realized from dispositions of interests in U.S. real estate.

Investments in U.S. REITs. A U.S. REIT is not subject to federal income tax on the income and gains it distributes to shareholders. Dividends paid by a U.S. REIT, other than capital gain distributions, will be taxable as ordinary income up to the amount of the U.S. REIT's current and accumulated earnings and profits. Capital gain dividends paid by a U.S. REIT to a Portfolio will be treated as long-term capital gains by the Portfolio and, in turn, may be distributed by the Portfolio as a capital gain distribution. Because of certain noncash expenses, such as property depreciation, an equity U.S. REIT's cash flow may exceed its taxable income. The equity U.S. REIT, and in turn a Portfolio, may distribute this excess cash in the form of a return of capital distribution. However, if a U.S. REIT is operated in a manner that fails to qualify as a REIT, an investment in the U.S. REIT would become subject to double taxation, meaning the taxable income of the U.S. REIT would be subject to federal income tax at the corporate income tax rate without any deduction for dividends paid to shareholders and the dividends would be taxable to shareholders as ordinary income (or possibly as qualified dividend income) to the extent of the U.S. REIT's current and accumulated earnings and profits. Also, see "Tax Treatment of Portfolio Transactions — Investment in taxable mortgage pools (excess inclusion income)" and "Non-U.S. Investors — Investment in U.S. real property" with respect to certain other tax aspects of investing in U.S. REITs.

Investment in taxable mortgage pools (excess inclusion income). Under a Notice issued by the IRS, the Code and Treasury regulations to be issued, a portion of a portfolio's income from a U.S. REIT that is attributable to the REIT's residual interest in a real estate mortgage investment conduit ("REMIC") or equity interests in a "taxable mortgage pool" (referred to in the Code as an excess inclusion) will be subject to federal income tax in all events. The excess inclusion income of a regulated investment company, such as a Portfolio, will be allocated to shareholders of the regulated investment company in proportion to the dividends received by such shareholders, with the same consequences as if the shareholders held the related REMIC residual interest or, if applicable, taxable mortgage pool directly. In general, excess inclusion income allocated to shareholders (i) cannot be offset by net operating losses (subject to a limited exception for certain thrift institutions), (ii) will constitute unrelated business taxable income ("UBTI") to entities (including qualified pension plans, individual retirement accounts, 401(k) plans, Keogh plans or other tax-exempt entities) subject to tax on UBTI, thereby potentially requiring such an entity that is allocated excess inclusion income, and otherwise might not be required to file a tax return, to file a tax return and pay tax on such income, and (iii) in the case of a foreign stockholder, will not qualify for any reduction in U.S. federal withholding tax. In addition, if at any time during any taxable year a "disqualified organization" (which generally includes certain cooperatives, governmental entities, and tax-exempt organizations not subject to UBTI) is a record holder of a share in a regulated investment company, then the regulated investment company will be subject to a tax equal to that portion of its excess inclusion income for the taxable year that is allocable to the disqualified

organization, multiplied by the corporate income tax rate. The Notice imposes certain reporting requirements upon regulated investment companies that have excess inclusion income. There can be no assurance that a Portfolio will not allocate to shareholders excess inclusion income. These rules are potentially applicable to a Portfolio with respect to any income it receives from the equity interests of certain mortgage pooling vehicles, either directly or, as is more likely, through an investment in a U.S. REIT. It is unlikely that these rules will apply to a portfolio that has a non-REIT strategy.

Investments in partnerships and qualified publicly traded partnerships ("QPTP"). For purposes of the Income Requirement, income derived by a portfolio from a partnership that is not a QPTP will be treated as qualifying income only to the extent such income is attributable to items of income of the partnership that would be qualifying income if realized directly by the portfolio. While the rules are not entirely clear with respect to a portfolio investing in a partnership outside a master-feeder structure, for purposes of testing whether a portfolio satisfies the Asset Diversification Test, the portfolio generally is treated as owning a pro rata share of the underlying assets of a partnership. See "Taxation of the Portfolio — Qualification as a regulated investment company." In contrast, different rules apply to a partnership that is a QPTP. A QPTP is a partnership (a) the interests in which are traded on an established securities market, (b) that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, and (c) that derives less than 90% of its income from sources that satisfy the Income Requirement (e.g., because it invests in commodities). All of the net income derived by a portfolio from an interest in a QPTP will be treated as qualifying income but the portfolio may not invest more than 25% of its total assets in one or more QPTPs. However, there can be no assurance that a partnership classified as a QPTP in one year will qualify as a QPTP in the next year. Any such failure to annually qualify as a QPTP might, in turn, cause a portfolio to fail to qualify as a regulated investment company. Although, in general, the passive loss rules of the Code do not apply to RICs, such rules do apply to a portfolio with respect to items attributable to an interest in a QPTP. Portfolio investments in partnerships, including in QPTPs, may result in the portfolio's being subject to state, local or foreign income, franchise or withholding tax liabilities.

Securities lending. While securities are loaned out by a portfolio, the portfolio generally will receive from the borrower amounts equal to any dividends or interest paid on the borrowed securities. For federal income tax purposes, payments made "in lieu of" dividends are not considered dividend income. These distributions will neither qualify for the reduced rate of taxation for individuals on qualified dividends nor the 50% dividends-received deduction for corporations. Also, any foreign tax withheld on payments made "in lieu of" dividends or interest will not qualify for the pass-through of foreign tax credits to shareholders.

Investments in convertible securities. Convertible debt is ordinarily treated as a "single property" consisting of a pure debt interest until conversion, after which the investment becomes an equity interest. If the security is issued at a premium (i.e., for cash in excess of the face amount payable on retirement), the creditor-holder may amortize the premium over the life of the bond. If the security is issued for cash at a price below its face amount, the creditor-holder must accrue original issue discount in income over the life of the debt. The creditor-holder's exercise of the conversion privilege is treated as a nontaxable event. Mandatorily convertible debt (e.g., an exchange-traded note or ETN issued in the form of an unsecured obligation that pays a return based on the performance of a specified market index, exchange currency, or commodity) is often, but not always, treated as a contract to buy or sell the reference property rather than debt. Similarly, convertible preferred stock with a mandatory conversion feature is ordinarily, but not always, treated as equity rather than debt. Dividends received generally are qualified dividend income and eligible for the corporate dividends-received deduction. In general, conversion of preferred stock for common stock of the same corporation is tax-free. Conversion of preferred stock for cash is a taxable redemption. Any redemption premium for preferred stock that is redeemable by the issuing company might be required to be amortized under original issue discount principles.

Investments in securities of uncertain tax character. A portfolio may invest in securities the U.S. federal income tax treatment of which may not be clear or may be subject to recharacterization by the IRS. To the extent the tax treatment of such securities or the income from such securities differs from the tax treatment expected by a portfolio, it could affect the timing or character of income recognized by the fund, requiring the portfolio to purchase or sell securities, or otherwise change its portfolio, in order to comply with the tax rules applicable to regulated investment companies under the Code.

## **Backup Withholding**

By law, a withholding of tax may apply to your taxable dividends and sales proceeds unless you:

- provide your correct social security or taxpayer identification number,
- certify that this number is correct,
- certify that you are not subject to backup withholding, and
- certify that you are a U.S. person (including a U.S. resident alien).

Withholding also is imposed if the IRS requires it. When withholding is required, the amount will be 24% of any distributions or proceeds paid. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld may be credited against the shareholder's U.S. federal income tax liability, provided the appropriate information is furnished to the IRS. Certain payees and payments are exempt from backup withholding and information reporting. The special U.S. tax certification requirements applicable to non-U.S. investors to avoid backup withholding are described under the "Non-U.S. Investors" heading below.

#### Non-U.S. Investors

Non-U.S. investors (shareholders who, as to the United States, are nonresident alien individuals, foreign trusts or estates, foreign corporations, or foreign partnerships) may be subject to U.S. withholding and estate tax and are subject to special U.S. tax certification requirements. Non-U.S. investors should consult their tax advisors about the applicability of U.S. tax withholding and the use of the appropriate forms to certify their status.

In general. The United States imposes a withholding tax at the 30% statutory rate (or at a lower rate if you are a resident of a country that has a tax treaty with the U.S.) on U.S. source dividends, including on income dividends paid to you by the Portfolio. Exemptions from this U.S. withholding tax are provided for capital gain dividends paid by the Portfolio from its net long-term capital gains, interest-related dividends paid by the Portfolio from its qualified net interest income from U.S. sources and short-term capital gain dividends. However, notwithstanding such exemptions from U.S. withholding at the source, any dividends and distributions of income and capital gains, including the proceeds from the sale of your Portfolio shares, will be subject to backup withholding at a rate of 24% if you fail to properly certify that you are not a U.S. person.

Capital gain dividends and short-term capital gain dividends. In general, (i) a capital gain dividend reported by the Portfolio to shareholders as paid from its net long-term capital gains or (ii) a short-term capital gain dividend reported by the Portfolio to shareholders as paid from its net short-term capital gains, other than long- or short-term capital gains realized on the disposition of certain U.S. real property interests, are not subject to U.S. withholding tax unless you are a nonresident alien individual present in the United States for a period or periods aggregating 183 days or more during the calendar year.

Interest-related dividends. Dividends reported by the Portfolio to shareholders as interest-related dividends and paid from its qualified net interest income from U.S. sources are not subject to U.S. withholding tax. "Qualified interest income" includes, in general, U.S. source (1) bank deposit interest, (2) short-term original discount, (3) interest (including original issue discount, market discount, or acquisition discount) on an obligation which is in registered form, unless it is earned on an obligation issued by a corporation or partnership in which the Portfolio is a 10-percent shareholder or is contingent interest, and (4) any interest-related dividend from another regulated investment company. On any payment date, the amount of an income dividend that is reported by the Portfolio to shareholders as an interest-related dividend may be more or less than the amount that is so qualified. This is because the reporting of interest-related dividends is based on an estimate of the Portfolio's qualified net interest income for its entire fiscal year, which can only be determined with exactness at fiscal year-end. As a consequence, the Portfolio may over withhold a small amount of U.S. tax from a dividend payment. In this case, the non-U.S. investor's only recourse may be to either forgo recovery of the excess withholding or to file a United States nonresident income tax return to recover the excess withholding.

Further limitations on tax reporting for interest-related dividends and short-term capital gain dividends for non-U.S. investors. It may not be practical in every case for the Portfolio to report to shareholders, and the Portfolio reserves the right in these cases to not report, small amounts of interest-related dividends or short-term capital gain dividends. Additionally, the Portfolio's reporting of interest-related dividends or short-term capital gain dividends may not be passed through to shareholders by intermediaries who have assumed tax reporting responsibilities for this income in managed or omnibus accounts due to systems limitations or operational constraints.

Net investment income from dividends on stock and foreign source interest income continue to be subject to withholding tax; foreign tax credits. Ordinary dividends paid by the Portfolio to non-U.S. investors on the income earned on portfolio investments in (i) the stock of domestic and foreign corporations, and (ii) the debt of foreign issuers continue to be subject to U.S. withholding tax. Foreign shareholders may be subject to U.S. withholding tax at a rate of 30% on the income resulting from an election to pass-through foreign tax credits to shareholders, but may not be able to claim a credit or deduction with respect to the withholding tax for the foreign tax treated as having been paid by them.

Income effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business. If the income from the Portfolio is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business carried on by a foreign shareholder, then ordinary income dividends, capital gain dividends and any gains realized upon the sale of shares of the Portfolio will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at the rates applicable to U.S. citizens or domestic corporations and require the filing of a nonresident U.S. income tax return.

Investment in U.S. real property. The Portfolio may invest in equity securities of corporations that invest in U.S. real property, including U.S. REITs. The sale of a U.S. real property interest ("USRPI") by the Portfolio or by a U.S. REIT or U.S. real property holding corporation in which the Portfolio invests may trigger special tax consequences to the Portfolio's non-U.S. shareholders. The Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980 ("FIRPTA") makes non-U.S. persons subject to U.S. tax on disposition of a USRPI as if he or she were a U.S. person. Such gain is sometimes referred to as FIRPTA gain. The Code provides a look-through rule for distributions of FIRPTA gain by a RIC received from a U.S. REIT or another RIC classified as a U.S. real property holding corporation or realized by the RIC on a sale of a USRPI (other than a domestically controlled U.S. REIT or RIC that is classified as a qualified investment entity) if all of the following requirements are met:

- The RIC is classified as a qualified investment entity. A RIC is classified as a "qualified investment entity" with
  respect to a distribution to a non-U.S. person which is attributable directly or indirectly to a sale or exchange of
  a USRPI if, in general, 50% or more of the RIC's assets consist of interests in U.S. REITs and U.S. real property
  holding corporations, and
- You are a non-U.S. shareholder that owns more than 5% of a class of Portfolio shares at any time during the one-year period ending on the date of the distribution.
- If these conditions are met, such Portfolio distributions to you are treated as gain from the disposition of a USRPI, causing the distributions to be subject to U.S. withholding tax at the corporate income tax rate (unless reduced by future regulations), and requiring that you file a nonresident U.S. income tax return.
- In addition, even if you do not own more than 5% of a class of Portfolio shares, but the Portfolio is a qualified investment entity, such Portfolio distributions to you will be taxable as ordinary dividends rather than as a capital gain dividend (a distribution of long-term capital gains) or a short-term capital gain dividend subject to withholding at the 30% or lower treaty withholding rate.

FIRPTA "wash sale" rule. If the Portfolio is a domestically controlled qualified investment entity and a non-U.S. shareholder of the Portfolio (i) disposes of his interest in the Portfolio during the 30-day period preceding the Portfolio distribution that would have been treated as FIRPTA gain under the look-through rule described above, (ii) acquires an identical stock interest during the 61-day period beginning the first day of such 30-day period preceding the distribution, and (iii) does not in fact receive the distribution in a manner that subjects the non-U.S. shareholder to tax under FIRPTA, then the non-U.S. shareholder is required to pay U.S. tax on an amount equal to the amount of the distribution that was not taxed under FIRPTA as a result of the disposition. These rules also apply

to substitute dividend payments and other similar arrangements; the portion of the substitute dividend or similar payment treated as FIRPTA gain equals the portion of the RIC distribution such payment is in lieu of that otherwise would have been treated as FIRPTA gain.

Gain on sale of Portfolio shares as FIRPTA gain. In addition, a sale or redemption of Portfolio shares will be FIRPTA gain only if –

- As a non-U.S. shareholder, you own more than 5% of a class of shares in the Portfolio;
- The Portfolio is not domestically controlled (50% or more in value of the Portfolio has been owned directly or indirectly by non-U.S. shareholders during the 5-year period ending on the date of disposition); and
- 50% or more of the Portfolio's assets consist of: (1) more-than 5% interests in publicly traded companies that are United States Real Property Holding Corporations ("USRPHC"), (2) interests in non-publicly traded companies that are USRPHCs, and (3) interests in U.S. REITs that are not controlled by U.S. shareholders where the REIT shares are either not publicly traded or are publicly traded and the Portfolio owns more than 10%.

In the unlikely event that the Portfolio meets the requirements described above, the gain will be taxed as income "effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business." As a result, the non-U.S. shareholder will be required to pay U.S. income tax on such gain and file a nonresident U.S. income tax return.

Because the Portfolio expects to invest less than 50% of its assets at all times, directly or indirectly, in U.S. real property interests, the Portfolio expects that neither gain on the sale or redemption of Portfolio shares nor Portfolio dividends and distributions will be subject to FIRPTA reporting and tax withholding.

*U.S. estate tax.* Transfers by gift of shares of the Portfolio by a foreign shareholder who is a nonresident alien individual will not be subject to U.S. federal gift tax. An individual who, at the time of death, is a non-U.S. shareholder will nevertheless be subject to U.S. federal estate tax with respect to Portfolio shares at the graduated rates applicable to U.S. citizens and residents, unless a treaty exemption applies. If a treaty exemption is available, a decedent's estate may nonetheless need to file a U.S. estate tax return to claim the exemption in order to obtain a U.S. federal transfer certificate. The transfer certificate will identify the property (i.e., Portfolio shares) as to which the U.S. federal estate tax lien has been released. In the absence of a treaty, there is a \$13,000 statutory estate tax credit (equivalent to U.S. situs assets with a value of \$60,000). For estates with U.S. situs assets of not more than \$60,000, an affidavit from an appropriate individual evidencing that decedent's U.S. situs assets are below this threshold amount may be sufficient to transfer Portfolio shares.

U.S. tax certification rules. Special U.S. tax certification requirements may apply to non-U.S. shareholders both to avoid U.S. backup withholding imposed at a rate of 24% and to obtain the benefits of any treaty between the United States and the shareholder's country of residence. In general, if you are a non-U.S. shareholder, you must provide a Form W-8BEN (or other applicable Form W-8) to establish that you are not a U.S. person, to claim that you are the beneficial owner of the income and, if applicable, to claim a reduced rate of, or exemption from, withholding as a resident of a country with which the United States has an income tax treaty. A Form W-8BEN provided without a U.S. taxpayer identification number will remain in effect for a period beginning on the date signed and ending on the last day of the third succeeding calendar year unless an earlier change of circumstances makes the information on the form incorrect. Certain payees and payments are exempt from backup withholding.

The tax consequences to a non-U.S. shareholder entitled to claim the benefits of an applicable tax treaty may be different from those described herein. Non-U.S. shareholders are urged to consult their own tax advisors with respect to the particular tax consequences to them of an investment in the Portfolio, including the applicability of foreign tax.

Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act ("FATCA"). Under FATCA, a 30% withholding tax is imposed on the income dividends made by the Portfolio to certain foreign entities, referred to as foreign financial institutions ("FFI") or non-financial foreign entities ("NFFE"). After December 31, 2018, FATCA withholding also would have applied to certain capital gain distributions, return of capital distributions, and the proceeds arising from the sale of

Portfolio shares; however, based on proposed regulations issued by the IRS, which can be relied upon currently, such withholding is no longer required unless final regulations provide otherwise (which is not expected). The FATCA withholding tax generally can be avoided: (a) by an FFI, if it reports certain direct and indirect ownership of foreign financial accounts held by U.S. persons with the FFI and (b) by an NFFE, if it: (i) certifies that it has no substantial U.S. persons as owners or (ii) if it does have such owners, reporting information relating to them. The U.S. Treasury has negotiated intergovernmental agreements ("IGA") with certain countries and is in various stages of negotiations with a number of other foreign countries with respect to one or more alternative approaches to implement FATCA; an entity in one of those countries may be required to comply with the terms of an IGA instead of U.S. Treasury regulations.

An FFI can avoid FATCA withholding if it is deemed compliant or by becoming a "participating FFI," which requires the FFI to enter into a U.S. tax compliance agreement with the IRS under section 1471(b) of the Code ("FFI agreement") under which it agrees to verify, report and disclose certain of its U.S. accountholders and meet certain other specified requirements. The FFI will either report the specified information about the U.S. accounts to the IRS, or, to the government of the FFI's country of residence (pursuant to the terms and conditions of applicable law and an applicable IGA entered into between the U.S. and the FFI's country of residence), which will, in turn, report the specified information to the IRS. An FFI that is resident in a country that has entered into an IGA with the U.S. to implement FATCA will be exempt from FATCA withholding provided that the FFI shareholder and the applicable foreign government comply with the terms of such agreement.

An NFFE that is the beneficial owner of a payment from the Portfolio can avoid the FATCA withholding tax generally by certifying that it does not have any substantial U.S. owners or by providing the name, address and taxpayer identification number of each substantial U.S. owner. The NFFE will report the information to the Portfolio or other applicable withholding agent, which will, in turn, report the information to the IRS.

Such foreign shareholders also may fall into certain exempt, excepted or deemed compliant categories as established by U.S. Treasury regulations, IGAs, and other guidance regarding FATCA. An FFI or NFFE that invests in the Portfolio will need to provide documentation properly certifying the entity's status under FATCA in order to avoid FATCA withholding. Non-U.S. investors should consult their own tax advisors regarding the impact of these requirements on their investment in the Portfolio. The requirements imposed by FATCA are different from, and in addition to, the U.S. tax certification rules to avoid backup withholding described above. Shareholders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the application of these requirements to their own situation.

## **Effect of Future Legislation; Local Tax Considerations**

The foregoing general discussion of U.S. federal income tax consequences is based on the Code and the regulations issued thereunder as in effect on the date of this SAI. Future legislative or administrative changes, including provisions of current law that sunset and thereafter no longer apply, or court decisions may significantly change the conclusions expressed herein, and any such changes or decisions may have a retroactive effect with respect to the transactions contemplated herein. Rules of state and local taxation of ordinary income, qualified dividend income and capital gain dividends may differ from the rules for U.S. federal income taxation described above. Distributions may also be subject to additional state, local and foreign taxes depending on each shareholder's particular situation. Non-U.S. shareholders may be subject to U.S. tax rules that differ significantly from those summarized above. Shareholders are urged to consult their tax advisors as to the consequences of these and other state and local tax rules affecting investment in the Portfolio.

## () PROXY VOTING POLICIES

The Board of the Trust has delegated the authority to vote proxies for the portfolio securities held by the Portfolios to the Advisor in accordance with the Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures (the "Voting Policies") and Proxy Voting Guidelines ("Voting Guidelines") adopted by the Advisor applicable to the Portfolios. A concise summary of the Voting Guidelines is provided in an Appendix to this SAI.

The Investment Committee at the Advisor is generally responsible for overseeing the Advisor's proxy voting process. The Investment Committee has formed the Investment Stewardship Committee (the "Committee") composed of certain officers, directors and other personnel of the Advisor and has delegated to its members

authority to (i) oversee the voting of proxies and third-party proxy service providers, (ii) make determinations as to how to vote certain specific proxies, (iii) verify ongoing compliance with the Voting Policies, (iv) receive reports on the review of the third-party proxy service providers, and (v) review the Voting Policies from time to time and recommend changes to the Investment Committee. The Committee may designate one or more of its members to oversee specific, ongoing compliance with respect to the Voting Policies and may designate personnel of the Advisor to vote proxies on behalf of the Portfolios, such as authorized traders of the Advisor.

The Advisor seeks to vote (or refrains from voting) proxies for the Portfolios in a manner that the Advisor determines is in the best interests of the Portfolios and which seeks to maximize the value of the Portfolios' investments, subject to the standards of legal and regulatory regimes, applicable to the Advisor or the Portfolios, and any particular investment or voting guidelines of specific funds or accounts. Generally, the Advisor analyzes proxy statements on behalf of the Portfolios and instructs the vote (or refrains from voting) in accordance with the Voting Policies, Voting Guidelines or procedures. Most proxies the Advisor receives are instructed to be voted in accordance with the Voting Guidelines, and when proxies are voted consistently with such guidelines or procedures, the Advisor considers such votes not to be affected by conflicts of interest. However, the Voting Policies do address the procedures to be followed if a potential or actual conflict of interest arises between the interests of the Portfolios, and the interests of the Advisor or its affiliates. If a Committee member has actual knowledge of a conflict of interest and recommends a vote contrary to the Voting Guidelines or procedures (or in the case where the Voting Guidelines or procedures do not prescribe a particular vote and the proposed vote is contrary to the recommendation of third-party proxy service providers), the Committee member will bring the vote to the Committee which will (a) determine how the vote should be cast keeping in mind the principle of preserving shareholder value, or (b) determine to abstain from voting, unless abstaining would be materially adverse to the interest of the Portfolios. To the extent the Committee makes a determination regarding how to vote or to abstain for a proxy on behalf of a Portfolio in the circumstances described in this paragraph, the Advisor will report annually on such determinations to the Board of the Trust.

To avoid certain potential conflicts of interest, the Advisor generally will employ mirror voting, if possible, when a Portfolio invests in another portfolio (an "Acquired Fund") in reliance on any one of Sections 12(d)(1)(E), 12(d)(1)(F) or 12(d)(1) (G) of the 1940 Act, related rules thereunder (including Rule 12d1-1 or Rule 12d1-4 under the 1940 Act), or pursuant to an SEC exemptive order thereunder, unless otherwise required by applicable law or regulation. Mirror voting means that the Advisor will vote the shares in the same proportion as the vote of all of the other holders of the Acquired Fund's shares. With respect to instances when a Portfolio invests in an Acquired Fund in reliance on Section 12(d)(1)(G) of the 1940 Act, related rules thereunder (including Rule 12d1-1 or Rule 12d1-4), or pursuant to an SEC exemptive order thereunder, and there are no other unaffiliated shareholders also invested in the Acquired Fund, the Advisor will vote in accordance with the recommendation of such Acquired Fund's board of trustees or directors, unless otherwise required by applicable law or regulation. With respect to instances when a Portfolio invests in an Acquired Fund in reliance on Sections 12(d)(1)(E) or 12(d)(1)(F) of the 1940 Act and there are no other unaffiliated shareholders also invested in the Acquired Fund, the Advisor will employ pass-through voting, unless otherwise required by applicable law or regulation. In "pass-through voting," the investing Portfolio will solicit voting instructions from its shareholders as to how to vote on the Acquired Fund's proposals.

The Advisor will usually instruct voting of proxies in accordance with the Voting Guidelines. The Voting Guidelines provide a framework for analysis and decision making, however, the Voting Guidelines do not address all potential issues. In order to be able to address all the relevant facts and circumstances related to a proxy vote, the Advisor reserves the right to instruct votes that deviate from the Voting Guidelines if, after a review of the matter, the Advisor believes that the best interests of a Portfolio would be served by, or applicable legal and fiduciary standards require, such a vote. In such a circumstance, the analysis will be documented in writing and periodically presented to the Committee for review. To the extent that the Voting Guidelines do not cover potential voting issues, the Advisor may consider the spirit of the Guidelines and applicable legal standards and instruct the vote on such issues in a manner that the Advisor believes would be in the best interests of a Portfolio.

In some cases, the Advisor may determine that it is in the best interests of a Portfolio to refrain from exercising proxy voting rights. The Advisor may determine that voting is not in the best interest of a Portfolio and refrain from voting if the costs, including the opportunity costs, of voting would, in the view of the Advisor, exceed the expected benefits of voting. For securities on loan, the Advisor will balance the revenue-producing value of loans against the difficult-to-assess value of casting votes. It is generally the Advisor's belief that the expected value

of casting a vote generally will be less than the securities lending income, either because the votes will not have significant economic consequences or because the outcome of the vote would not be affected by the Advisor recalling loaned securities for voting. In certain countries, such as the United States, the specific terms of the proposals to be voted on by shareholders will generally not be known until after the record date, which determines the shares eligible to be voted. In this situation, the Advisor may not be aware of the subject of a proxy in time to make a decision as to whether the materiality of the voting proposals warrants recalling a security on loan to vote. In addition, because specific record dates may not be known, if the Advisor were to seek to recall securities on loan, the Advisor would need to estimate the record date which would result in the securities being recalled for a longer period of time than otherwise required and may create a greater potential loss of income. The Advisor does intend to recall securities on loan if based upon information in the Advisor's possession, it determines that voting the securities is likely to materially affect the value of a Portfolio's investment and that it is in the Portfolio's best interests to do so. In cases where the Advisor does not receive a solicitation or enough information within a sufficient time (as reasonably determined by the Advisor) prior to the proxy-voting deadline, the Advisor or its service provider may be unable to vote.

With respect to non-U.S. securities, it may be both difficult and costly to vote proxies due to local regulations, customs, and other requirements or restrictions. The Advisor does not intend to vote proxies of non-U.S. companies if the Advisor determines that the expected economic costs from voting outweigh the anticipated economic benefit to a Portfolio associated with voting. The Advisor intends to make its determination on whether to vote proxies of non-U.S. companies on a portfolio-by-portfolio basis. In doing so, the Advisor evaluates market requirements and impediments to voting proxies of companies in a country. The Advisor periodically reviews voting logistics, including costs and other voting difficulties, on a portfolio-by-portfolio and country-by-country basis, in order to determine if there have been any material changes that would affect the Advisor's determinations and procedures. In the event the Advisor is made aware of and believes an issue to be voted is likely to materially affect the economic value of a Portfolio, that its vote is reasonably likely to be determinative of the outcome of the contest, and the expected benefits of voting the proxies exceed the costs, the Advisor will make reasonable efforts to vote such proxies.

Holders of fixed income securities are generally not entitled to an annual vote and therefore do not have such a mechanism to influence an issuer's governance. From time-to-time holders of fixed income securities can receive proxy ballots or corporate action-consents at the discretion of the issuer/custodian. In such circumstances the Advisor's fixed income portfolio management team is generally responsible for providing recommendations on how to vote proxy ballots and corporation action-consents and they may consult with members of the Committee, with the aim of applying the same general principles as are set out in the Guidelines.

The Advisor may take social or sustainability issues into account when voting proxies for portfolios that do not incorporate social or sustainability considerations in their design, such as the Portfolios, if the Advisor believes that doing so is in the best interest of the portfolio and is otherwise consistent with applicable law and the Advisor's duties, such as where material environmental or social risks may have economic ramifications for shareholders.

The Advisor has retained certain third-party proxy voting service providers ("Proxy Service Firms") to provide information on shareholder meeting dates and proxy materials; translate proxy materials printed in a foreign language; provide research on proxy proposals; operationally process votes in accordance with the Voting Guidelines on behalf of a Portfolio; and provide reports concerning the proxies voted ("Proxy Voting Services"). Although the Advisor retains third-party service providers for Proxy Voting Services, the Advisor remains responsible for proxy voting decisions and making such decisions in accordance with its fiduciary duties. The Advisor has designed Voting Policies to prudently select, oversee and evaluate Proxy Service Firms consistent with the Advisor's fiduciary duties, including with respect to the matters described below, which Proxy Service Firms have been engaged to provide Proxy Voting Services to support the Advisor's voting in accordance with the Voting Policies. Prior to the selection of a new Proxy Service Firm and annually thereafter or more frequently if deemed necessary by the Advisor, the Committee will consider whether the Proxy Service Firm (i) has the capacity and competency to timely and adequately analyze proxy issues and provide the Proxy Voting Services the Proxy Service Firm has been engaged to provide and (ii) can make its recommendations in an impartial manner and in the best interests of the Advisor's clients, and consistent with the Advisor's Voting Policies and fiduciary duties. In the event that the Voting Guidelines are not implemented precisely as the Advisor intends because of the actions or omissions of any third party service providers, custodians or sub-custodians or other agents or any such persons

experience any irregularities (e.g., misvotes or missed votes), then such instances will not necessarily be deemed by the Advisor as a breach of the Voting Policies.

Information regarding how a Portfolio voted proxies related to its portfolio securities during the 12 month period ended June 30 of each year is available, no later than August 31 of each year, without charge, (i) by contacting the Trust at the address or telephone number appearing on the cover of this SAI, (ii) on the Advisor's website at https://www.dimensional.com/who-we-are/investment-stewardship and (iii) on the SEC's website at http://www.sec.gov.

## () DISCLOSURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS

On each Business Day, prior to the opening of regular trading on its primary listing exchange, each Portfolio discloses on its website the portfolio holdings that will form the basis of the Portfolio's next NAV per share calculation as required by Rule 6c-11. In addition, portfolio holdings information may also be made available to certain entities, including Trust service providers and institutional market participants, as described below.

## **Basket Composition Files**

The Portfolios may make available through the facilities of the NSCC or through posting on a Portfolio's publicly available website, prior to the opening of trading on each business day, (i) pricing basket files, which include full portfolio holdings; and (ii) trading basket files, which include the security names and share quantities to deliver in exchange for Shares, together with estimates and actual cash components.

## <u>Authorized Participants and Institutional Market Participants</u>

The Advisor may provide certain information concerning a Portfolio's portfolio holdings to certain entities (defined below) in a format not available to other current or prospective Portfolio shareholders in connection with the dissemination of information necessary for transactions in Creation Units, as contemplated by Rule 6c-11 under the 1940 Act. The "entities" referred to are generally limited to NSCC members and subscribers to various fee-based subscription services, including Authorized Participants and other institutional market participants and entities that provide information services. This information may or may not reflect the pro rata composition of a Portfolio's portfolio holdings.

## Third-Party Service Providers

Certain portfolio holdings information may be disclosed to third-party service providers to the Trust (e.g., the Trust's auditors, legal counsel, administrator, custodian, transfer agent) subject to appropriates confidentiality agreements with such service providers, as may be necessary to conduct business in the ordinary course in a manner consistent with applicable policies, agreements with the Portfolios, the terms of the current registration statements and federal securities laws and regulations thereunder. From time to time, and in the ordinary course of business, such information may also be disclosed, subject to appropriate confidentiality agreements, to other entities that provide services to the Portfolios, including pricing information vendors, and third parties that deliver analytical, statistical or consulting services to a Portfolio. The information is generally provided to such service providers after it has been disseminated to the NSCC.

# Additional Communications

In addition to the daily posting of portfolio holdings discussed above, the Portfolios may also directly provide such portfolio holdings, or information derived from such portfolio holdings, to parties who specifically request it, provided that: (i) the availability of the Portfolios' portfolio holdings is disclosed in the Portfolios' registration statement, as required by applicable law, as well as on the Portfolios' website; (ii) the Advisor determines that such disclosure is in the best interests of Portfolio shareholders; (iii) such information is made equally available to anyone requesting it; and (iv) it is determined that the disclosure does not present the risk of such information being used to trade against the Portfolios as the holdings information for the Portfolios is publicly disclosed on the Portfolios' website daily, and no party is receiving an advantage over another.

The Portfolios do not selectively disclose non-public holdings information to third parties other than those disclosed above. If the Portfolios do selectively disclose holdings information the following procedures will be followed. The Head of the Global Client Group and the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer ("Designated Persons") or a delegate of the same, respectively, together may authorize the selective disclosure of non-public holdings information of the Portfolios to those entities (each a "Recipient") who (1) specifically request the non-public holdings information for a purpose which the Designated Persons determine is consistent with a Portfolio's legitimate business purpose, (2) the Designated Persons determine that such disclosure is in the best interest of the Portfolio's shareholders and (3) in making such disclosure, no conflict exists between the Portfolio's shareholders and those of the Advisor or the Trust's principal underwriter. Prior to receiving non-public holdings information, a Recipient will execute a use and non-disclosure agreement and abide by its trading restrictions. The Trust's Chief Compliance Officer or a delegate of the same will review and approve any delegates named by Designated Persons and will maintain list of the same.

## () SECURITIES LENDING

The Board of the Portfolios has approved their participation in a securities lending program. Under the securities lending program, Citibank, N.A. serves as the securities lending agent for the Portfolios.

For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023, the income earned by the Portfolios, as well as the fees and/or compensation paid by the Portfolios (in dollars) pursuant to a securities lending agency/authorization agreement between the Portfolios and Citibank, N.A. (the "Securities Lending Agent"), were as follows:

F 1/	c 1		1 1 1 1
Fees and/or compensation	tor securities l	ending activities	and related services.
1 ccs unu or compensation	joi scenincs i	chang activities	unu remed serrees.

		1 ccs ur	iwor compensuii	on joi securines n	inuing ucurines u	mu retuteu serv	ices.		
<u>Portfolio*</u>	Gross income from securities lending activities	Fees paid to Securities Lending Agent from a revenue split	Fees paid for any cash collateral management service (including fees deducted from a pooled cash collateral reinvestment vehicle) not included in the revenue split		Indemnification fees not included in the revenue split	Rebate (paid to <u>borrower)</u>	not included in		Net income from securities lending <u>activities</u>
Dimensional US Core Equity Market ETF	\$2,829,723	\$27,930	\$25,644			\$2,524,697		\$2,578,271	\$251,451
Dimensional US Core Equity 1 ETF	\$10,341	\$52	\$228			\$9,526		\$9,806	\$535
Dimensional US High Profitability ETF	\$1,402,616	\$4,534	\$12,321			\$1,344,894		\$1,361,749	\$40,867
Dimensional US Large Cap Value ETF	\$76,775	\$214	\$859			\$73,782		\$74,856	\$1,920
Dimensional US Small Cap Value ETF	\$2,312,513	\$13,817	\$24,877			\$2,149,485		\$2,188,179	\$124,333
Dimensional US Large Cap Vector ETF**	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
				6.1					

Dimensional US Real Estate \$725,792 ETF

\$3,104

\$7,116

--- \$687,634

- \$697,854

\$27,938

For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023, the Securities Lending Agent provided the following services for the Portfolios in connection with securities lending activities: (i) entering into loans with approved entities subject to guidelines or restrictions provided by the Portfolios; (ii) receiving and holding collateral from borrowers, and facilitating the investment and reinvestment of cash collateral; (iii) monitoring daily the value of the loaned securities and collateral, including receiving and delivering additional collateral as necessary from/to borrowers; (iv) negotiating loan terms; (v) selecting securities to be loaned subject to guidelines or restrictions provided by the Portfolios; (vi) recordkeeping and account servicing; (vii) monitoring dividend/distribution activity relating to loaned securities; and (viii) arranging for return of loaned securities to the Portfolios at loan termination.

## () FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP ("PwC") is the independent registered public accounting firm to the Trust and audits the annual financial statements of the Trust. PwC's address is Two Commerce Square, Suite 1800, 2001 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-7042. The audited financial statements and financial highlights of each Portfolio (excluding the US Large Cap Vector ETF) for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023, as set forth in the Trust's annual report to shareholders, including the report of PwC, are incorporated by reference into this SAI.

A shareholder may obtain a copy of the annual reports upon request and without charge, by contacting the Trust at the address or telephone number appearing on the cover of this SAI.

## () PERFORMANCE DATA

The Portfolios may compare their investment performance to appropriate market and peer fund indices and investments for which reliable performance data is available. Such indices are generally unmanaged and are prepared by entities and organizations which track the performance of investment companies or investment advisors. Unmanaged indices often do not reflect deductions for administrative and management costs and expenses. The performance of the Portfolios may also be compared in publications to averages, performance rankings, or other information prepared by recognized investment company statistical services. Any performance information, whether related to the Portfolios or to the Advisor, should be considered in light of a Portfolio's investment objectives and policies, characteristics and the quality of the portfolio and market conditions during the time period indicated and should not be considered to be representative of what may be achieved in the future.

<sup>\*</sup> The amounts included in the table above may differ from the amounts disclosed in the Portfolios' annual reports due to timing differences, reconciliations, and certain other adjustments.

<sup>\*\*</sup> The Portfolio had not commenced operations of October 31, 2023. Accordingly, the Portfolio did not participate in the securities lending program for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023.

## Exhibit A

## **Summary of Proxy Voting Guidelines**

## General Approach to Corporate Governance and Proxy Voting

When voting (or refraining from voting) proxies, Dimensional<sup>1</sup> seeks to act in the best interests of the funds and accounts Dimensional manages and consistent with applicable legal and fiduciary standards. Dimensional seeks to maximize shareholder value subject to the standards of legal and regulatory regimes (applicable to the Advisor or the client), listing requirements, corporate governance and stewardship codes, and the investment or voting guidelines of the fund or account. <sup>2</sup>

Dimensional expects the members of a portfolio company's board to act in the interests of their shareholders. Each portfolio company's board should implement policies and adopt practices that align the interests of the board and management with those of its shareholders. Since a board's main responsibility is to oversee management and to manage and mitigate risk, it is important that board members have the experience and skills to carry out that responsibility.

This summary outlines Dimensional's global approach to key proxy voting issues and highlights particular considerations in specific markets.

#### **Global Evaluation Framework**

Dimensional's Global Evaluation Framework sets out Dimensional's general expectations for all portfolio companies. When implementing the principles contained in Dimensional's Global Evaluation Framework in a given market, in addition to the relevant legal and regulatory requirements, Dimensional will consider local market practices. Additionally, for portfolio companies in the United States, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Japan, Australia and other select Asia markets, Dimensional will apply the market-specific considerations contained in the relevant subsection in these Guidelines.

## **Uncontested Director Elections**

Dimensional may vote against individual directors, committee members, or the full board of a portfolio company, such as in the following situations:

- 1. There are problematic audit-related practices;
- 2. There are problematic compensation practices or persistent pay for performance misalignment;
- 3. There are problematic anti-takeover provisions;
- 4. There have been material failures of governance, risk oversight, or fiduciary responsibilities;
- 5. The board has failed to adequately respond to shareholder concerns;
- 6. The board has demonstrated a lack of accountability to shareholders;
- 7. There is an ineffective board refreshment process<sup>3</sup>;

If a director is a member of multiple boards of various portfolio companies, and one of those boards has one of the issues listed in 1-7 above, Dimensional may vote against that director with respect to the board of the portfolio company with the issue as well as any other portfolio company boards.

Dimensional also considers the following when voting on directors of portfolio companies:

- "Dimensional" refers to any of Dimensional Fund Advisors LP, Dimensional Fund Advisors Ltd., DFA Australia Limited, Dimensional Ireland Limited, Dimensional Fund Advisors Pte. Ltd. or Dimensional Japan Ltd.
- <sup>2</sup> For considerations in connection with ERISA-covered clients, see the Policy and its references to requirements under ERISA.
- As used in these guidelines "board refreshment process" means the method for reviewing and establishing the composition of the board of the portfolio company (e.g., assessments or self-evaluation, succession planning, approach for searches for board

members, criteria for qualification of board members).

- 1. Board and committee independence;
- 2. Director attendance: Dimensional generally expects directors to attend at least 75% of board and committee meetings;
- 3. Director capacity to serve;
- 4. Board composition.

### **Board Refreshment**

An effective board refreshment process for a portfolio company can include the alignment of directors' skills with business needs, assessment of individual director performance and feedback, and a search process for new directors that appropriately incorporates qualification criteria. Dimensional believes information about a portfolio company's assessment and refreshment process should be disclosed and should generally include:

- The processes and procedures by which the portfolio company identifies the key competencies that directors should
  possess in order to ensure the board is able to appropriately oversee the risks and opportunities associated with the
  portfolio company's strategy and operations;
- How the performance of individual directors and the board as a whole is assessed;
- The alignment between the skills and expertise of each board member and the key competencies identified in the board assessment process;
- Board refreshment mechanisms;
- Director recruitment policies and procedures; and
- The extent to which diversity considerations are incorporated into board assessment and refreshment practices and director recruitment policies.

In evaluating a portfolio company's refreshment process, Dimensional may consider, among other information:

- Whether the portfolio company's board assessment process meets market best practices in terms of objectiveness, rigor, disclosure, and other criteria;
- Whether the portfolio company has any mechanisms to encourage board refreshment; and
- Whether the portfolio company has board entrenchment devices, such as a classified board or plurality vote standard.

An additional consideration that may lead Dimensional to scrutinize the effectiveness of a portfolio company's board refreshment process is a lack of gender, racial, or ethnic diversity on the board. In jurisdictions where gender, racial, or ethnic representation on a board is not mandated by law, Dimensional may consider whether a portfolio company seeks to follow market best practices as the portfolio company nominates new directors and assesses the performance of existing directors who have the diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and skill-sets needed to effectively oversee management and manage risk.

If Dimensional believes that a portfolio company's board assessment and refreshment process is not sufficiently rigorous, or if the portfolio company fails to disclose adequate information for Dimensional to assess the rigor of the process, Dimensional may vote against members of the Nominating Committee, or other relevant directors.

## **Bundled/Slate Director Elections**

Dimensional generally opposes bundled director elections at portfolio companies; however, in markets where individual director elections are not an established practice, bundled elections are acceptable as long as the full list of candidates is disclosed in a timely manner.

### **Contested Director Elections**

In the case of contested board elections at portfolio companies, Dimensional takes a case-by-case approach. With the goal of maximizing shareholder value, Dimensional considers the qualifications of the nominees, the likelihood that each side can accomplish their stated plans, the portfolio company's corporate governance practices, and the incumbent board's history of responsiveness to shareholders.

### **Board Size**

Dimensional believes that portfolio company boards are responsible for determining an appropriate size of the board of directors within the confines of relevant corporate governance codes and best practice standards. However, Dimensional will generally oppose proposals to alter board structure or size in the context of a fight for control of the portfolio company or the board.

### **Auditors**

Dimensional will typically support the ratification of auditors unless there are concerns with the auditor's independence, the accuracy of the auditor's report, the level of non-audit fees, or if lack of disclosure makes it difficult for us to assess these factors.

In addition to voting against the ratification of the auditors, Dimensional may also vote against or withhold votes from audit committee members at portfolio companies in instances of fraud, material weakness, or significant financial restatements.

#### **Anti-Takeover Provisions**

Dimensional believes that the market for corporate control, which often results in acquisitions which increase shareholder value, should be able to function without undue restrictions. Takeover defenses such as shareholder rights plans (poison pills) can lead to entrenchment of management and reduced accountability at the board level. Dimensional will generally vote against the adoption of anti-takeover provisions. Dimensional may vote against directors at portfolio companies that adopt or maintain anti-takeover provisions without shareholder approval post-initial public offering ("IPO") or adopted such structures prior to, or in connection with, an IPO. Dimensional may vote against such directors not just at the portfolio company that adopted the anti-takeover provision, but at all other portfolio company boards they serve on.

### **Related-Party Transactions**

Related-party transactions have played a significant role in several high-profile corporate scandals and failures. Dimensional believes related-party transactions should be minimized. When such transactions are determined to be fair to the portfolio company and its shareholders in accordance with the portfolio company's policies and governing law, they should be thoroughly disclosed in public filings.

# **Amendments to Articles of Association/Incorporation**

Dimensional expects the details of proposed amendments to articles of association or incorporation, or similar portfolio company documents, to be clearly disclosed. Dimensional will typically support such amendments that are routine in nature or are required or prompted by regulatory changes. Dimensional may vote against amendments that negatively impact shareholder rights or diminish board oversight.

# **Equity Based Remuneration**

Dimensional supports the adoption of equity plans that align the interests of the portfolio company board, management, and portfolio company employees with those of shareholders.

Dimensional will evaluate equity plans on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the potential dilution to shareholders, the portfolio company's historical use of equity, and the particular plan features.

### **Executive Remuneration**

Dimensional supports remuneration for executives that is clearly linked to the portfolio company's performance. Remuneration should be designed to attract, retain and appropriately motivate and serve as a means to align the interests of executives with those of shareholders.

Dimensional expects portfolio companies to structure executive compensation in a manner that does not insulate management from the consequences of failures of risk oversight and management. Dimensional typically supports



clawback provisions in executive compensation plans as a way to mitigate risk of excessive risk taking by executives at portfolio companies.

Dimensional supports remuneration plan metrics that are quantifiable and clearly tied to company strategy and the creation of shareholder value. The use of standard financial metrics, for example, metrics based on generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") or international financial reporting standards, when determining executive pay is generally considered by Dimensional to be preferable. The use of non-standard metrics, including those involving large non-GAAP adjustments, result in less transparency for investors and may lead to artificially high executive pay. In evaluating a portfolio company's executive compensation, Dimensional considers whether the portfolio company is disclosing what each metric is intended to capture, how performance is measured, what targets have been set, and performance against those targets. While environmental and social (E&S) issues may be material for shareholder value, Dimensional believes linking E&S metrics to executive pay in a quantifiable and transparent manner can present particular challenges. Dimensional will seek to focus on the rigor of E&S metrics and will seek to scrutinize payouts made under these metrics, particularly when there has been underperformance against other metrics tied to financial performance or shareholder value.

To the extent that remuneration is clearly excessive and not aligned with the portfolio company's performance or other factors, Dimensional would not support such remuneration. Additionally, Dimensional expects portfolio companies to strive to follow local market practices with regards to the specific elements of remuneration and the overall structure of the remuneration plan.

Therefore, Dimensional reviews proposals seeking approval of a portfolio company's executive remuneration plan closely, taking into account the quantum of pay, portfolio company performance, and the structure of the plan.

### **Director Remuneration**

Dimensional will generally support director remuneration at portfolio companies that is reasonable in both size and composition relative to industry and market norms.

# Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A)

Dimensional's primary consideration in evaluating mergers and acquisitions is maximizing shareholder value. Given that Dimensional believes market prices reflect future expected cash flows, an important consideration is the price reaction to the announcement, and the extent to which the deal represents a premium to the pre-announcement price. Dimensional will also consider the strategic rationale, potential conflicts of interest, and the possibility of competing offers.

Dimensional may vote against deals where there are concerns with the acquisition process or where there appear to be significant conflicts of interest.

### **Capitalization**

Dimensional will vote case-by-case on proposals related to portfolio company share issuances, taking into account the purpose for which the shares will be used, the risk to shareholders of not approving the request, and the dilution to existing shareholders.

## **Unequal Voting Rights**

Dimensional opposes the creation of share structures that provide for unequal voting rights, including dual class stock with unequal voting rights or mechanisms such as loyalty shares that may skew economic ownership and voting rights within the same class of shares, and will generally vote against proposals to create or continue such structures. On a case-by-case basis, Dimensional may also vote against directors at portfolio companies that adopt or maintain such structures without shareholder approval post-IPO or adopted such structures prior to, or in connection with, an IPO.

# Say on Climate

Dimensional will generally vote against management and shareholder proposals to introduce say on climate votes, which propose that companies' climate-risk management plans are put to a recurring advisory shareholder vote. Dimensional believes that strategic planning, including mitigation of climate-related risks and oversight of opportunities presented by potential climate change is the responsibility of the portfolio company board and should not be delegated or transferred to shareholders. If a portfolio company's climate-risk management plan is put to a shareholder vote then Dimensional will generally vote against the plan, regardless of the level of detail contained in

the plan, to indicate our opposition to the delegation of oversight implied by such votes If Dimensional observes that a portfolio company board is failing to adequately guard shareholder value through strategic planning, Dimensional may vote against directors.

# **Shareholder Proposals**

Dimensional's goal when voting on portfolio company shareholder proposals is to support those proposals that protect or enhance shareholder value through improved board accountability, improved policies and procedures, or improved disclosure.

When evaluating environmental or social shareholder proposals, Dimensional will use research to consider whether the proposal addresses a material issue to the portfolio company, the portfolio company's current handling of the issue (both on an absolute basis and relative to market practices), the portfolio company's compliance with regulatory requirements, and the potential cost to the portfolio company of implementing the proposal.

### **Virtual Meetings**

Dimensional does not oppose the use of virtual-only meetings if shareholders are provided with the same rights and opportunities as available during a physical meeting, including:

- The ability to see and hear portfolio company representatives;
- The ability to ask questions of portfolio company representatives; and
- The ability to see or hear questions submitted to portfolio company representatives by other shareholders, including those questions not answered by portfolio company representatives.

### **Disclosure of Vote Results**

Dimensional expects detailed disclosure of voting results. In cases where vote results have not been disclosed within a reasonable time frame, Dimensional may vote against individual directors, committee members, or the full board of a portfolio company.

### **Voting Guidelines for Environmental and Social Matters**

Dimensional believes that portfolio company boards are responsible for addressing material environmental and social risks within their duties. If a portfolio company is unresponsive to environmental or social risks that may have material economic ramifications for shareholders, Dimensional may vote against directors individually, committee members, or the entire board. Dimensional may communicate with portfolio companies to better understand the alignment of the interests of boards and management with those of shareholders on these topics.

Dimensional evaluates shareholder proposals on environmental or social issues by paying particular attention to the portfolio company's current handling of the issue, current disclosures, the financial materiality of the issue, market practices, and regulatory requirements. Dimensional may vote for proposals requesting disclosure of specific environmental and social data, such as information about board oversight, risk management policies and procedures, or performance against a specific metric, if Dimensional believes that the portfolio company's current disclosure is inadequate to allow shareholders to effectively assess the portfolio company's handling of a material issue.

### **Evaluating Disclosure of Material Environmental or Social Risks**

Dimensional generally believes that information about the oversight and mitigation of material environmental or social risks should be disclosed by portfolio companies. Dimensional generally expects the disclosure regarding oversight and mitigation to include:

- A description of material risks.
- A description of the process for identifying and prioritizing such risks and how frequently it occurs.
- The policies and procedures governing the handling of each material risk.
- A description of the management-level roles/groups involved in oversight and mitigation of each material risk.

- A description of the metrics used to assess the effectiveness of mitigating each material risk, and the frequency at which performance against these metrics is assessed.
- A description of how the board is informed of material risks and the progress against relevant metrics.

In certain instances where Dimensional determines that disclosure by a portfolio company is insufficient for a shareholder to be able to adequately assess the relevant risks facing a portfolio company, Dimensional may, on a case-by-case basis, vote against individual directors, committee members, or the entire board, or may vote in favor of related shareholder proposals consistent with Dimensional's general approach to such proposals.

# **Political and Lobbying Activities**

Dimensional expects boards of portfolio companies to exercise oversight of political and lobbying-related expenditures and ensure that such spending is in line with shareholder interests.

In evaluating a portfolio company's policies related to political and lobbying expenditure, Dimensional expects the following practices:

- The board to adopt policies and procedures to oversee political and lobbying expenditures;
- The details of the board oversight, including the policies and procedures governing such expenditures, to be disclosed publicly; and
- That board oversight of political and lobbying activities, such as spending, should include ensuring that the portfolio company's publicly stated positions are in alignment with its related activities and spending.

### **Human Capital Management**

Dimensional expects boards of portfolio companies to exercise oversight of human capital management issues. Dimensional expects portfolio companies to disclose sufficient information for shareholders to understand the policies, procedures, and personnel a portfolio company has in place to address issues related to human capital management. This disclosure should include the portfolio company's human capital management goals in key areas, such as compensation, employee health and wellness, employee training and development, and workforce composition, as well as the metrics by which the portfolio company assesses performance against these goals.

### **Climate-Related Risks**

Dimensional expects boards of portfolio companies to exercise oversight of climate-related risks that may have a material impact on the portfolio company. Climate-related risks may include physical risks from changing weather patterns and/or transitional risks from changes in regulation or consumer preferences. Dimensional expects portfolio companies to disclose information on their handling of these risks, to the extent those risks may have a material impact on the portfolio company. Disclosure should include:

- The specific risks identified.
- The potential impact these risks could have on the portfolio company's business, operations, or strategy.
- Whether the risks are overseen by a specific committee or the full board.
- The frequency with which the board or responsible board committee receives updates on the risks and the types of information reviewed.
- The management-level roles/groups responsible for managing these risks.
- The metrics used to assess the handling of these risks, how they are calculated, and the reason for their selection, particularly when the metrics recommended by a recognized third-party framework, such as Task Force for Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) or Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), are not being used.
- Targets used by the portfolio company to manage climate-related risks and performance against those targets.

# **Human Rights**

Dimensional expects portfolio company boards to exercise oversight of human rights issues that could pose a material risk to the business, including forced labor, child labor, privacy, freedom of expression, and land and water rights. Dimensional expects portfolio companies to disclose information on their handling of these risks, to the extent those risks may have a material impact on the portfolio company. Disclosure should include:

The specific risks identified

- The potential impact these risks could have on the portfolio company's business, operations, or strategy
- Whether the risks are overseen by a specific committee or the full board
- The frequency with which the board or responsible board committee receives updates on the risks and the types of information reviewed
- Details on how the portfolio company monitors human rights throughout the organization and supply chain, including the scope and frequency of audits and how instances of non-compliance are resolved
- The policies governing human rights throughout the organization and supply chain and the extent to which the policy aligns with recognized global frameworks such as the UN's Guiding Principles on Human Rights and the OECD's Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Details of violations of the policy and corrective action taken

### **Cybersecurity**

Dimensional expects portfolio company boards to exercise oversight of cybersecurity issues that could pose a material risk to the business. Dimensional expects portfolio companies to disclose information on their handling of these risks, to the extent those risks may have a material impact on the portfolio company. Disclosure should include:

Policies and procedures to manage cybersecurity risk and identify cybersecurity incidents

- The role of management in implementing cybersecurity policies and procedures
- The role of the board in overseeing cybersecurity risk and the process by which the board is informed of incidents.
- Material cybersecurity incidents and remedial actions taken.

# **Evaluation Framework for U.S. Listed Companies**

# **Director Elections:**

# **Uncontested Director Elections**

Shareholders elect the board of a portfolio company to represent their interests and oversee management and expect boards to adopt policies and practices that align the interests of the board and management with those of shareholders and limit the potential for conflicts of interest.

One of the most important measures aimed at ensuring that portfolio company shareholders' interests are represented is an independent board of directors, made up of individuals with the diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and skill-sets needed to effectively oversee management and manage risk. Dimensional expects portfolio company boards to be majority independent and key committees to be fully independent.

Dimensional believes shareholders should have a say in who represents their interests and portfolio companies should be responsive to shareholder concerns. Dimensional may vote against or withhold votes from individual directors, committee members, or the full board, and may also vote against such directors when they serve on other portfolio company boards, in the following situations:

• The continued service of directors who failed to receive the support of a majority of shareholders (regardless of whether the portfolio company uses a majority or plurality vote standard).

• Failure to adequately respond to majority-supported shareholder proposals.

### **Contested Director Elections**

In the case of contested board elections at portfolio companies, Dimensional takes a case-by-case approach. With the goal of maximizing shareholder value, Dimensional considers the qualifications of the nominees, the likelihood that each side can accomplish their stated plans, the portfolio company's corporate governance practices, the incumbent board's history of responsiveness to shareholders, and the market's reaction to the contest.

## **Board Structure and Composition:**

#### **Age and Term Limits**

Dimensional believes it is the responsibility of a portfolio company's nominating committee to ensure that the portfolio company's board of directors is composed of individuals with the skills needed to effectively oversee management and will generally oppose proposals seeking to impose age or term limits for directors.

That said, portfolio companies should clearly disclose their director evaluation and board refreshment policies in their proxy. Lack of healthy turnover on the board of a portfolio company or lack of observable diversity on a portfolio company board may lead Dimensional to scrutinize the rigor of a portfolio company's board refreshment process.

#### CEO/Chair

Dimensional believes that the portfolio company boards are responsible for determining whether the separation of roles is appropriate and adequately protects the interests of shareholders.

At portfolio companies with a combined CEO/Chair, Dimensional expects the board to appoint a lead independent director with specific responsibilities, including the setting of meeting agendas, to seek to ensure the board is able to act independently.

Recent environmental, social, and governance controversies resulting from inadequate board oversight may be taken into account when voting on shareholder proposals seeking the separation of the roles of CEO and Chair at a portfolio company.

### **Governance Practices:**

### **Classified Boards**

Dimensional believes director votes are an important mechanism to increase board accountability to shareholders. Dimensional therefore advocates for boards at portfolio companies to give shareholders the right to vote on the entire slate of directors on an annual basis.

Dimensional will generally support proposals to declassify existing boards at portfolio companies and will generally oppose efforts by portfolio companies to adopt classified board structures, in which only part of the board is elected each year.

Dimensional will generally vote against or withhold votes from incumbent directors at portfolio companies that adopt a classified board without shareholder approval. Dimensional may also vote against or withhold votes from directors at portfolio companies that adopt classified boards prior to or in connection with an IPO, unless accompanied by a reasonable sunset provision.

### **Dual Classes of Stock**

Dual class share structures are generally seen as detrimental to shareholder rights, as they are accompanied by unequal voting rights. Dimensional believes in the principle of one share, one vote.

Dimensional opposes the creation of dual-class share structures with unequal voting rights at portfolio companies and will generally vote against proposals to create or continue dual-class capital structures.

Dimensional will generally vote against or withhold votes from directors at portfolio companies that adopt a dual-class structure without shareholder approval after the portfolio company's IPO. Dimensional will generally vote against or withhold votes from directors for implementation of a dual-class structure prior to or in connection with an IPO, unless accompanied by a reasonable sunset provision.

### **Supermajority Vote Requirements**

Dimensional believes that the affirmative vote of a majority of shareholders of a portfolio company should be sufficient to approve items such as bylaw amendments and mergers. Dimensional will generally vote against proposals seeking to implement a supermajority vote requirement and for shareholder proposals seeking the adoption of a majority vote standard.

Dimensional will generally vote against or withhold votes from incumbent directors at portfolio companies that adopt a supermajority vote requirement without shareholder approval. Dimensional may also vote against or withhold votes from directors at portfolio companies that adopt supermajority vote requirements prior to or in connection with an IPO, unless accompanied by a reasonable sunset provision.

# **Shareholder Rights Plans (Poison Pills)**

Dimensional generally opposes poison pills. As a result, Dimensional may vote against the adoption of a pill and all directors at a portfolio company that put a pill in place without first obtaining shareholder approval. Votes against (or withheld votes from) directors may extend beyond the portfolio company that adopted the pill, to all boards the directors serve on. In considering a poison pill for approval, Dimensional may take into account the existence of 'qualified offer' and other shareholder-friendly provisions.

For pills designed to protect net operating losses, Dimensional may take into consideration a variety of factors, including but not limited to the size of the available operating losses and the likelihood that they will be utilized to offset gains.

## **Cumulative Voting**

Under cumulative voting, each shareholder is entitled to the number of his or her shares multiplied by the number of directors to be elected. Shareholders have the flexibility to allocate their votes among directors in the proportion they see fit, including casting all their votes for one director. This is particularly impactful in the election of dissident candidates to the board in the event of a proxy contest.

Dimensional will typically support proposals that provide for cumulative voting and against proposals to eliminate cumulative voting unless the portfolio company has demonstrated that there are adequate safeguards in place, such as proxy access and majority voting.

# **Majority Voting**

For the election of directors, portfolio companies may adopt either a majority or plurality vote standard. In a plurality vote standard, the directors with the most votes are elected. If the number of directors up for election is equal to the number of board seats, each director only needs to receive one vote in order to be elected. In a majority vote standard, in order to be elected, a director must receive the support of a majority of shares voted or present at the meeting.

Dimensional supports a majority (rather than plurality) voting standard for uncontested director elections at portfolio companies. The majority vote standard should be accompanied by a director resignation policy to address failed elections.

To account for contested director elections, portfolio companies with a majority vote standard should include a carve-out for plurality voting in situations where there are more nominees than seats.

### Right to Call Meetings and Act by Written Consent

Dimensional will generally support the right of shareholders to call special meetings of a portfolio company board (if they own 25% of shares outstanding) and take action by written consent.

### Proxy Access

Dimensional will typically support management and shareholder proposals for proxy access that allow a shareholder (or group of shareholders) holding three percent of voting power for three years to nominate up to 25 percent of a portfolio company board. Dimensional will typically vote against proposals that are more restrictive than these guidelines.

# **Amend Bylaws/Charters**

Dimensional believes that shareholders should have the right to amend a portfolio company's bylaws. Dimensional will generally vote against or withhold votes from incumbent directors at portfolio companies that place substantial



restrictions on shareholders' ability to amend bylaws through excessive ownership requirements for submitting proposals or restrictions on the types of issues that can be amended.

### **Exclusive Forum**

Dimensional is generally supportive of management proposals at portfolio companies to adopt an exclusive forum for shareholder litigation.

# **Indemnification and Exculpation of Directors and Officers**

Dimensional intends to evaluate proposals seeking to enact or expand indemnification or exculpation provisions on a case-by-case basis considering board rationale and specific provisions being proposed.

### **Advance Notice Provisions**

Portfolio company bylaw amendments known as "advance notice provisions" set out the steps shareholders must follow when submitting an item for inclusion on the agenda of a shareholder meeting. These provisions may serve as an entrenchment device that can result in reduced accountability at the board level in cases where they impose onerous requirements on shareholders wishing to submit a nominee for the board of directors. When evaluating advanced notice provisions, whether for the submission of a shareholder candidate or the submission of other permissible proposals, Dimensional generally does not support provisions that:

- Require shareholder-nominated candidates to disclose information that is not required for new board-nominated candidates
- Impose unduly burdensome disclosure requirements on shareholder proponents
- Significantly limit the time period shareholders have to submit proposals or nominees

Dimensional may vote against or withhold votes from directors who adopt such provisions without shareholder approval.

# **Executive and Director Compensation:**

# **Equity-Based Compensation**

Dimensional supports the adoption of equity plans that align the interests of portfolio company board, management, and portfolio company employees with those of shareholders.

Dimensional will evaluate equity plans on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the potential dilution to shareholders, the portfolio company's historical use of equity, and the particular plan features.

Dimensional will typically vote against plans that have features that have a negative impact on shareholders of portfolio companies. Such features include single-trigger or discretionary vesting, an overly broad definition of change in control, a lack of minimum vesting periods for grants, evergreen provisions, and the ability to reprice shares without shareholder approval.

Dimensional may also vote against equity plans if problematic equity grant practices have contributed to a pay for performance misalignment at the portfolio company.

# **Employee Stock Purchase Plans**

Dimensional will generally support qualified employee stock purchase plans (as defined by Section 423 of the Internal Revenue Code), provided that the purchase price is no less than 85 percent of market value, the number of shares reserved for the plan is no more than ten percent of outstanding shares, and the offering period is no more than 27 months.

# Advisory Votes on Executive Compensation (Say on Pay)

Dimensional supports reasonable compensation for executives that is clearly linked to the portfolio company's performance. Compensation should serve as a means to align the interests of executives with those of shareholders. To the extent that compensation is excessive, it represents a transfer to management of shareholder wealth. Therefore, Dimensional reviews proposals seeking approval of a portfolio company's executive compensation plan closely, taking into account the quantum of pay, portfolio company performance, and the structure of the plan.

Certain practices, such as:

- multi-year guaranteed bonuses
- excessive severance agreements (particularly those that vest without involuntary job loss or diminution of duties or those with excise-tax gross-ups)
- single, or the same, metrics used for both short-term and long-term executive compensation plans

may encourage excessive risk-taking by executives at portfolio companies and are generally opposed by Dimensional.

At portfolio companies that have a history of problematic pay practices or excessive compensation, Dimensional will consider the portfolio company's responsiveness to shareholders' concerns and may vote against or withhold votes from members of the compensation committee if these concerns have not been addressed.

# Frequency of Say on Pay

Executive compensation in the United States is typically composed of three parts: 1) base salary; 2) cash bonuses based on annual performance (short-term incentive awards); 3) and equity awards based on performance over a multi-year period (long-term incentive awards).

Dimensional supports triennial say on pay because it allows for a longer-term assessment of whether compensation was adequately linked to portfolio company performance. This is particularly important in situations where a portfolio company makes significant changes to their long-term incentive awards, as the effectiveness of such changes in aligning pay and performance cannot be determined in a single year.

If there are serious concerns about a portfolio company's compensation plan in a year where the plan is not on the ballot, Dimensional may vote against or withhold votes from members of the Compensation Committee.

# **Executive Severance Agreements (Golden Parachutes)**

Dimensional analyzes golden parachute proposals on a case-by-case basis.

Dimensional expects payments to be reasonable on both an absolute basis and relative to the value of the transaction. Dimensional will typically vote against agreements with cash severance of more than 3x salary and bonus.

Dimensional expects vesting of equity to be contingent on both a change in control and a subsequent involuntary termination of the employee ("double-trigger change in control").

# **Corporate Actions:**

# Reincorporation

Dimensional will evaluate reincorporation proposals on a case-by-case basis.

Dimensional may vote against reincorporations if the move would result in a substantial diminution of shareholder rights at the portfolio company.

# **Capitalization:**

### **Increase Authorized Shares**

Dimensional will vote case-by-case on proposals seeking to increase common or preferred stock of a portfolio company, taking into account the purpose for which the shares will be used and the risk to shareholders of not approving the request.

Dimensional will typically vote against requests for common or preferred stock issuances that are excessively dilutive relative to common market practice.

Dimensional will typically vote against proposals at portfolio companies with multiple share classes to increase the number of shares of the class with superior voting rights.

### **Blank Check Preferred Stock**

Blank check preferred stock is stock that can be issued at the discretion of the board, with the voting, conversion, distribution, and other rights determined by the board at the time of issue. Therefore, blank check preferred stock can potentially serve as means to entrench management and prevent takeovers at portfolio companies.

To mitigate concerns regarding what Dimensional believes is the inappropriate use of blank check preferred stock, Dimensional expects portfolio companies seeking approval for blank preferred stock to clearly state that the shares will not be used for antitakeover purposes.

### **Share Repurchases**

Dimensional will generally support open-market share repurchase plans that allow all shareholders to participate on equal terms. Portfolio companies that use metrics such as earnings per share (EPS) in their executive compensation plans should ensure that the impact of such repurchases are taken into account when determining payouts.

# **Shareholder Proposals:**

Dimensional's goal when voting on portfolio company shareholder proposals is to support those proposals that protect or enhance shareholder value through improved board accountability, improved policies and procedures, or improved disclosure.

When evaluating environmental or social shareholder proposals, Dimensional will use research to consider whether the proposal addresses a material issue to the portfolio company, the portfolio company's current handling of the issue (both on an absolute basis and relative to market practices), the portfolio company's compliance with regulatory requirements, and the potential cost to the portfolio company of implementing the proposal.

In instances where a shareholder proposal is excluded from the meeting agenda but the SEC has declined to state a view on whether such proposal can be excluded, Dimensional expects the portfolio company to provide shareholders with substantive disclosure concerning this exclusion. If substantive disclosure is lacking, Dimensional may vote against or withhold votes from certain directors on a case-by-case basis.

### Evaluation Framework for Europe, the Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) Listed Companies

# **Continental Europe:**

### **Director Election Guidelines**

- Portfolio company boards should be majority independent (excluding shareholder or employee representatives as provided by law); however, lower levels of board independence may be acceptable in controlled companies and in those markets where local best practice indicates that at least one-third of the board be independent.
- A majority of audit and remuneration committee members (excluding shareholder or employee representatives as provided by law) should be independent; the committees overall should be at least one-third independent.
- Executives should generally not serve on audit and remuneration committees.
- The CEO and board chair roles should generally be separate.

# **Remuneration Guidelines**

Dimensional expects annual remuneration reports published by portfolio companies pursuant to the Shareholder Rights Directive II to disclose, at a minimum:

- The amount paid to executives;
- Alignment between pay and performance;
- The targets used for variable incentive plans and the ex-post levels achieved; and
- The rationale for any discretion applied.

# Other Market Specific Guidelines for Continental Europe

• In Austria, Germany, and the Netherlands, Dimensional will generally vote against the appointment of a former CEO as chairman of the board of directors or supervisory board of a portfolio company.

### **United Kingdom & Ireland:**

Dimensional expects portfolio companies to follow the requirements of the UK Corporate Governance Code with regards to board and committee composition. When evaluating portfolio company boards Dimensional will also consider the recommendations of the FTSE Women Leaders and Parker Reviews with regards to female and minority representation on the board.

Dimensional also expects companies to align their remuneration with the requirements of the UK Corporate Governance Code and to consider best practices such as those set forth in the Investment Association Principles of Remuneration.

# **South Africa:**

Dimensional expects portfolio companies to follow the recommendations of the King Report on Corporate Governance (King Code IV) with regards to board and committee composition.

### **Turkey:**

Dimensional expects the board of directors of a portfolio company to be at least one-third independent; at minimum two directors should be independent.

Dimensional expects the board of a portfolio company to establish an independent audit committee.

Dimensional expects the board of a portfolio company to establish a board committee with responsibility for compensation and nominating matters. This committee should be chaired by an independent director.

# Framework for Evaluating Australia-Listed Companies

### **Uncontested Director Elections**

Shareholders elect the board of a portfolio company to represent their interests and oversee management and expect portfolio company boards to adopt policies and practices that align the interests of the board and management with those of shareholders and limit the potential for conflicts of interest.

One of the most important measures aimed at ensuring that portfolio company shareholders' interests are represented is an independent board of directors, made up of individuals with the diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and skill-sets needed to effectively oversee management and manage risk. Dimensional expects portfolio company boards to be majority independent.

Dimensional believes that key audit and remuneration committees should be composed of independent directors. Dimensional will generally vote against executive directors of the portfolio company who serve on the audit committee or who serve on the remuneration committee if the remuneration committee is not majority independent.

Dimensional will consider the ASX Corporate Governance Council Principles and Recommendations (the "ASX Principles and Recommendations") with regards to female representation on the board when voting on directors.

# CEO/Chair

Dimensional expects portfolio companies to follow the ASX Corporate Governance Council Principles and Recommendations and generally separate the CEO and board chair roles, with the board chair being an independent director.

### **Auditors**

Australian law does not require the annual ratification of auditors; therefore, concerns with a portfolio company's audit practices will be reflected in votes against members of the audit committee.

Dimensional may vote against audit committee members at a portfolio company if there are concerns with the auditor's independence, the accuracy of the auditor's report, the level of non-audit fees, or if lack of disclosure makes it difficult to assess these factors.

Dimensional may also vote against audit committee members in instances of fraud or material failures in oversight of audit functions.

# Share Issuances

Dimensional will evaluate requests for share issuances on a case-by-case basis, taking into account factors such as the impact on current shareholders and the rationale for the request.

When voting on approval of prior share distributions, Dimensional will generally support prior issuances that conform to the dilution guidelines set out in ASX Listing Rule 7.1.

### **Share Repurchase**

Dimensional will evaluate requests for share repurchases on a case-by-case basis, taking into account factors such as the impact on current shareholders, the rationale for the request, and the portfolio company's history of repurchases. Dimensional expects repurchases to be made in arms-length transactions using independent third parties.

Dimensional may vote against portfolio company plans that do not include limitations on the portfolio company's ability to use the plan to repurchase shares from third parties at a premium and limitations on the use of share purchases as an anti-takeover device.

# **Constitution Amendments**

Dimensional will evaluate requests for amendments to a portfolio company's constitution on a case-by-case basis. The primary consideration will be the impact on the rights of shareholders.

#### **Non-Executive Director Remuneration**

Dimensional will support non-executive director remuneration at portfolio companies that is reasonable in both size and composition relative to industry and market norms.

Dimensional will generally vote against components of non-executive director remuneration that are likely to impair a director's independence, such as options or performance-based remuneration.

# **Equity-Based Remuneration**

Dimensional supports the adoption of equity plans that align the interests of the portfolio company board, management, and portfolio company employees with those of shareholders.

Companies should clearly disclose components of the plan, including vesting periods and performance hurdles.

Dimensional may vote against plans that are exceedingly dilutive to existing shareholders. Plans that permit retesting or repricing will generally be viewed unfavorably.

### Framework for Evaluating Japan-Listed Securities

### **Uncontested Director Elections**

Shareholders elect the board of a portfolio company to represent their interests and oversee management and expect portfolio company boards to adopt policies and practices that align the interests of the board and management with those of shareholders and limit the potential for conflicts of interest.

One of the most important measures aimed at ensuring that portfolio company shareholders' interests are represented is an independent board of directors, made up of individuals with the diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and skill sets needed to effectively oversee management and manage risk. With respect to gender diversity, Dimensional may consider local market practice, including requirements under the Japan Corporate Governance Code, and may vote against directors if the board does not meet established market norms.

At portfolio companies with a three-committee structure, Dimensional expects at least one-third of the board to be outsiders. Ideally, the board should be majority independent. At portfolio companies with a three-committee structure that have a controlling shareholder, at least two directors and at least one-third of the board should be independent outsiders.

At portfolio companies with an audit committee structure, Dimensional expects at least one-third of the board to be outsiders. Ideally, the audit committee should be entirely independent; at minimum, any outside directors who serve



on the committee should be independent. At portfolio companies with an audit committee structure that have a controlling shareholder, at least two directors and at least one-third of the board should be independent outsiders.

At portfolio companies with a statutory auditor structure, Dimensional expects at least two directors and at least one-third of the board to be outsiders. At portfolio companies with a statutory auditor structure that have a controlling shareholder, at least two directors and at least one-third of the board should be independent outsiders.

### **Statutory Auditors**

Statutory auditors are responsible for effectively overseeing management and ensuring that decisions made are in the best interest of shareholders. Dimensional may vote against statutory auditors who are remiss in their responsibilities.

When voting on outside statutory auditors, Dimensional expects nominees to be independent and to have the capacity to fulfill the requirements of their role as evidenced by attendance at meetings of the board of directors or board of statutory auditors.

# **Director and Statutory Auditor Compensation**

Dimensional will support compensation for portfolio company directors and statutory auditors that is reasonable in both size and composition relative to industry and market norms.

When requesting an increase to the level of director fees, Dimensional expects portfolio companies to provide a specific reason for the increase. Dimensional will generally support an increase of director fees if it is in conjunction with the introduction of performance-based compensation, or where the ceiling for performance-based compensation is being increased. Dimensional will generally not support an increase in director fees if there is evidence that the directors have been remiss in effectively overseeing management or ensuring that decisions made are in the best interest of shareholders.

Dimensional will typically support an increase to the statutory auditor compensation ceiling unless there is evidence that the statutory auditors have been remiss in effectively overseeing management or ensuring that decisions made are in the best interest of shareholders.

Dimensional will generally support the granting of annual bonuses to portfolio company directors and statutory auditors unless there is evidence the board or the statutory auditors have been remiss in effectively overseeing management or ensuring that decisions made are in the best interest of shareholders.

Dimensional generally supports the granting of retirement benefits to portfolio company insiders, so long as the individual payments, and aggregate amount of such payments, is disclosed.

Dimensional will generally vote against the granting of retirement bonuses if there is evidence the portfolio company board or statutory auditors have been remiss in effectively overseeing management or ensuring that decisions made are in the best interest of shareholders.

# **Equity Based Compensation**

Dimensional supports the adoption of equity plans that align the interests of the portfolio company board, management, and portfolio company employees with those of shareholders.

Dimensional will typically support stock option plans to portfolio company executives and employees if total dilution from the proposed plans and previous plans does not exceed 5 percent for mature companies or 10 percent for growth companies.

Dimensional will generally vote against stock plans if upper limit of options that can be issued per year is not disclosed.

For deep-discounted stock option plans, Dimensional typically expects portfolio companies to disclose specific performance hurdles.

# **Capital Allocation**

Dimensional will typically support well-justified dividend payouts that do not negatively impact the portfolio company's overall financial health.

### **Share Repurchase**

Dimensional is typically supportive of portfolio company boards having discretion over share repurchases absent concerns with the portfolio company's balance sheet management, capital efficiency, buyback and dividend payout history, board composition, or shareholding structure.

Dimensional will typically support proposed repurchases that do not have a negative impact on shareholder value.

For repurchases of more than 10 percent of issue share capital, Dimensional expects the portfolio company to provide a robust explanation for the request.

# **Cross-Shareholding**

Dimensional generally believes that portfolio companies should not allocate significant portions of their net assets to investments in companies for non-investment purposes. For example, in order to strengthen relationships with customers, suppliers, or borrowers. Such cross-shareholding, whether unilateral or reciprocal, can compromise director independence, entrench management, and reduce director accountability to uninterested shareholders. Dimensional may vote against certain directors at companies with excessive cross-shareholdings.

### **Shareholder Rights Plans (Poison Pills)**

Dimensional believes the market for corporate control, which can result in acquisitions that are accretive to shareholders, should be able to function without undue restrictions. Takeover defenses such as poison pills can lead to entrenchment and reduced accountability at the board level.

### **Indemnification and Limitations on Liability**

Dimensional generally supports limitations on liability for directors and statutory auditors in ordinary circumstances.

## **Limit Legal Liability of External Auditors**

Dimensional generally opposes limitations on the liability of external auditors.

# **Increase in Authorized Capital**

Dimensional will typically support requests for increases of less than 100 percent of currently authorized capital, so long as the increase does not leave the portfolio company with less than 30 percent of the proposed authorized capital outstanding.

For increases that exceed these guidelines, Dimensional expects portfolio companies to provide a robust explanation for the increase.

Dimensional will generally not support requests for increases that will be used as an anti-takeover device.

### **Expansion of Business Activities**

For well performing portfolio companies seeking to expand their business into enterprises related to their core business, Dimensional will typically support management requests to amend the portfolio company's articles to expand the portfolio company's business activities.

# Framework for Evaluating Securities in Other Select Asian Markets

#### **Uncontested Director Elections**

Dimensional expects portfolio companies to disclose biographical information about director candidates sufficient for shareholders to assess the candidate's independence and suitability for board service.

Dimensional expects that portfolio companies will at a minimum meet mandated regulatory or listing standards levels for board independence but should work towards meeting the applicable requirements of the relevant Corporate Governance code.

Dimensional maintains the following expectations for board independence at portfolio companies. The calculation of the level of independence will generally exclude shareholder or employee representatives as provided by law.

• All boards of directors of Malaysian portfolio companies should be at least 33% independent. Boards of directors of Malaysian "Large Companies" as defined by the Securities Commission Malaysia should be majority independent.



- Boards of directors of Indian and Singaporean portfolio companies should be at least 50% independent if the board chair is not independent. If the board chair is independent, the board of directors should be at least 33% independent.
- Boards of directors of Thai, Filipino, Hong Kong and mainland Chinese portfolio companies should be at least 33% independent.
- Boards of directors of Taiwanese portfolio companies should have no fewer than two independent directors and no less than 20% independence.
- Boards of Commissioners of Indonesian portfolio companies should be at least 30% independent, except for banks, insurance companies, and financial institutions which should be 50% independent.
- Boards of directors of South Korean portfolio companies should be at least 25% independent. The board of directors of Large Companies, as defined by the Commercial Act of South Korea, should be majority independent.

# **Director Remuneration**

In most Asian markets, director remuneration generally consists of both fees and bonuses.

Dimensional will generally support the payment of fees for serving as a director, fees for attending meetings, and other market-permitted remuneration if the size of such fees and other director remuneration is reasonable relative to industry and market norms.

In the absence of specific proposals to approve director remuneration (including fees and bonuses), Dimensional may vote against the directors who receive such remuneration if concerns are identified.

### **Equity Based Remuneration**

In most Asian markets, equity plans are developed and presented for shareholder approval as part of employee remuneration. Equity plans may consist of stock options, restricted shares, or performance shares.

When voting on stock-option plans, restricted share plans, and performance share plans, Dimensional will consider the extent to which the plan is performance based, the length of performance and vesting periods, and the treatment of equity upon a change in control.

For stock-option plans, if the plan provides for a discount to the market price, Dimensional will consider the reasonableness and rationale for such a discount in light of local market standards.

In instances where Dimensional has identified concerns with a portfolio company's equity plan or equity granting practices, Dimensional will generally oppose the extension of the plan to subsidiary or associate companies.

