

#### City and County of San Francisco Employees' Retirement System

#### **Deferred Compensation Division**

# RETIREMENT BOARD CALENDAR SHEET Deferred Compensation Committee Meeting of October 4, 2023

**To:** Deferred Compensation Committee

Through: Alison Romano

CEO & CIO

From: Diane Chui Justen

**Deferred Compensation Director** 

Date: October 4, 2023

#### Agenda Item

**Investment Fee Benchmarking Analysis** 

#### **Background**

The SFDCP takes pride in offering the lowest investment costs available to plan participants. Due to the Plan's institutional structure and scale, the SFDCP is qualified for share classes not available to the retail investor, resulting in highly competitive fees that substantially bests Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA), brokerage accounts, and even other 401k retirement plans. To remain competitive, the SFDCP periodically engages Callan, Investment Consultant, to conduct an investment fee benchmarking study to ensure that SFDCP investments are still in the lowest cost share class possible.

After conducting a fee benchmarking study, Callan is proposing several vehicle changes within the SFDCP line up to maximize investment fee savings for participants. Moving to the lowest cost CIT would result in nearly \$380,000 in additional savings every year, and those proceeds would be passed straight back to the respective participants. There are, however, legal costs associated with CITs, as Staff would need to negotiate contracts with the respective investment manager firms. Yet these one-time legal costs would be easily made up in the same year's savings and thereafter. Details on the three recommended investment vehicle changes are provided in the attached analysis. Greg Ungerman, Callan, will present the fee study to the Deferred Compensation Committee and answer any questions.

#### **Recommendation**

Action: Move the Fidelity Low Price Stock Fund, Northern Trust S&P 500 Index and Northern Trust MSCI EAFE Index into the lowest cost CIT vehicles and forward it to the Retirement Board for approval.

#### **Attachments**

Callan Investment Fee Benchmarking Analysis

# Callan

1

October 4, 2023

The City and County of San Francisco Deferred Compensation Plan

Investment Fee Benchmarking Analysis

Greg Ungerman, CFA

DC Practice Leader

**Scotty Lee** 

DC Research

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#### **Investment Fee Benchmarking**

#### Methodology

Callan reviewed the investment-related fees for The City and County of San Francisco Deferred Compensation Plan (the "Plan").

#### **Investment Fees**

- To evaluate the competitiveness of investment management fees, expenses for each option were compared to those of funds with:
  - Similar investment strategies or objectives (e.g., U.S. large cap equity funds compared to other U.S. large cap equity funds)
  - The same management style (i.e., passively managed funds compared to peer groups comprised of other passively managed funds)
- Callan reached out to all the investment managers to confirm the SFDCP is offering the cheapest available fund the manager offers.
  - Managers come to market with cheaper fund vehicles or share classes
- Notably, this analysis was focused solely on fees and did not factor in the ranking or quality of returns that a manager has delivered. Performance differences may be one factor that explains the dispersion of fees seen in the marketplace.
- Additional considerations may also impact the choice of an investment fund and share class, including the fact that:
  - Alternative available funds or share classes may be Illiquid or otherwise not viable.
  - Current share classes may be less expensive on a net-of-revenue-sharing basis (e.g., gross versus net expense ratio).
  - Changing to a new share class or fund may be administratively complex, costly, or otherwise not practical or feasible.



### SFDCP Investment Fee Summary as of 06/30/23

	Vehicle	Assets as of 06/30/23	Total Expense Ratio (%) <sup>1</sup>	Revenue Share Offset (%)	Net Fee (%) <sup>2</sup>	Peer Group Median Fee
Target Date Funds						
SFDCP Target Date Funds	MF	\$905,131,159	0.35%	<0.01%	0.35%	0.47%
Stable Value						
Stable Value	SA	\$997,259,641	0.27%	0.00%	0.27%	0.33%
Fixed Income						
SFDCP Bond Index Portfolio	CIT	\$225,088,699	0.02%	0.00%	0.02%	0.04%
SFDCP Core Bond Portfolio	MF	\$147,761,537	0.30%	0.05%	0.25%	0.38%
US Equity - Large Cap						
SFDCP Large Cap Equity Index Portfolio	CIT	\$763,686,714	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.02%
SFDCP Large Cap Social Equity Portfolio	MF	\$133,080,739	0.12%	0.00%	0.12%	0.64%
SFDCP Large Cap Value Equity Portfolio	MF	\$85,483,464	0.35%	0.00%	0.35%	0.66%
SFDCP Large Cap Growth Equity Portfolio	MF/CIT	\$619,968,071	0.22%	0.00%	0.22%	0.63%
US Equity - SMID Cap						
SFDCP SMID Cap Equity Index Portfolio	CIT	\$276,362,216	0.04%	0.00%	0.04%	0.04%
SFDCP Active Equity Portfolio	MF	\$126,508,659	0.74%	0.00%	0.74%	0.75%
SFDCP SMID Cap Equity Portfolio	MF	\$13,801,887	0.77%	0.00%	0.77%	0.82%
International Equity						
SFDCP International Equity Index Portfolio	CIT	\$198,375,647	0.03%	0.00%	0.03%	0.06%
SFDCP International Equity Portfolio	MF/CIT	\$175,843,141	0.51%	0.00%	0.51%	0.80%
Real Estate Equity						
Real Estate Equity	CIT	\$28,376,789	0.70%	0.00%	0.70%	0.78%
Brokerage Window						
Brokerage Window	N/A	\$48,797,770	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total		\$4,745,526,131	0.22%	<0.01%	0.22%	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Investment fees are inclusive of any revenue sharing component.

- All the Plan's investment options have a fee below or in line with the median fee(s) of their peer group(s). **Importantly, none of the fund fees are an outlier within their peer group fee distribution.** Notably, this fee comparison does not account for fund performance or other factors that may be relevant in the selection and/or retention of an investment fund or share class.
- The Target Date Fund fees shown are the new fees under T. Rowe Price's management. The fees decreased from ~0.40% to ~0.35%, which is an annualized savings of \$445,928 based on the June 30, 2023 values.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Net fees are exclusive of any revenue sharing component.

# SFDCP Underlying Fund's Investment Fee Summary as of 06/30/23

	Vehicle	Assets as of 06/03/23	Investment Management Fee (%) <sup>1</sup>	Revenue Share Offset (%)	Net Fee (%) <sup>2</sup>	Peer Group Median Fee
Target Date Funds						
SFDCP Target Date Funds	MF	\$905,131,159	0.35%	<0.01%	0.35%	0.47%
Stable Value						
Stable Value	SA	\$997,259,641	0.27%	0.00%	0.27%	0.33%
Galliard Separate Account			0.27%			
Fixed Income						
SFDCP Bond Index Portfolio	CIT	\$225,088,699	0.02%	0.00%	0.02%	0.04%
Northern Trust Bloomberg Agg Ind CIT			0.02%			
SFDCP Core Bond Portfolio	MF	\$147,761,537	0.30%	0.05%	0.25%	0.38%
Baird Core Plus Fund			0.30%			
US Equity - Large Cap						
SFDCP Large Cap Equity Index Portfolio	CIT	\$763,686,714	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.02%
Northern Trust S&P 500 Index CIT			0.01%			
SFDCP Large Cap Social Equity Portfolio	MF	\$133,080,739	0.12%	0.00%	0.12%	0.64%
Vanguard FTSE Social Index Instl			0.12%			
SFDCP Large Cap Value Equity Portfolio	MF	\$85,483,464	0.35%	0.00%	0.35%	0.66%
LSV Conservative Value Equity			0.35%			
SFDCP Large Cap Growth Equity Portfolio	MF/CIT	\$619,968,071	0.22%	0.00%	0.22%	0.63%
T. Rowe Price Growth Stock Fund	50%		0.40%			
Vanguard Growth Index	50%		0.04%			
US Equity - SMID Cap						
SFDCP SMID Cap Equity Index Portfolio	CIT	\$276,362,216	0.04%	0.00%	0.04%	0.04%
Northern Trust Dow Jones Completion/Extended Market Index CIT			0.04%			
SFDCP Active Equity Portfolio	MF	\$126,508,659	0.74%	0.00%	0.74%	0.75%
Fidelity Low Priced Stock Fund			0.74%			
SFDCP SMID Cap Equity Portfolio	MF	\$13,801,887	0.77%	0.00%	0.77%	0.82%
Westfield Capital Harbor SMID Growth	50%		0.80%			
Delaware Macquarie SMID Value	50%		0.70%			
International Equity						
SFDCP International Equity Index Portfolio	CIT	\$198,375,647	0.03%	0.00%	0.03%	0.06%
Northern Trust MSCI EAFE Index CIT			0.03%			
SFDCP International Equity Portfolio	MF/CIT	\$175,843,141	0.51%	0.00%	0.51%	0.80%
American Funds EuroPacific Growth	50%		0.47%			
Schroders QEP CIT	50%		0.55%			
Real Estate Equity						
Real Estate Equity	CIT	\$28,376,789	0.70%	0.00%	0.70%	0.78%
Principal Global Investors CIT US Real Estate Securities Tier 1			0.70%			0075
Brokerage Window						
Brokerage Window	N/A	\$48,797,770	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total		\$4,745,526,131	0.22%	<0.01%	0.22%	. 471

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Investment fees are inclusive of any revenue sharing component.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Net fees are exclusive of any revenue sharing component.



#### **Alternative Share Classes/Vehicles Summary**

- Although the investment management fees for the most of the Plan's funds are at or below their peer group median fees, it is prudent to explore opportunities to use lower-cost share classes or vehicles, where available.
- Callan reached out to the managers of the Plan's funds to confirm the Plan is utilizing the lowest-cost share classes and/or vehicles available. There are three funds that have lower cost vehicles available in the same exact strategy:
- Northern Trust offers lower-cost non-lending CITs for two of the Plan's passive strategies: Northern Trust S&P 500 Index, and Northern Trust
   MSCI EAFE Index. They do have lending CITs for all four Northern Trust Index funds that offer slightly lower costs.
- Fidelity offers a lower-cost CIT for the Fidelity Low Priced Stock Fund and confirmed that the pool is available on the Voya platform. The Class
   1 pool is available for assets between \$50-\$500 million. They also have a mutual fund version K6 priced at 0.50%

				Alternative			
	Current Vehicle	Assets as of 06/30/2023	Net Fee <sup>2</sup>	Alternate Vehicle	Net Fee <sup>2</sup>	All-In Fee Difference	Annual Savings
Investment Fees to Monitor							
Fidelity Low Priced Stock Fund	MF	\$126,508,659	0.7400%	CIT	0.4800%	-0.2600%	\$(328,923)
Northern Trust S&P 500 Index	CIT <sup>1</sup>	\$763,686,714	0.0110%	CIT <sup>1</sup>	0.0075%	-0.0035%	\$ (26,729)
Northern Trust MSCI EAFE Index	CIT <sup>1</sup>	\$198,375,647	0.0329%	CIT <sup>1</sup>	0.0279%	-0.0050%	\$ (9,919)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>All CIT Index funds are non-Sec Lending

#### Recommendations:

- Change the Fidelity Low Priced Stock from the mutual fund to the CIT Class 1 pool. The fund is managed by the same team.
- Change the Northern Trust S&P 500 Index fund to the cheaper CIT vehicle.
- Change the Northern Trust MSCI EAFE Index fund to the cheaper CIT vehicle. This could be subject to change for the November 1<sup>st</sup> DCC meeting to evaluate the Investment Structure of the Plan.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> None of the funds offer revenue sharing

## **SFDCP Target Date Component Fund Fee Summary**

	Vehicle	Investment Management Fee (%) <sup>1</sup>	Revenue Share Offset (%)	Net Fee (%) <sup>2</sup>	Peer Group Median Fee
TDF Fund Components					
Blackrock Strategic Income Opportunities	BSIKX	0.62%	0.00%	0.62%	0.91%
DFA Emerging Markets Core Fund	DFCEX	0.40%	0.00%	0.40%	0.99%
DFA World Core Equity Fund	DREIX	0.27%	0.00%	0.27%	0.81%
Fidelity Long Duration US Treasury Index	FNBGX	0.03%	0.00%	0.03%	0.42%
MFS Emerging Markets Debt Fund R4	MEDGX	0.80%	0.15%	0.65%	0.81%
PGI Global Real Estate Securities Fund	CIT	0.72%	0.00%	0.72%	0.89%
Nuveen Global Infrastructure Fund	FGIYX	0.97%	0.25%	0.72%	0.91%
PIMCO Commodity Real Return Fund	PCRIX	0.99%	0.00%	0.99%	0.85%
PIMCO High Yield Fund	PHIYX	0.57%	0.00%	0.57%	0.59%
PIMCO International Bond	PFORX	0.63%	0.00%	0.63%	0.64%
Vanguard Short Duration US TIPS Index	VTSPX	0.04%	0.00%	0.04%	0.35%
SFDCP Target Date Funds					

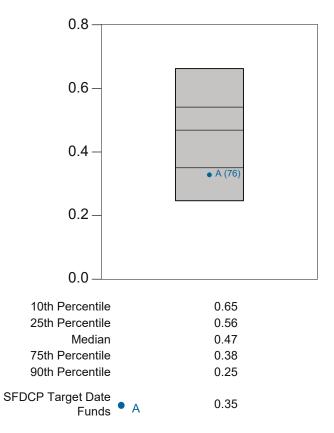
- All the Component funds within the Target Date funds are in the cheapest available vehicle for each strategy on a net basis
- The MFS Emerging Markets Debt fund has an R6 share class at 0.68% with 0% revenue share, which means the current R4 share class is cheaper on a net of revenue sharing basis at 0.65%.
- The Nuveen Global Infrastructure Fund has a R6 share class at 0.88% with 0% revenue share, which means the current I share class is cheaper on a net of revenue sharing basis at 0.72%

Recommendation: No action is necessary for these component funds

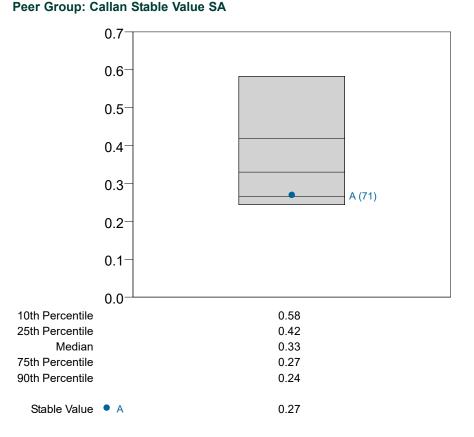
Note: Fees in the 1<sup>st</sup> percentile are among the most expensive, while those in the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile are among the cheapest.

Fee Type: Institutional Net Fee

Peer Group: Active TDF Mutual Funds and Collective Trusts



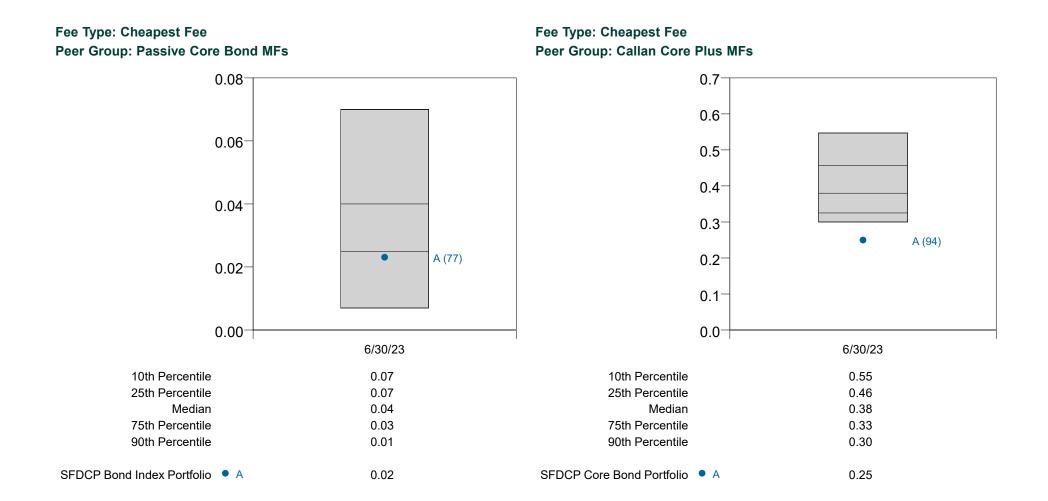
Fee Type: Effective Annual Stable Value Fee



The SFDCP Target Date Fund fee ranges between 0.34% & 0.35% depending on the vintage. TDF fees include T. Rowe's 0.03% custom glidepath fee.

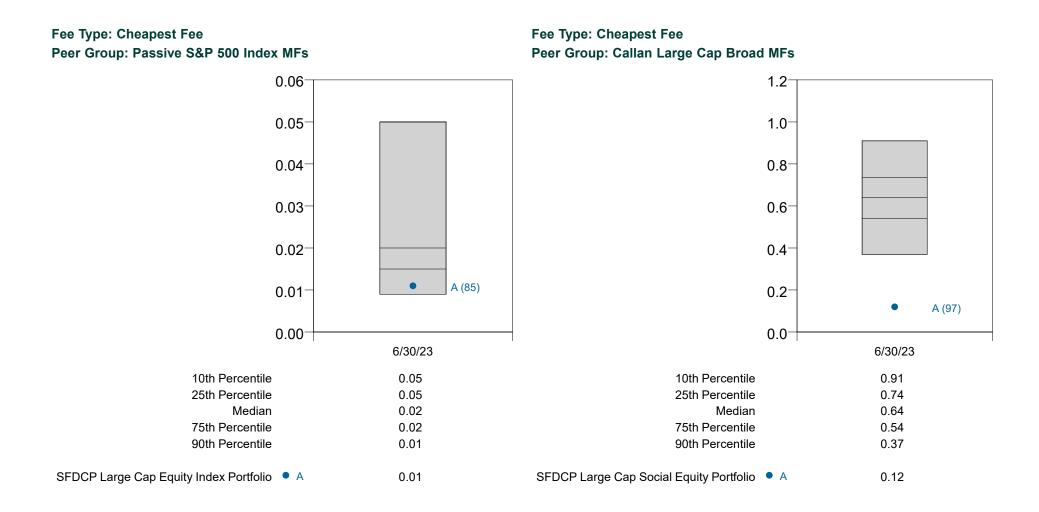


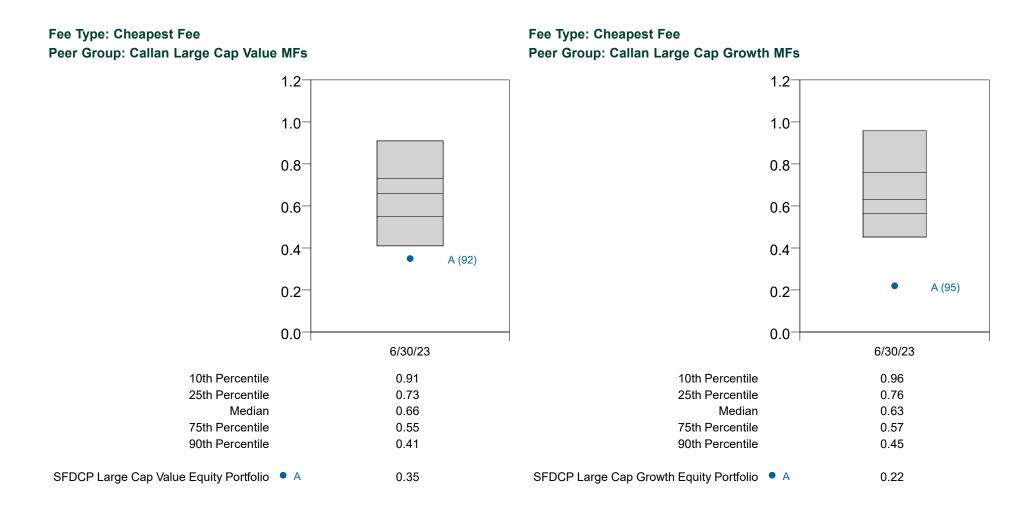
Note: Fees in the 1<sup>st</sup> percentile are among the most expensive, while those in the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile are among the cheapest.

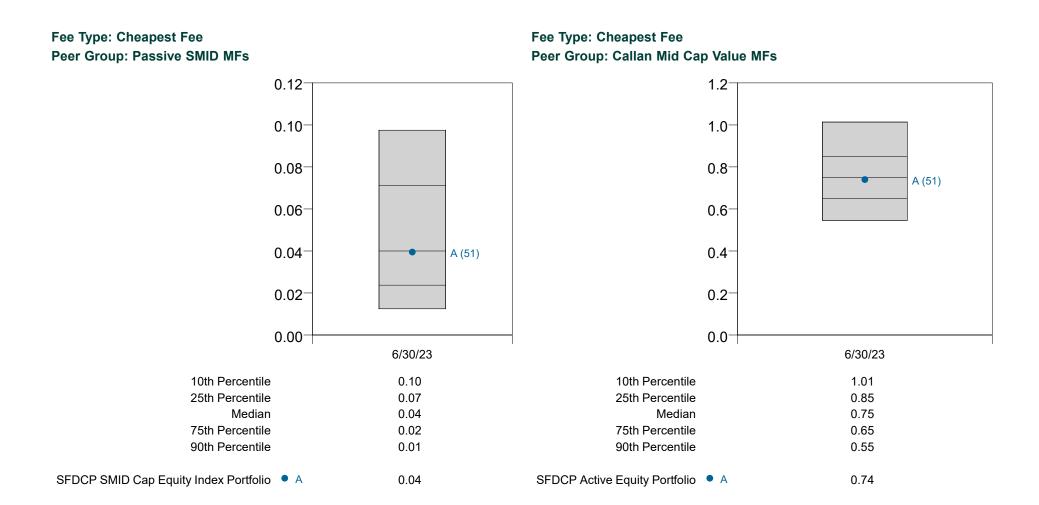


The SFDCP Core Bond Fund at 0.25% is net of the 0.05% in revenue sharing.









Note: Fees in the 1<sup>st</sup> percentile are among the most expensive, while those in the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile are among the cheapest.

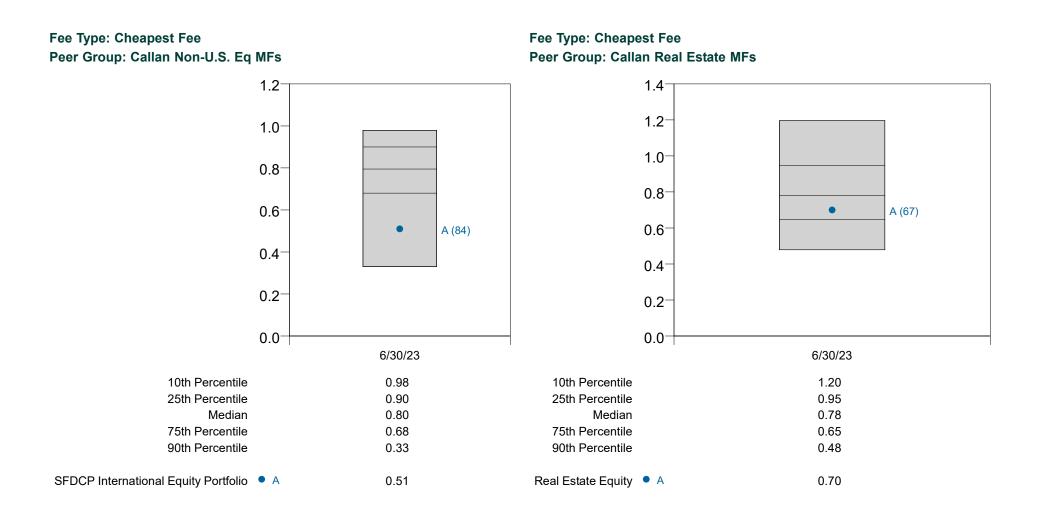
Fee Type: Cheapest Fee Fee Type: Cheapest Fee Peer Group: Callan Small/Mid Cap MFs Peer Group: Passive Non-U.S. Eq MFs 1.2  $0.12^{-1}$ 1.0  $0.10^{-}$  $0.8^{-}$ 0.08-A (64) 0.6  $0.06^{-}$  $0.4^{\circ}$  $0.04^{-}$ A (94)  $0.2^{-}$  $0.02^{-}$ 0.0 -0.00 -6/30/23 6/30/23 10th Percentile 1.01 10th Percentile 0.10 0.93 25th Percentile 0.07 25th Percentile Median 0.82 Median 0.06 75th Percentile 0.72 75th Percentile 0.04 90th Percentile 0.24 90th Percentile 0.04

SFDCP International Equity Index Portfolio • A

SFDCP SMID Cap Equity Portfolio A

0.77

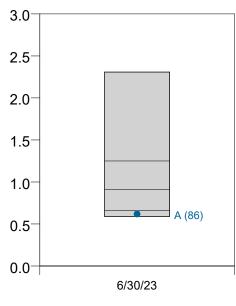
0.03



Note: Fees in the 1<sup>st</sup> percentile are among the most expensive, while those in the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile are among the cheapest.

Fee Type: Cheapest Fee

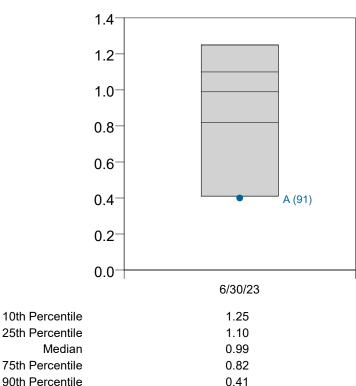
Peer Group: Callan Flexible Income MFs



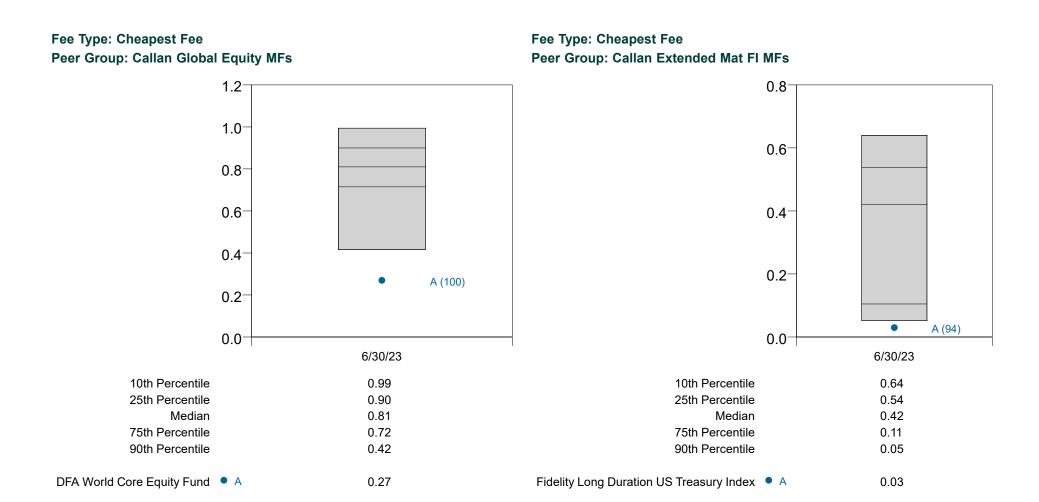
 Fee Type: Cheapest Fee

DFA Emerging Markets Core Fund • A

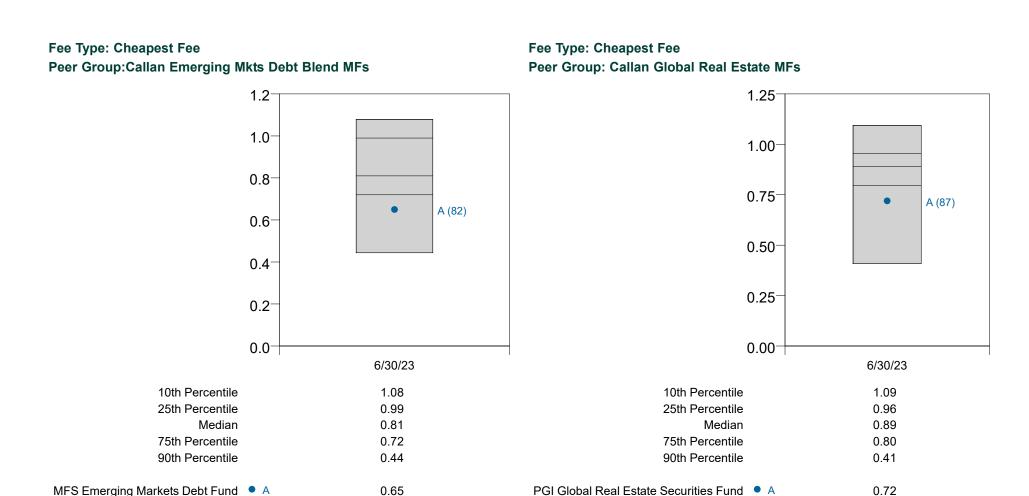
Peer Group: Callan Emerging Markets Equity MFs



0.40



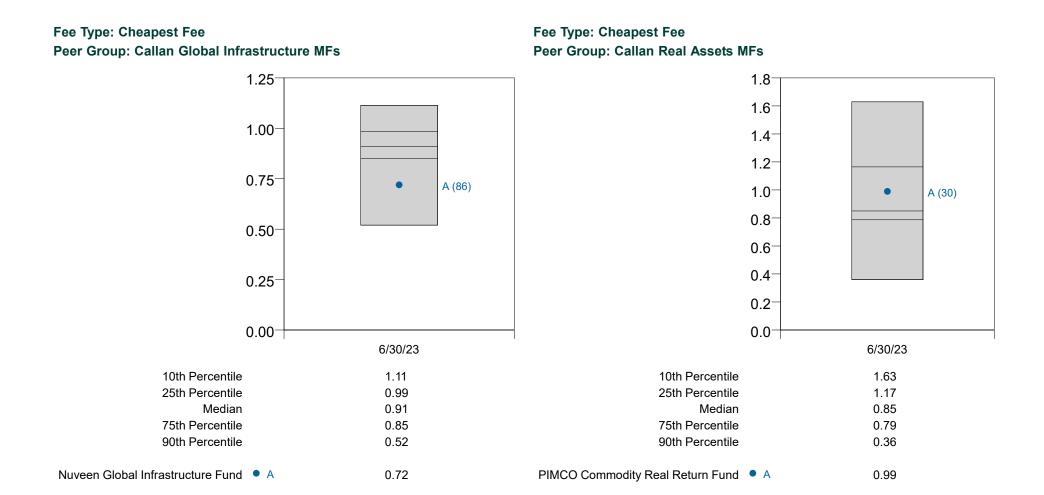
Note: Fees in the 1<sup>st</sup> percentile are among the most expensive, while those in the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile are among the cheapest.



The MFS Emerging Markets Debt Fund at 0.65% is net of the 0.15% in revenue sharing.

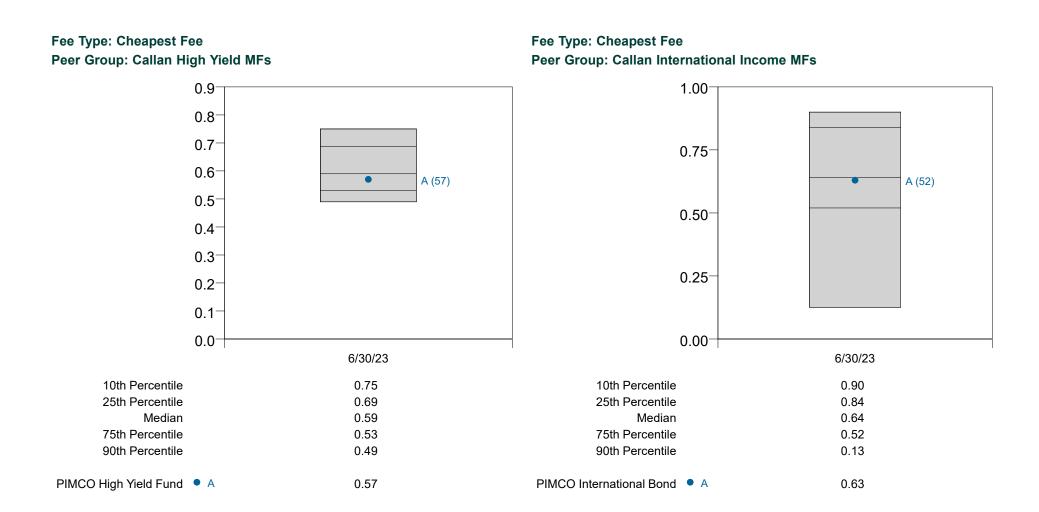


Note: Fees in the 1<sup>st</sup> percentile are among the most expensive, while those in the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile are among the cheapest.



The Nuveen Global Infrastructure Fund at 0.72% is net of the 0.25% in revenue sharing. The PIMCO Commodity Real Return fund has an adjusted expense ratio of 0.74% excluding interest expense.

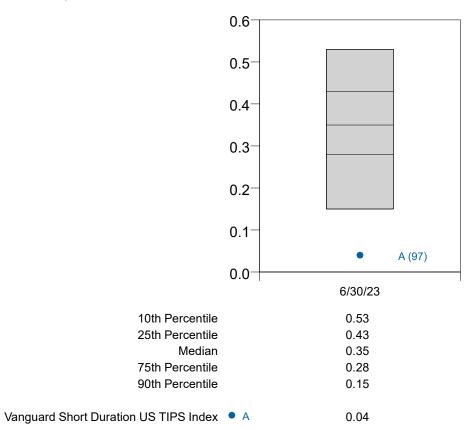




Note: Fees in the 1<sup>st</sup> percentile are among the most expensive, while those in the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile are among the cheapest.

Fee Type: Cheapest Fee

Peer Group: Callan Short Term FI MFs





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