

FRANKLIN UNIVERSAL TRUST  
Form 40-17F2  
March 21, 2018

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM N-17F-2

CERTIFICATE OF ACCOUNTING OF SECURITIES AND SIMILAR  
INVESTMENTS IN THE CUSTODY OF  
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES

PURSUANT TO RULE N-17F-2 [17 CFR 270.17F-2]

1. Investment Company Act File Number:  
811 -05569

Date Examination completed:  
February 23, 2018

2. State Identification Number:

|    |    |    |             |    |    |
|----|----|----|-------------|----|----|
| AL | AK | AZ | AR          | CA | CO |
| CT | DE | DC | FL          | GA | HI |
| ID | IL | IN | IA          | KS | KY |
| LA | ME | MD | MA          | MI | MN |
| MS | MO | MT | NE          | NV | NH |
| NJ | NM | NY | NC          | ND | OH |
| OK | OR | PA | RI          | SC | SD |
| TN | TX | UT | VT          | VA | WA |
| WV | WI | WY | PUERTO RICO |    |    |

3. Exact name of investment company as specified in registration statement:

Franklin Universal Trust

4. Address of principal executive office: (number, street, city, state, zip code)

One Franklin Parkway, San Mateo, CA 94403

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[PWC LOGO]

## **Report of Independent Accountants**

To the Board of Trustees of

Franklin Limited Duration Income Trust  
Templeton Global Investment Trust  
Franklin Real Estate Securities Trust  
Franklin Strategic Series  
Franklin High Income Trust  
Franklin U.S Government Money Fund  
Franklin Templeton Money Fund Trust  
Institutional Fiduciary Trust  
Franklin Global Trust  
Franklin Gold and Precious Metals Fund  
Franklin Universal Trust  
Templeton China World Fund  
Templeton Emerging Markets Fund  
Templeton Emerging Markets Income Fund  
Templeton Funds  
Templeton Global Income Fund  
Templeton Global Smaller Companies Fund  
Templeton Income Trust  
Franklin Custodian Funds  
Franklin Strategic Mortgage Portfolio  
Franklin Investors Securities Trust  
Franklin Templeton Global Trust  
Franklin Templeton International Trust  
Franklin Value Investors Trust  
Templeton Developing Markets Trust  
Franklin Fund Allocator Series  
Franklin Templeton Variable Insurance Products Trust  
Templeton Institutional Funds  
Franklin ETF Trust  
Franklin Managed Trust

and the Board of Directors of

Templeton Growth Fund, Inc.  
Templeton Dragon Fund, Inc.  
Templeton Global Opportunities Trust

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, PricewaterhouseCoopers Center, 300 Madison Avenue,  
New York, NY 10017 T: (646) 471 3000, F: (813) 286 6000, [www.pwc.com/us](http://www.pwc.com/us)

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We have examined management's assertion, included in the accompanying Management Statement Regarding Compliance with Certain Provisions of the Investment Company Act of 1940, that each of the Funds listed in Attachment I (hereafter referred to as the "Funds") complied with the requirements of subsections (b) and (c) of Rule 17f-2 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("the Act") as of July 31, 2017. The Funds' management is responsible for its assertion and the Company's compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on management's assertion about the Funds' compliance with the specified requirements based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) and in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether management's assertion about compliance with the specified requirements is fairly stated, in all material respects, and, accordingly, included examining, on a test basis, evidence about the Funds' compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. Included among our procedures were the following tests performed as of July 31, 2017, and with respect to agreement of security purchases and sales, for the period from May 31, 2017 (the date of our last examinations), through July 31, 2017 for each of the Funds:

- Without prior notice to management, confirmation of all securities held by Franklin Templeton Investors Services, Inc., transfer agent, as they pertain to the security positions owned by the Funds and held in book entry form.
- Reconciliation of such security positions to the books and records of the Funds.
- Agreement of 55 security purchases and 55 security sales, since our last report, from the books and records of the Funds to the records of the transfer agent.

We believe that our examination provides, and that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide, a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Funds' compliance with specified requirements.

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In our opinion, management's assertion that the Funds complied with the requirements of subsections (b) and (c) of Rule 17f-2 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 as of July 31, 2017 with respect to securities reflected in the investment accounts of the Funds is fairly stated, in all material respects.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management and the Board of Directors and Trustees of the Funds and the Securities and Exchange Commission and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

/s/PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS, LLP

February 23, 2018

**Management Statement Regarding Compliance with Certain  
Provisions of the Investment Company Act of 1940**

We, as members of management of the Franklin Templeton Funds indicated in Attachment I (the "Funds"), are responsible for complying with the requirements of subsections (b) and (c) of Rule 17f-2, "Custody of Investments by Registered Management Investment Companies," of the Investment Company Act of 1940. We are also responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls over compliance with those requirements. We have performed an evaluation of the Funds' compliance with the requirements of subsection (b) of Rule 17f-2, as interpreted in Franklin Investors Securities Trust SEC No-Action Letter (publicly available September 24, 1992), and subsection (c) of Rule 17f-2 of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as of July 31, 2017, and for the periods indicated in Attachment I.

Based on this evaluation, we assert that the Funds were in compliance with the requirements of subsection (b) of Rule 17f-2, as interpreted in Franklin Investors Securities Trust SEC No-Action Letter (publicly available September 24, 1992), and subsection (c) of Rule 17f-2 of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as of July 31, 2017, and for the periods indicated in Attachment I, with respect to securities reflected in the investment accounts of the Funds.

By:

/s/GASTON GARDEY

**Gaston Gardey**

*Chief Financial Officer and Chief Accounting Officer*

*Franklin Funds Board*



Date February 23, 2018

/s/ROBERT G. KUBILIS

**Robert G. Kubilis**

*Chief Financial Officer and Chief Accounting Officer*

*Templeton, New Jersey and Alternative Strategies Funds Board*

Date February 23, 2018

/s/MATTHEW T. HINKLE

**Matthew T. Hinkle**

*Chief Executive Officer - Finance and Administration*

Date February 23, 2018

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## Attachment I

| <b>Fund</b>   | <b>Period</b>                |
|---|------------------------------|
| <b>Franklin Limited Duration Income Trust</b>       | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| <b>Templeton Global Investment Trust:</b>           |                              |
| Templeton Emerging Markets<br>Balanced Fund         | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Templeton Emerging Markets<br>Small Cap Fund        | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Templeton Frontier Markets Fund                     | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Templeton Global Balanced Fund                      | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Templeton Dynamic Equity Fund                       | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| <b>Franklin Real Estate Securities Trust:</b>       |                              |
| Franklin Real Estate Securities<br>Fund             | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| <b>Franklin Strategic Series:</b>                   |                              |
| Franklin Biotechnology<br>Discovery Fund            | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Flexible Alpha Bond<br>Fund                | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Focused Core Equity<br>Fund                | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Growth Opportunities<br>Fund               | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Natural Resources Fund                     | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Small Cap Growth Fund                      | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Small-Mid Cap Growth<br>Fund               | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Strategic Income Fund                      | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| <b>Franklin High Income Trust:</b>                  |                              |
| Franklin High Income Fund                           | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| <b>Franklin U.S. Government Money Fund</b>          | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| <b>Franklin Templeton Money Fund Trust:</b>         |                              |
| Franklin Templeton U.S.<br>Government Money Fund    | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| <b>Institutional Fiduciary Trust:</b>               |                              |
| Money Market Portfolio                              | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| <b>Franklin Global Trust:</b>                       |                              |
| Franklin Emerging Market Debt<br>Opportunities Fund | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
|   | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |

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|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| Franklin International Growth Fund                  | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Global Listed Infrastructure Fund          | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| <b>Franklin Gold and Precious Metals Fund</b>       | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| <b>Franklin Universal Trust</b>                     | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| <b>Templeton China World Fund</b>                   | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| <b>Templeton Emerging Markets Fund</b>              | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| <b>Templeton Emerging Markets Income Fund</b>       | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| <b>Templeton Funds:</b>                             |                              |
| Templeton Foreign Fund                              | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Templeton World Fund                                | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| <b>Templeton Global Income Fund</b>                 | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| <b>Templeton Global Smaller Companies Fund</b>      | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| <b>Templeton Growth Fund, Inc.</b>                  | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| <b>Templeton Income Trust:</b>                      |                              |
| Templeton Emerging Markets Bond Fund                | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Templeton Global Bond Fund                          | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Templeton Global Total Return Fund                  | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Templeton International Bond Fund                   | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| <b>Franklin Custodian Funds:</b>                    |                              |
| Franklin DynaTech Fund                              | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Growth Fund                                | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Income Fund                                | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin U.S. Government Securities Fund            | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Utilities Fund                             | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Focused Growth Fund                        | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| <b>Franklin Strategic Mortgage Portfolio</b>        | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| <b>Franklin Investors Securities Trust:</b>         |                              |
| Franklin Adjustable U.S. Government Securities Fund | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Balanced Fund                              | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Convertible Securities Fund                | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |

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|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| Franklin Equity Income Fund              | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Floating Rate Daily Access Fund | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Low Duration Total Return Fund  | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Real Return Fund                | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Total Return Fund               | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |

**Franklin Templeton Global Trust:**

|                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Templeton Global Currency Fund | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|

**Franklin Templeton International Trust:**

|                            |                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Franklin India Growth Fund | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|

**Franklin Value Investors Trust:**

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| Franklin Balance Sheet Investment Fund | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin MicroCap Value Fund           | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin MidCap Value Fund             | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Small Cap Value Fund          | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |

**Templeton Developing Markets Trust**

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
|  | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
|--|------------------------------|

**Franklin Fund Allocator Series:**

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| Franklin Conservative Allocation Fund          | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Corefolio Allocation Fund             | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Founding Funds Allocation Fund        | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Growth Allocation Fund                | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin LifeSmart Retirement Income Fund      | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin LifeSmart 2020 Retirement Target Fund | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin LifeSmart 2025 Retirement Target Fund | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin LifeSmart 2030 Retirement Target Fund | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin LifeSmart 2035 Retirement Target Fund | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin LifeSmart 2040 Retirement Target Fund | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin LifeSmart 2045 Retirement Target Fund | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin LifeSmart 2050 Retirement Target Fund | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin LifeSmart 2055 Retirement Target Fund | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Moderate Allocation Fund              | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |

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|                                     |                              |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Franklin NextStep Conservative Fund | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin NextStep Moderate Fund     | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin NextStep Growth Fund       | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Payout 2017 Fund           | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Payout 2018 Fund           | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Payout 2019 Fund           | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Payout 2020 Fund           | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Payout 2021 Fund           | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |

**Franklin Templeton Variable Insurance Products Trust:**

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| Franklin Flex Cap Growth VIP Fund           | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Founding Funds Allocation VIP Fund | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Income VIP Fund                    | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Mutual Global Discovery VIP Fund   | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Mutual Shares VIP Fund             | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Rising Dividends VIP Fund          | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Small Cap Value VIP Fund           | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Small-Mid Cap Growth VIP Fund      | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin Strategic Income VIP Fund          | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Franklin VolSmart Allocation VIP Fund       | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Templeton Developing Markets VIP Fund       | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Templeton Foreign VIP Fund                  | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Templeton Growth VIP Fund                   | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Templeton Global Bond VIP Fund              | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |

**Templeton Dragon Fund, Inc.** June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017

**Templeton Global Opportunities Trust** June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017

**Templeton Institutional Funds:**

|                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Emerging Markets Series          | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Foreign Equity Series            | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Foreign Smaller Companies Series | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
| Global Equity Series             | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |

**Franklin ETF Trust:**

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| Franklin Liberty Short Duration U.S. Government ETF | June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017 |
|---|------------------------------|

**Franklin Managed Trust:**

Franklin Rising Dividends Fund

June 1, 2017 - July 31, 2017

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