

# The University of Texas/Texas A&M Investment Management Company

## Derivative Investment Policy

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Effective Date of Policy: August 25, 2022

Date Approved by U. T. System Board of Regents: August 25, 2022

Date Approved by UTIMCO Board: June 10, 2022

Supersedes: Derivative Investment Policy effective March 1, 2020

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this Derivative Investment Policy (the “Policy”) is to set forth the applications, documentation and limitations for investment in Derivative Investments in the Permanent University Fund (PUF), the General Endowment Fund (GEF), the Intermediate Term Fund (ITF), and the Separately Invested Funds (SIF), hereinafter referred to as the Funds. The Board of Regents approved investment policy guidelines for the Funds allow for investment in Derivative Investments provided that they are in compliance with the Policy. This Policy supplements the Investment Policy Statements for the Funds.

### **Objective:**

The objective of investing in Derivative Investments is to facilitate risk management and provide efficiency in the implementation of various investment strategies for the Funds. Derivative Investments can provide the Funds with more economical means to improve the Funds’ risk/return profile.

### **Scope:**

This Policy applies to all Derivatives Investments in the Funds that are executed by UTIMCO and by external managers operating under an Agency Agreement. This Policy does not apply to external managers operating under limited partnership agreements, offshore corporations, or through other Limited Liability Entities that limit the liability exposure of the Funds’ investments. Derivative policies for external managers are established on a case-by-case basis with each external manager, as described below.

This Policy applies to both Exchange Traded Derivatives and Over the Counter (OTC) Derivatives. This Policy shall not be construed to apply to commingled funds to which UTIMCO does not have full transparency and control of the underlying assets. These commingled investment vehicles are governed by separate investment policy statements.

### **External Managers:**

External managers are selected to manage the Funds’ assets under an Agency Agreement and/or through a Limited Liability Entity. An external manager operating under an Agency Agreement may engage in Derivative Investments only if (i) such manager has been approved to use Derivative Investments by UTIMCO and (ii) the Derivative Investments are consistent with the overall investment objectives of the related account and in compliance with this Policy. The use of Derivative Investments by an external manager operating under an Agency Agreement shall be approved by UTIMCO only for external managers that (i) demonstrate investment expertise in their use, (ii) have appropriate risk management and valuation policies and procedures, (iii) have the legal and investment expertise to limit the downside effects of the proposed derivatives and (iv) effectively monitor and control their use.

While this Policy does not specifically include external managers operating through a Limited Liability Entity, it is noted that selecting and monitoring external managers through a Limited Liability Entity requires a clear understanding of the external managers’ use of Derivative Investments, particularly as it relates to various risk controls and leverage. The permitted uses of Derivative Investments and leverage must be fully documented in the limited liability agreements with these managers.

### **Definition of Derivatives:**

Derivatives are financial instruments whose value is derived, in whole or part, from the value of one or more underlying securities or assets, or index of securities or assets (such as bonds, stocks, commodities, and currencies). For the purposes of this Policy, derivatives shall include Derivative Investments as defined in Exhibit A. If it is unclear whether a particular financial instrument meets the definition of Derivative Investment, the Managing Director - Risk Management and Chief Compliance Officer, in consultation with the Chief Investment Officer (“CIO”) or Deputy Chief Investment Officer

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("Deputy CIO"), will determine whether the financial instrument is a Derivative Investment. The CIO or Deputy CIO will report such determinations to the Chairman of the Investment Risk Committee.

### **Permitted Derivative Applications:**

The primary intent of derivatives should be to hedge risk in portfolios or to implement investment strategies more effectively and at a lower cost than would be possible in the Cash Market.

Permitted Derivative Applications are Derivative Investments used:

- To implement investment strategies in a low cost and efficient manner;
- To alter the Funds' market (systematic) exposure without trading the underlying Cash Market securities through purchases or short sales, or both, of appropriate derivatives;
- To construct portfolios with risk and return characteristics that could not be created with Cash Market securities;
- To hedge and control risks; or
- To facilitate transition trading.

UTIMCO may not enter into any Derivative Investment that is not a Permitted Derivative Application. To the extent a new Derivative Investment recommended by UTIMCO or for the engagement of an external manager operating under an Agency Agreement that has been approved by UTIMCO is a Permitted Derivative Application but is not of the types set forth on Exhibit B, any Director may require a complete review of the new Derivative Investment prior to implementation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, UTIMCO's CIO or Deputy CIO, the Managing Director - Risk Management, or Chief Compliance Officer may determine that presentation and approval of the proposed Derivative Investment at an Investment Risk Committee meeting is warranted before engaging in the Derivative Investment.

### **Risk and Investment Policy Controls:**

Prior to the implementation of one or more similar Derivative Investments, UTIMCO will model the impact of the derivative on the Funds' projected downside volatility, and exposure to the respective Asset Class to ensure that the Funds remain within the permissible ranges as set forth in the Funds' Investment Policy Statements.

### **Documentation and Controls:**

Prior to the implementation of one or more similar Derivative Investments by UTIMCO, UTIMCO shall document the purpose, valuation method, methods for calculating delta, delta-adjusted exposure, Asset Class exposure, the effect on portfolio leverage (if applicable), risks (including, but not limited to modeling, pricing, liquidity and Counterparty risks), the expected increase or reduction in risk resulting from the Derivative Investments, and the procedures in place to monitor and manage the derivative exposure. For any short exposure, UTIMCO shall also document the basis risk and appropriate stop-loss procedures. UTIMCO shall establish appropriate risk management procedures and the appropriate frequency to monitor the risk of (i) internally managed Derivative Investments and (ii) externally managed accounts operating under Agency Agreements that permit derivatives. Internal control procedures to properly account and value the Funds' exposure to the Derivative Investment shall be fully documented.

### **Additional Risk Mitigants**

**Leverage:** Leverage is inherent in many Derivative Investments. In Cash Markets, in most cases, the cash outlay is equal to the market exposure acquired. By contrast, Derivative Investments offer the possibility of establishing – for the same cash outlay – substantially larger market exposure. Therefore, risk management and control processes must focus on the total risk assumed in a Derivative Investment. Exhibits A of the Fund's Investment Policy Statements provide a limitation on the amount of uncollateralized derivative exposure that can be utilized by the Funds.

**Counterparty Risks:** Rigorous Counterparty selection criteria shall be required to minimize Counterparty risk for Over the Counter (OTC) Derivatives. In order to be eligible as a Counterparty to an OTC derivative transaction with the Funds, whether the trade is initiated by UTIMCO, by an external manager under Agency Agreement, or by a Limited Liability Entity where UTIMCO has full transparency and control of the underlying assets, the Counterparty must have a credit rating of at least A- (Standard and Poor's) or A3 (Moody's), unless an exception is approved by the Managing Director - Risk Management and by the CIO or Deputy CIO. All OTC derivatives, with the exception of Derivative Investments

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where ISDA is not available or the market standard (e.g., Bona Fide Spot Foreign Exchange Transactions, participation notes (P-notes) and low exercise purchase options (LEPOs)), must be subject to established ISDA Netting Agreements and have full documentation of all legal obligations of the Funds. In limited circumstances, the August 2012 DF Protocol Agreement, as published on August 13, 2012 (the “August Protocol Agreement”) and the 2002 ISDA Master Agreement with a Schedule (an “ISDA March 2013 DF Protocol Master Agreement”), developed in connection with ISDA’s Dodd-Frank Documentation Initiative to implement and comply with the regulatory requirements imposed under Title VII of the Dodd–Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, may be used in place of an ISDA Netting Agreement or on a temporary basis until an ISDA Netting Agreement with the Counterparty has been executed. In the event a Counterparty is downgraded below the minimum credit rating requirement, UTIMCO will take appropriate action to protect the interests of the Funds.

The net market value, net of collateral postings, of all OTC derivatives for any individual Counterparty may not exceed 30bps of the total market value of the Funds.

### **Risk Management and Compliance:**

To ensure compliance with all terms and limitations of this Policy, all internally managed and externally managed Derivative Investments in accounts under Agency Agreements will be marked to market by the Funds’ custodian and reviewed periodically, but no less frequently than monthly, for accuracy by the UTIMCO Managing Director - Risk Management. In addition, data from the external risk model will be reviewed for accuracy and completeness by the UTIMCO Managing Director - Risk Management.

Compliance with this Policy will be monitored by the UTIMCO Chief Compliance Officer using data provided by the custodian and the external risk model.

Any instances of noncompliance with this Policy will be reported immediately to the UTIMCO Chief Compliance Officer and to the UTIMCO CIO or Deputy CIO, who will determine the appropriate remedy and report promptly to the Chairs of the Investment Risk Committee, the Audit & Ethics Committee, and the UTIMCO Board Chairman. The UTIMCO Board Chairman may waive immediate remedial action in appropriate circumstances.

### **Reporting:**

On a quarterly basis, UTIMCO shall provide a comprehensive report to UTIMCO’s Board and the Investment Risk Committee. This report shall include all outstanding Derivative Investments, by type, entered into during the period being reported for both internal managers and external managers operating under Agency Agreements. Asset allocation as provided in the Funds’ Investment Policy Statements shall incorporate the impact of uncollateralized derivative exposure associated with Derivative Investments. For risk reporting purposes, the models used to calculate the expected profit or loss in each scenario will include the effect of delta sensitivity and other derivative sensitivity parameters as appropriate. Risk calculations will take into account leverage, correlation, and exposure parameters such as beta for equities and duration for fixed income. The UTIMCO Managing Director - Risk Management will calculate risk attribution - i.e., how much of the overall risk is attributed to each Asset Class, including the full effect on risk of the Derivative Investments in each. The UTIMCO Managing Director - Risk Management will calculate risk attribution for each Derivative Investment.

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**Derivative Investment Policy Exhibit A**  
**Glossary of Terms**

**Agency Agreement** – A form of legal agreement that typically grants limited investment discretion to an external investment manager to act as the investment agent of the Funds but does not limit the liability of the Funds for actions taken by that agent.

**Basket** – A group of securities and a weighting scheme, or a proprietary index. Baskets are typically defined to achieve a certain investment goal, within certain limitations. For example, a Basket could replicate an emerging market index, excluding certain companies that UTIMCO is not permitted to hold.

**Bona Fide Spot Foreign Exchange Transaction** – An agreement, contract or transaction for the purchase or sale of an amount of foreign currency equal to the price of a foreign security with respect to which (i) the security and related foreign currency transactions are executed contemporaneously in order to effect delivery by the relevant securities settlement deadline and (ii) actual delivery of the foreign security and foreign currency occurs by such deadline (such transaction, a “Securities Conversion Transaction”). For Securities Conversion Transactions, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) will consider the relevant foreign exchange spot market settlement deadline to be the same as the securities settlement deadline. A Bona Fide Spot Foreign Exchange Transaction generally settles via actual delivery of the relevant currencies within a few business days; however, settlement may take longer due to differences in international market conditions.

**Cash Market** - The physical market for a commodity or financial instrument.

**Counterparty** - The entity with which a Derivative Investment is transacted, and which is not a national or international exchange.

**Derivative Investment** – A financial instrument whose value is derived, in whole or part, from the value of one or more underlying securities or assets, or index of securities or assets. A Derivative Investment can be either an Exchange Traded Derivative or an Over the Counter (OTC) Derivative. For the purpose of this Policy, Derivative Investments will include:

- All Over the Counter (OTC) Derivatives, with the exception of Bona Fide Spot Foreign Exchange Transactions, mortgage-backed securities, asset-backed securities, and collateralized mortgage obligations.
- As for Exchange Traded Derivatives, the definition will only include Futures Contracts, listed Options, and cleared Swaps; in particular, the definition will not include exchange traded funds (“ETFs”) and depository receipts (“DRs”).

**Exchange Traded Derivatives** - A Derivative Investment traded on an established national or international exchange. These derivatives “settle” daily in that cash exchanges are made between the exchange and parties to the contracts consistent with the change in price of the instrument. Fulfillment of the contract is guaranteed by the exchange on which the derivatives are traded. Examples include S&P 500 Futures Contracts and Goldman Sachs Commodities Index Futures Contracts.

**Forward Contract** - A non-standardized contract for the physical or electronic (through a bookkeeping entry) delivery of a commodity or financial instrument at a specified price at some point in the future. The most typical Forward Contract is a forward foreign currency contract, which involves the contemplated exchange of two currencies.

**Futures Contract** - A standardized contract for either the physical delivery of a commodity or instrument at a specified price at some point in the future, or a financial settlement derived from the change in market price of the commodity or financial instrument during the term of the contract.

**ISDA Netting Agreement** - The International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA) is the global trade association representing participants in the privately negotiated derivatives industry, covering swaps and options across all asset classes. ISDA has produced generally accepted “Master Agreements,” a 1992 Master Agreement and a 2002 Master

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Agreement, that are used by most counterparties in OTC derivatives. Netting agreements are terms within the applicable Master Agreement that deal with the calculation of exposure for each Counterparty. These netting agreements require that exposures between counterparties will be “netted” so that payables and receivables under all existing derivatives between two Counterparties are offset in determining the net exposure between the two Counterparties.

**Limited Liability Entity** – A legal entity created to define how assets contributed to the entity by external partners to the agreement will be managed by the manager of the entity. These entities are typically limited liability partnerships, corporations, or other such entities that limit the liability of external investors to the current value of the external investors’ investment in the entity.

**Long Exposure to an Asset Class** – The Net Asset Value of the Asset Class as defined in the Funds’ Investment Policy Statement.

**Option** - A derivative that conveys the right but not the obligation to buy or deliver the subject financial instrument at a specified price, at a specified future date.

**Over the Counter (OTC) Derivatives** - A derivative which results from direct negotiation between two entities, a buyer/seller and a Counterparty. The terms of such derivatives are non-standard and are the result of specific negotiations. Settlement occurs at the negotiated termination date, although the terms may include interim cash payments under certain conditions. Examples include currency swaps and Forward Contracts, interest rate swaps, and collars.

**Replicating Derivatives** – Derivatives that are intended to replicate the return characteristics of an underlying index or any other Cash Market security.

**Swap** - A contract whereby the parties agree to exchange cash flows of defined investment assets in amounts and times specified by the contract.

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### Derivative Investment Policy Exhibit B

#### Delegated Derivative Investments

Subject to the limitations contained in the Derivative Investment Policy, the UTIMCO Board hereby delegates to the UTIMCO Chief Executive Officer the authority to enter into the following Derivative Investments:

Delegated Derivative Investments:

1. Replicating Derivatives - Derivative Investments that replicate the return characteristics of a long exposure to an underlying index, Basket or commodity. These investments are generally Futures Contracts and swaps on a passive index, Basket or commodity.
2. Derivative Investments that upon their expiration would not exceed the loss of a similar investment in the cash market equivalent being referred to in the derivative contract. These investments may include swaps whereby the holder of the instrument will forgo potential upside return in exchange for downside protection or receive a multiple of a referenced return should the return of the underlying referenced cash market equivalent be within a certain range and may also include the selling of put options.
3. Derivative Investments that reduce exposure to an Asset Class or hedge against risk, and limit maximum loss to the premium paid for the Derivative Investment, i.e., purchase options. The aggregate prorated annual premium of all Derivative Investments under this provision shall be as set forth in the respective Fund's Investment Policy Statement.
4. Futures Contracts and Forward Contracts on foreign currency if used (i) by an external fixed income manager within its investment guidelines, (ii) for hedging purposes by an external equities manager within its investment guidelines, or (iii) to hedge existing or prospective foreign currency risk or to gain long exposure to a foreign currency by UTIMCO.
5. Derivative Investments used to manage bond duration or hedge equity exposure to countries, sectors or capitalization factors, or individual stock(s) swaps within the portfolio only if subsequent to the investment the portfolio would not be net short to any one of those factors. An example of such a hedge is selling Futures Contracts or call options on a country or sector index, provided the manager is exposed to that country or sector.
6. Derivative Investments used to gain Long Exposure to an Asset Class and limit maximum loss to the premium paid for the Derivative Investment.

The delegated authority set forth above should not be construed to permit UTIMCO to enter into Derivative Investments that are unhedged and have the potential for unlimited loss.

**Modeling:** Each Delegated Derivative Investment must be such that it can be decomposed into one or more components, and each said component can be modeled using a model such as the CDS valuation model, Black-Scholes model, including modifications for foreign currency ("Quanto"), allowing both normal and log-normal distributions (the Black model), and modifications to handle dividends or other model approved by the Policy Committee.

**Leverage:** Each Delegated Derivative Investment must be modeled on a fully collateralized basis. During the course of the investment, cash collateral backing a Derivative Investment may be utilized to invest in other investments thereby creating leverage at the Fund level. This is only allowed if within the Funds' Investment Policy Statements.