

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

## Liquidity Policy

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Effective Date of Policy: March 1, 2020

Date Approved by U. T. System Board of Regents: February 27, 2020

Date Approved by UTIMCO Board: December 5, 2019

Supersedes: Liquidity Policy dated August 10, 2018

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this Liquidity Policy is to establish limits on the overall liquidity profile of investments in (1) the Permanent University Fund (PUF) and the General Endowment Fund (GEF), hereinafter collectively referred to as the Endowment Funds and, (2) the Intermediate Term Fund (ITF). For the purposes of this policy, “liquidity” is defined as a measure of the ability of an investment position to be converted into Cash. The established liquidity profile limits will act in conjunction with, but do not supersede, the Investment Policies adopted by the U. T. System Board of Regents.

### **Objective:**

The objective of this Liquidity Policy is to control the element of total risk exposure of the Endowment Funds and the ITF stemming from the uncertainties associated with the ability to convert longer term investments to Cash to meet immediate needs or to change investment strategy, and the potential cost of that conversion.

### **Scope:**

This Liquidity Policy applies to all PUF, GEF, and ITF investments made by The University of Texas/Texas A&M Investment Management Company (UTIMCO), both by internal and by external managers. Policy implementation will be managed at the aggregate UTIMCO level and will not be a responsibility of individual internal or external managers managing a portion of the aggregate assets.

### **Definition of Liquidity Risk:**

“Liquidity risk” is defined as that element of total risk resulting from the uncertainty associated with both the cost and time period necessary to convert existing investment positions to Cash. Liquidity risk also entails obligations relating to the unfunded portions of capital commitments. Liquidity risk can result in lower than expected returns and reduced opportunity to make changes in investment positions to respond to changes in capital market conditions.

### **Definition of Cash:**

Cash is defined as short term (generally securities with time to maturity or mandatory purchase or redemption of three months or less), highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts and which are subject to a relatively small risk of changes in value. Holdings may include:

- the existing Dreyfus Institutional Preferred Money Market Fund mandate and any other UTIMCO Board approved SEC Rule 2a-7 money market fund rated AAAM by Standard & Poor’s or the equivalent by a Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization (NRSRO),
- securities of the U.S. Treasury and U.S. Agencies and their instrumentalities with maturities of 397 days or less,
- separately managed accounts with investment guidelines equivalent to, or more stringent than, unaffiliated liquid investment funds rated AAAM by Standard & Poor’s Corporation or the equivalent by a NRSRO,
- the Custodian’s late deposit interest bearing liquid investment fund,
- municipal short term securities,
- commercial paper rated in the two highest quality classes by Moody’s Investor Service, Inc. (P1 or P2) or Standard & Poor’s Corporation (A1 or A2 or the equivalent),
- negotiable certificates of deposit with a bank that is associated with a holding company whose short-term rating meets the commercial paper rating criteria specified above or that has a certificate of deposit rating of 1 or better by Duff & Phelps, and
- repurchase agreements and reverse repurchase agreements transacted with a dealer that is approved by UTIMCO and selected by the Federal Reserve as a Primary Dealer in U.S. Treasury securities and rated A-1 or P-1 or the equivalent.

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### **Liquidity Risk Measurement-The Liquidity Profile:**

For the purposes of this Liquidity Policy, potential liquidity risk will be monitored by measuring the aggregate liquidity profile of the Endowment Funds and ITF. All individual investments within the Endowment Funds and ITF will be segregated into two categories:

- **Liquid:** Investments that could be converted to Cash within a period of 120 days or less in an orderly market at a discount of 10% or less.
- **Illiquid:** Investments that could be converted to Cash in an orderly market over a period of more than 120 days or in a shorter period of time by accepting a discount of more than 10%.

The UTIMCO Team will report individual investments within the Endowment Funds and ITF categorized as follows:

- **Cash:** Short term (generally securities with time to maturity or mandatory purchase or redemption of three months or less), highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts and which are subject to a relatively small risk of changes in value.
- **Liquid (Weekly):** Investments that could be converted to Cash within a period of one day to less than 7 days in an orderly market at a discount of 5% or less.
- **Liquid (Annual):** Investments that could be converted to Cash within a period of one day to less than 365 days in an orderly market at a discount of 10% or less.

The measurements necessary to segregate all existing investments into one of the two categories assume normally functioning capital markets and cash market transactions. In addition, swaps, derivatives, or other third party arrangements to alter the status of an investment classified as illiquid may be considered, with the prior approval of the UTIMCO Board or the Risk Committee, in determining the appropriate liquidity category for each investment.

The result of this liquidity risk measurement process will be a liquidity profile for the Endowment Funds and the ITF which indicates the percentage of the total portfolio assets within each liquidity category. This Liquidity Policy defines the acceptable range of percentage of total assets within each liquidity category, specifies when special review or action is required by the UTIMCO Team, when special action is required by the UTIMCO Board or the Risk Committee, and specifies the method of monitoring and presenting actual versus policy liquidity profiles.

### **Liquidity Policy Profile:**

The permitted maximum for **illiquid** investments for each of the Endowment Funds is 70% of the total portfolio for the Endowment Funds. Any **illiquid** investment made that would cause illiquidity to exceed 70% requires prior approval by the Risk Committee after consultation with The University of Texas System Office of Business Affairs.

The permitted maximum for **illiquid** investments for the ITF is 55% of the total portfolio for the ITF. Any **illiquid** investment that would cause illiquidity to exceed 55% requires prior approval by the Risk Committee after consultation with The University of Texas System Office of Business Affairs.

Risk Committee review of new investments above the permitted maximums will supplement, rather than replace, the procedures established by the UTIMCO Board for the approval of new investments.

### **Unfunded Commitments:**

As used herein, “unfunded commitments” refers to capital that has been legally committed from an Endowment Fund and has not yet been called but may still be called by the general partner or investment manager. The Maximum Permitted Amount of unfunded commitments for each Endowment Fund is:

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**Beg March 1, 2020**

Unfunded Commitment as a percent of the highest total Net Asset Value of the Endowment Funds over a trailing 24-month period:

30.0%

No new commitments may be made for an Endowment Fund without approval from the Risk Committee if the actual amount of unfunded commitments for such Endowment Fund exceeds, or, as a result of such commitment, would exceed the Maximum Permitted Amount.

**Documentation and Controls:**

Managing Directors responsible for each asset class are responsible for determining the liquidity category for each investment in that asset class as well as the amount of unfunded commitments. The determination of liquidity will include underlying security trading volumes, notice periods, redemption dates, lock-up periods, and “soft” and “hard” gates. These classifications will be reviewed by the Risk Manager and the Chief Compliance Officer, and must receive final approval from the Chief Investment Officer. Classifications and weights within each liquidity category will be updated and reported on a monthly basis. All new investments considered will be categorized by liquidity category, and a statement regarding the effect on overall liquidity and the amount of unfunded commitments for each Endowment Fund of the addition of a new investment must be an element of the due diligence process and will be a part of the recommendation report to the UTIMCO Board.

As additional safeguards, maximum illiquidity levels have been established as indicated above to require review and action by the UTIMCO Board or the Risk Committee in the event any investment action would cause the actual investment position in illiquid investments to exceed the permitted maximum illiquidity levels, or in the event market actions caused the actual investment position in illiquid investments to exceed the maximum illiquidity levels. In addition, any proposed investment actions which would increase the actual investment position in illiquid investments in any of the PUF, the GEF, or the ITF by 10% or more of the total asset value of such fund would also require review and action by the UTIMCO Board or the Risk Committee prior to the change. Any actual positions outside the policy ranges will be communicated to the Chief Investment Officer immediately. The Chief Investment Officer will then determine the process to be used to eliminate the exception and report promptly to the UTIMCO Board and the Risk Committee the circumstances of the deviation from Policy and the remedy to the situation. Furthermore, as indicated above, no new commitments may be made for an Endowment Fund without approval from the Risk Committee if the actual amount of unfunded commitments for such Endowment Fund exceeds, or, as a result of such new commitment, would exceed, the Maximum Permitted Amount.

**Reporting:**

The actual liquidity profiles of the Endowment Funds and the ITF, including a detailed analysis of liquidity by category, and the status of unfunded commitments for each Endowment Fund, and compliance with this Liquidity Policy will be reported to the UTIMCO Board on at least a quarterly basis. Any exception to this Liquidity Policy and actions taken to remedy the exception will be reported promptly.