FRANKLIN UNIVERSAL TRUST
Form N-CSRS
May 02, 2018

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

FORM N-CSRS

CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED

MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Investment Company Act file number 811-05569

Franklin Universal Trust

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

One Franklin Parkway, San Mateo, CA 94403-1906

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Craig S. Tyle, One Franklin Parkway, San Mateo, CA 94403-1906

(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant s telephone number, including area code: (650) 312-2000

Date of fiscal year end: 8/31

Date of reporting period: 2/28/18

Item 1. Reports to Stockholders.

Semiannual Report

February 28, 2018

Franklin Templeton Investments

Why choose Franklin Templeton Investments?

Successful investing begins with ambition. And achievement only comes when you reach for it. That s why we continually strive to deliver better outcomes for investors. No matter what your goals are, our deep, global investment expertise allows us to offer solutions that can help.

During our more than 70 years of experience, we ve managed through all kinds of markets up, down and those in between. We re always preparing for what may come next. It s because of this, combined with our strength as one of the world s largest asset managers that we ve earned the trust of millions of investors around the world.

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Visit **franklintempleton.com/investor/ products/products/closed-end-funds** for fund updates, to access your account, or to find helpful financial planning tools.

Semiannual Report

Franklin Universal Trust

Dear Shareholder:

This semiannual report for Franklin Universal Trust covers the period ended February 28, 2018.

Your Fund s Goal and Main Investments

The Fund s primary investment objective is to provide high, current income consistent with preservation of capital. Its secondary objective is growth of income through dividend increases and capital appreciation.

Performance Overview

For the six months under review, the Fund s cumulative total returns were -2.70% based on net asset value and -3.23% based on market price, as shown in the Performance Summary on page 5. For comparison, the Credit Suisse (CS) High Yield Index, which is designed to mirror the investable universe of the US dollar-denominated high yield debt market, produced a +1.21% total return,[1] and utilities stocks, as measured by the Standard & Poor s (S&P®) 500 Utilities Index, which tracks all electric utility stocks in the broad S&P 500® Index, had a total return of -9.18% for the same period.[2]

Performance data represent past performance, which does not guarantee future results. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate, and you may have a gain or loss when you sell your shares. Current performance may differ from figures shown.

Economic and Market Overview

The US economy continued to grow during the six months under review. The economy expanded in 2017 s fourth quarter, though at a slower pace compared to the third quarter as lower inventory investment and higher imports partially offset the contributions of growth in consumer spending, business and housing investment, exports, and government spending. The manufacturing and services sectors expanded during the period. The unemployment rate declined from 4.4% in August 2017 to

4.1% at period-end.[3] Monthly retail sales rose during the period s first half but declined in the second half, largely due to lower motor vehicle and gasoline sales. Annual inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, increased from 1.9% in August 2017 to 2.2% at period-end.[3]

The US Federal Reserve (Fed) began reducing its balance sheet in October 2017 and raised its target range for the federal funds rate 0.25% to 1.25% 1.50% in December. The Fed left its target rate for the federal funds rate unchanged at its January 2018 meeting, but expressed that it anticipated inflation to rise in 2018 and stabilize around the 2% target over the medium term. In February, Jerome Powell succeeded Janet Yellen as Fed Chair and spoke before Congress for the first time. He indicated that the Fed saw signs of a continued strong labor market and economic growth. He reiterated the Fed s intention to gradually raise interest rates in an effort to keep the economy from overheating as inflation increases toward the Fed s 2% target. However, he noted that there was no evidence of the economy overheating and that he had yet to see a clear move upward in wages.

The 10-year Treasury yield, which moves inversely to its price, increased during the period. After declining at the beginning of the period, the yield rose amid easing concerns about Hurricane Irma s economic impact, the Fed s balance sheet normalization beginning in October and the passage of the tax reform bill in December. Although some factors weighed on the Treasury yield at certain points during the period, including tensions between the US and North Korea, indications of higher inflation drove the yield higher in the last two months of the period, reaching a four-year high in February 2018. Overall, the 10-year Treasury yield rose from 2.12% at the beginning of the period to 2.87% at period-end.

Investment Strategy

We invest primarily in two asset classes: high yield bonds and utility stocks. Within the high yield portion of the portfolio, we

1. Source: Credit Suisse Group.

2. Source: Morningstar.

The indexes are unmanaged and include reinvestment of any income or distributions. They do not reflect any fees, expenses or sales charges. One cannot invest directly in an index, and an index is not representative of the Fund s portfolio.

3. Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

See www.franklintempletondatasources.com for additional data provider information.

The dollar value, number of shares or principal amount, and names of all portfolio holdings are listed in the Fund s Statement of Investments (SOI). The SOI begins on page 8.

use fundamental research to invest in a diversified portfolio of bonds. Within the utility portion of the portfolio, we focus on companies with attractive dividend yields and with a history of increasing their dividends.

Manager s Discussion

High Yield Corporate Bonds

The Fund underperformed relative to the CS High Yield Index during the period. The Fund s largest relative detractor was our underweighting in the energy sector. Our yield curve positioning also detracted from relative returns as interest rates increased over the period. In contrast, overall security selection was a relative contributor, driven primarily by our selection within the utility and building industries. Our ratings quality allocation also contributed to relative results over the period, primarily due to an underweighting in CCC-rated corporate bonds.

Portfolio Composition

2/28/18

	% of Total Investments*
Corporate Bonds	67.4%
Utilities Common Stocks	28.0%
Natural Resources Common Stocks	1.2%
Materials Common Stocks	1.1%
Convertible Bonds	0.2%
Convertible Preferred Stocks	0.1%
Transportation Common Stocks**	0.0%
Escrows and Litigation Trusts**	0.0%
Short-Term Investments & Other Net Assets	2.0%

*Percentage of total investments of the Fund. Total investments of the Fund include long-term and short-term investments and other net assets, excluding long-term debt issued by the Fund.

**Rounds to less than 0.1%.

Utility Stocks

Utility stocks, as measured by the S&P 500 Utilities Index, had a -9.18% return during the period, compared to a +10.84% return for the S&P 500 Index.2 This underperformance occurred primarily due to two economic circumstances. First, the passage of federal tax legislation in December 2017, while very positive for US corporations, was viewed by investors as being less beneficial for the utilities sector. As regulated entities, utilities are obligated to pass through the savings of lower federal taxation to their customers and should generally not see the immediate positive adjustments to corporate earnings that other sectors of the economy could generate. Secondly, inflationary signals within the US and globally seem to have been increasing in recent months, leading to higher

interest-rate levels. Thus, in our opinion, utilities likely underperformed the overall stock market given the sector s historically high correlation to interest rates and the movements of the bond market. Overall, we believe the financial health of the utilities sector remains intact, and although the sector is not a direct beneficiary of tax reform, the sector may benefit indirectly with potential increased growth opportunities resulting from a more business-friendly regulatory environment.

Top 10 Holdings*

Based on Total Investments**

2/28/18 vs. 8/31/17

Issuer	**2/28/18**
Sempra Energy	2.1%
NextEra Energy Inc.	2.1%
Dominion Energy Inc.	1.9%
American Electric Power Co. Inc.	1.9%
CMS Energy Corp.	1.7%
Duke Energy Corp.	1.4%
Pinnacle West Capital Corp.	1.3%
CenterPoint Energy Inc.	1.3%
Navient Corp.	1.2%
Alliant Energy Corp.	1.2%

Issuer	**8/31/17**
Dominion Energy Inc.	2.4%
NextEra Energy Inc.	2.3%
Sempra Energy	2.2%
American Electric Power Co. Inc.	2.1%
Pinnacle West Capital Corp.	1.9%
Duke Energy Corp.	1.9%
Edison International	1.8%
CenterPoint Energy Inc.	1.4%
Navient Corp.	1.3%
PG&E Corp.	1.3%

*Excludes money market funds.

**Percentage of total investments of the Fund. Total investments of the Fund include long-term and short-term investments and other net assets, excluding long-term debt issued by the Fund.

FRANKLIN UNIVERSAL TRUST

Thank you for your continued participation in Franklin Universal Trust. We look forward to serving your future investment needs.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Molumphy, CFA

Senior Portfolio Manager

Glenn I. Voyles, CFA

Portfolio Manager

The foregoing information reflects our analysis, opinions and portfolio holdings as of February 28, 2018, the end of the reporting period. The way we implement our main investment strategies and the resulting portfolio holdings may change depending on factors such as market and economic conditions. These opinions may not be relied upon as investment advice or an offer for a particular security. The information is not a complete analysis of every aspect of any market, country, industry, security or the Fund. Statements of fact are from sources considered reliable, but the investment manager makes no representation or warranty as to their completeness or accuracy. Although historical performance is no guarantee of future results, these insights may help you understand our investment management philosophy.

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Performance Summary as of February 28, 2018

Total return reflects reinvestment of the Fund s dividends and capital gain distributions, if any, and any unrealized gains or losses. Total returns do not reflect any sales charges paid at inception or brokerage commissions paid on secondary market purchases. The performance table does not reflect any taxes that a shareholder would pay on Fund dividends, capital gain distributions, if any, or any realized gains on the sale of Fund shares. Your dividend income will vary depending on dividends or interest paid by securities in the Fund s portfolio, adjusted for operating expenses. Capital gain distributions are net profits realized from the sale of portfolio securities.

Performance as of 2/28/18[1]

	Cumulative Total Return[2]		Average Annual Total Return[2]	
	Based on NAV[3]	**Based on market price[4]**	**Based on NAV[3]**	**Based on market price[4]**
6-Month	-2.70%	-3.23%	-2.70%	-3.23%
1-Year	+1.59%	+1.61%	+1.59%	+1.61%
5-Year	+34.04%	+26.68%	+6.03%	+4.84%
10-Year	+107.52%	+112.06%	+7.57%	+7.81%

Performance data represent past performance, which does not guarantee future results. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate, and you may have a gain or loss when you sell your shares. Current performance may differ from figures shown.

Share Prices

Symbol: FT	**2/28/18**	**8/31/17**	**Change**
Net Asset Value (NAV)	$7.83	$8.24	-$0.41
Market Price (NYSE)	$6.82	$7.24	-$0.42

Distributions (9/1/17 2/28/18)

Net Investment Income
$0.1920

All investments involve risks, including possible loss of principal. Bond prices generally move in the opposite direction of interest rates. As prices of bonds in a fund adjust to a rise in interest rates, the Fund s share price may decline. Investments in lower rated bonds include higher risk of default and loss of principal. Stock prices fluctuate, sometimes rapidly and dramatically, due to factors affecting individual companies, particular industries or sectors, or general market conditions. In addition to having sensitivity to other factors, securities issued by utility companies have historically been sensitive to interest rate changes. When interest rates fall, utility securities prices, and thus a utilities fund s share price, tend to rise; when interest rates rise, their prices generally fall. For stocks paying dividends, dividends are not guaranteed, and can increase, decrease or be

totally eliminated without notice. The Fund is actively managed but there is no guarantee that the manager s investment decisions will produce the desired results.

1. The Fund has a fee waiver associated with any investment it makes in a Franklin Templeton money fund and/or other Franklin Templeton fund, contractually guaranteed through 8/31/18. Fund investment results reflect the fee waiver; without this waiver, the results would have been lower.

2. Total return calculations represent the cumulative and average annual changes in value of an investment over the periods indicated. Return for less than one year, if any, has not been annualized.

3. Assumes reinvestment of distributions based on net asset value.

4. Assumes reinvestment of distributions based on the dividend reinvestment and cash purchase plan.

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Important Notice to Shareholders

The Fund s Board previously authorized an open-market share repurchase program, pursuant to which the Fund may purchase Fund shares, from time to time, up to 10% of the Fund s common shares in open-market transactions, at the discretion of management. This authorization remains in effect.

Financial Highlights

	Six Months Ended February 28, 2018 (unaudited)	Year Ended August 31, 2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Per share operating performance (for a share outstanding throughout the period)						
Net asset value, beginning of period	$ 8.24	$ 7.67	$ 7.11	$ 8.34	$7.61	$ 7.47
Income from investment operations:						
Net investment income[a]	0.20	0.38	0.39	0.45	0.47	0.43
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses)	(0.42)	0.57	0.64	(1.21)	0.73	0.17
Total from investment operations	(0.22)	0.95	1.03	(0.76)	1.20	0.60
Less distributions from net investment income	(0.19)	(0.38)	(0.47)	(0.47)	(0.47)	(0.46)
Net asset value, end of period	$ 7.83	$ 8.24	$ 7.67	$ 7.11	$ 8.34	$ 7.61
Market value, end of period[b]	$ 6.82	$ 7.24	$ 6.84	$ 6.10	$ 7.39	$ 6.76
Total return (based on market value per share)[c]	(3.23)%	11.81%	20.76%	(11.57)%	16.71%	(2.45)%
Ratios to average net assets[d]						
	1.97%	2.00%	2.13%	1.97%	1.97%	2.34%

Expenses before waiver and payments by affiliates						
Expenses net of waiver and payments by affiliates	1.97%[e,f]	1.99%[e]	2.12%[e]	1.97%[e,f]	1.97%[e,f]	2.34%
Net investment income	4.85%	4.81%	5.48%	5.63%	5.76%	5.58%
Supplemental data						
Net assets, end of period (000 s)	$196,724	$206,965	$192,682	$178,747	$209,674	$191,223
Portfolio turnover rate	14.25%	23.25%	21.13%	20.30%	18.25%	21.95%
Total debt outstanding at end of period (000 s)	$60,000	$60,000	$60,000	$60,000	$60,000	$60,000
Asset coverage per $1,000 of debt	$4,279	$4,449	$4,211	$3,979	$4,495	$4,187
Average amount of senior rate fixed Notes per share during the period	$2.39	$2.39	$2.39	$2.39	$2.39	$1.68

[a]Based on average daily shares outstanding.

[b]Based on the last sale on the New York Stock Exchange.

[c]Total return is not annualized for periods less than one year.

[d]Ratios are annualized for periods less than one year.

[e]Benefit of expense reduction rounds to less than 0.01%.

[f]Benefit of waiver and payments by affiliates rounds to less than 0.01%.

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Statement of Investments, February 28, 2018 (unaudited)

	Country	Shares/ Warrants	Value
Common Stocks and Other Equity Interests 39.6%			
Energy 1.5%			
[a] Chaparral Energy Inc., A	United States	23,303	$ 547,621
[a,b] Chaparral Energy Inc., A, 144A	United States	214	5,029
[a] Chaparral Energy Inc., B	United States	5,868	137,898
[a] CHC Group LLC	Cayman Islands	10,468	91,595
Enbridge Inc.	Canada	39,360	1,252,435
[a] Energy XXI Gulf Coast Inc., wts., 12/30/21	United States	5,433	163
[a] Goodrich Petroleum Corp.	United States	19,379	201,154
[a] Halcon Resources Corp.	United States	52,355	316,748
[a] Halcon Resources Corp., wts., 9/09/20	United States	4,668	3,314
[a] Linn Energy Inc.	United States	11,768	458,952
[a] Midstates Petroleum Co. Inc.	United States	326	4,392
[a,c] Midstates Petroleum Co. Inc., wts., 4/21/20	United States	2,311	54
			3,019,355
Materials 1.4%			
BHP Billiton PLC, ADR	United Kingdom	25,185	1,028,052
[a] Freeport-McMoRan Inc.	United States	80,380	1,495,068
South32 Ltd., ADR	Australia	10,074	129,149
[a] Verso Corp., A	United States	3,330	58,408
[a] Verso Corp., wts., 7/25/23	United States	350	665
			2,711,342
Transportation 0.1%			
[a] CEVA Holdings LLC	United States	180	103,172
Utilities 36.6%			
Alliant Energy Corp.	United States	80,000	3,092,000
American Electric Power Co. Inc.	United States	75,000	4,918,500
CenterPoint Energy Inc.	United States	122,800	3,321,740
CMS Energy Corp.	United States	100,000	4,245,000
Consolidated Edison Inc.	United States	40,000	2,995,600
Dominion Energy Inc.	United States	67,200	4,977,504
DTE Energy Co.	United States	30,000	3,023,400
Duke Energy Corp.	United States	46,060	3,470,160
Edison International	United States	36,000	2,181,240

Entergy Corp.	United States	30,000	2,274,600
Exelon Corp.	United States	80,000	2,963,200
FirstEnergy Corp.	United States	60,000	1,939,800
Great Plains Energy Inc.	United States	70,000	2,040,500
NextEra Energy Inc.	United States	34,800	5,294,820
NiSource Inc.	United States	60,000	1,387,800
PG&E Corp.	United States	30,000	1,232,700
Pinnacle West Capital Corp.	United States	44,800	3,447,808
PPL Corp.	United States	24,500	701,925
Public Service Enterprise Group Inc.	United States	45,000	2,179,350
Sempra Energy	United States	50,000	5,449,000
The Southern Co.	United States	68,250	2,938,845
WEC Energy Group Inc.	United States	40,000	2,396,800
Westar Energy Inc.	United States	60,000	2,923,800
Xcel Energy Inc.	United States	60,000	2,596,800
			71,992,892
Total Common Stocks and Other Equity Interests (Cost $44,496,859)			77,826,761

FRANKLIN UNIVERSAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS (UNAUDITED)

		Country	Shares	Value
	Convertible Preferred Stocks 0.1%			
	Transportation 0.1%			
[a]	CEVA Holdings LLC, cvt. pfd., A-1	United States	6	$ 4,950
[a]	CEVA Holdings LLC, cvt. pfd., A-2	United States	388	223,336
	Total Convertible Preferred Stocks (Cost $587,092)			228,286
			Principal Amount*	
	Convertible Bonds (Cost $559,375) 0.2%			
	Energy 0.2%			
	CHC Group LLC/CHC Finance Ltd., cvt., secured note, zero cpn., 10/01/20	Cayman Islands	$ 302,365	409,704
	Corporate Bonds 87.9%			
	Automobiles & Components 1.0%			
[b]	Allison Transmission Inc., senior bond, 144A, 4.75%, 10/01/27	United States	600,000	589,500
	The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.,			
	senior bond, 5.00%, 5/31/26	United States	1,100,000	1,104,125
	senior note, 5.125%, 11/15/23	United States	300,000	307,875
				2,001,500
	Banks 1.6%			
[d]	Citigroup Inc., junior sub. bond, M, 6.30% to 5/15/24, FRN thereafter, Perpetual	United States	1,100,000	1,159,345
[d]	JPMorgan Chase & Co.,			
	junior sub. bond, R, 6.00% to 8/01/23, FRN thereafter, Perpetual	United States	900,000	943,200
	junior sub. bond, V, 5.00% to 7/30/19, FRN thereafter, Perpetual	United States	1,100,000	1,106,875
				3,209,420
	Capital Goods 4.3%			
[b]	Beacon Escrow Corp., senior note, 144A, 4.875%, 11/01/25	United States	600,000	588,180
[b]	Cloud Crane LLC, secured note, second lien, 144A, 10.125%, 8/01/24	United States	300,000	336,750
	CNH Industrial Capital LLC, senior note, 3.875%, 10/15/21	United States	300,000	301,875
[b]	H&E Equipment Services Inc., senior note, 144A, 5.625%, 9/01/25	United States	1,300,000	1,332,500
[b]	HD Supply Inc., senior note, 144A, 5.75%, 4/15/24	United States	400,000	420,500
[b]		United States	300,000	291,750

	Jeld-Wen Inc.,			
	senior bond, 144A, 4.875%, 12/15/27			
	senior note, 144A, 4.625%, 12/15/25	United States	300,000	294,000
	Oshkosh Corp., senior note, 5.375%, 3/01/22	United States	500,000	515,080
	Tennant Co., senior note, 5.625%, 5/01/25	United States	1,200,000	1,236,000
b	Terex Corp., senior note, 144A, 5.625%, 2/01/25	United States	1,400,000	1,415,750
b	Vertiv Group Corp., senior note, 144A, 9.25%, 10/15/24	United States	1,700,000	1,802,000
				8,534,385
	Commercial & Professional Services 1.2%			
b	Multi-Color Corp., senior note, 144A, 4.875%, 11/01/25	United States	1,100,000	1,058,750
b	West Corp., senior note, 144A, 8.50%, 10/15/25	United States	1,300,000	1,267,500
				2,326,250
	Consumer Durables & Apparel 4.7%			
b	Ashton Woods USA LLC, senior note, 144A, 6.75%, 8/01/25	United States	1,500,000	1,503,750
	Beazer Homes USA Inc., senior note, 8.75%, 3/15/22	United States	1,300,000	1,407,250
b	Hanesbrands Inc., senior note, 144A, 4.625%, 5/15/24	United States	1,300,000	1,293,500
	PulteGroup Inc., senior bond, 5.00%, 1/15/27	United States	1,500,000	1,496,250
b	Taylor Morrison Communities Inc./Taylor Morrison Holdings II Inc.,			
	senior note, 144A, 5.25%, 4/15/21	United States	400,000	404,500
	senior note, 144A, 5.625%, 3/01/24	United States	600,000	615,000
	Toll Brothers Finance Corp., senior bond, 5.625%, 1/15/24	United States	700,000	745,500

FRANKLIN UNIVERSAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS (UNAUDITED)

	Country	Principal Amount*	Value
Corporate Bonds (continued)			
Consumer Durables & Apparel (continued)			
[b] Weekley Homes LLC/Weekley Finance Corp., senior note, 144A, 6.625%, 8/15/25	United States	$ 1,700,000	$ 1,700,000
			9,165,750
Consumer Services 7.3%			
[b] 1011778 BC ULC/New Red Finance Inc., senior secured note, first lien, 144A, 4.25%, 5/15/24	Canada	900,000	861,750
[b] 24 Hour Holdings III LLC, senior note, 144A, 8.00%, 6/01/22	United States	1,300,000	1,300,000
[b] Ascend Learning LLC, senior note, 144A, 6.875%, 8/01/25	United States	1,200,000	1,239,000
[b] Downstream Development Authority of the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, secured note, 144A, 10.50%, 2/15/23	United States	500,000	515,500
[b] Golden Nugget Inc., senior note, 144A, 6.75%, 10/15/24	United States	200,000	205,500
[b] International Game Technology PLC, senior secured bond, 144A, 6.50%, 2/15/25	United States	1,700,000	1,836,000
[b] Jack Ohio Finance LLC/Jack Ohio Finance 1 Corp., senior secured note, first lien, 144A, 6.75%, 11/15/21	United States	1,700,000	1,775,599
[b] KFC Holding Co./Pizza Hut Holdings LLC/Taco Bell of America LLC,			
senior note, 144A, 5.00%, 6/01/24	United States	600,000	607,500
senior note, 144A, 5.25%, 6/01/26	United States	600,000	609,000
[b] Silversea Cruise Finance Ltd., senior secured note, first lien, 144A, 7.25%, 2/01/25	United States	500,000	536,250
United Rentals North America Inc.,			
senior bond, 5.75%, 11/15/24	United States	1,400,000	1,454,250
senior bond, 5.875%, 9/15/26	United States	100,000	105,425
senior bond, 5.50%, 5/15/27	United States	500,000	513,000
[b] Wynn Las Vegas LLC/Wynn Las Vegas Capital Corp., senior bond, 144A, 5.50%, 3/01/25	United States	1,300,000	1,321,125
[b] Wynn Macau Ltd., senior note, 144A, 4.875%, 10/01/24	Macau	1,500,000	1,473,750
			14,353,649
Diversified Financials 2.2%			
[b] FirstCash Inc., senior note, 144A, 5.375%, 6/01/24	United States	1,100,000	1,139,875
Navient Corp.,			
senior note, 6.625%, 7/26/21	United States	800,000	838,000
senior note, 6.50%, 6/15/22	United States	500,000	521,875
senior note, 7.25%, 9/25/23	United States	1,700,000	1,814,750

				4,314,500
Energy 9.6%				
Bill Barrett Corp., senior note, 8.75%, 6/15/25		United States	1,700,000	1,844,500
[e] BreitBurn Energy Partners LP/BreitBurn Finance Corp.,				
senior bond, 7.875%, 4/15/22		United States	200,000	7,500
senior note, 8.625%, 10/15/20		United States	600,000	22,500
California Resources Corp.,				
[b] secured note, second lien, 144A, 8.00%, 12/15/22		United States	615,000	489,694
senior bond, 6.00%, 11/15/24		United States	15,000	9,225
senior note, 5.50%, 9/15/21		United States	10,000	8,300
Calumet Specialty Products Partners LP/Calumet Finance Corp.,				
senior note, 7.75%, 4/15/23		United States	800,000	798,000
Cheniere Corpus Christi Holdings LLC,				
senior secured note, first lien, 7.00%, 6/30/24		United States	600,000	673,650
senior secured note, first lien, 5.875%, 3/31/25		United States	1,000,000	1,061,250
[b] Cheniere Energy Partners LP, senior secured note, first lien, 144A,				
5.25%, 10/01/25		United States	1,200,000	1,215,000
CONSOL Energy Inc.,				
senior note, 5.875%, 4/15/22		United States	300,000	302,437
senior note, 8.00%, 4/01/23		United States	600,000	636,750

FRANKLIN UNIVERSAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS (UNAUDITED)

		Country	Principal Amount*	Value
	Corporate Bonds (continued)			
	Energy (continued)			
	Crestwood Midstream Partners LP/Crestwood Midstream Finance Corp.,			
	senior note, 6.25%, 4/01/23	United States	$ 500,000	$ 517,500
	senior note, 5.75%, 4/01/25	United States	800,000	813,000
	CSI Compressco LP/CSI Compressco Finance Inc., senior note, 7.25%, 8/15/22	United States	800,000	782,000
	Energy Transfer Equity LP,			
	senior note, first lien, 7.50%, 10/15/20	United States	1,200,000	1,305,000
	senior secured bond, first lien, 5.875%, 1/15/24	United States	200,000	212,500
b,f	EnQuest PLC, senior note, 144A, PIK, 7.00%, 10/15/23	United Kingdom	665,378	574,717
	Ferrellgas LP/Ferrellgas Finance Corp., senior note, 6.75%, 6/15/23	United States	700,000	640,500
	Martin Midstream Partners LP/Martin Midstream Finance Corp., senior note, 7.25%, 2/15/21	United States	600,000	602,250
b	Murray Energy Corp., secured note, second lien, 144A, 11.25%, 4/15/21	United States	1,000,000	450,000
	Oceaneering International Inc., senior note, 6.00%, 2/01/28	United States	800,000	789,984
	QEP Resources Inc., senior bond, 5.375%, 10/01/22	United States	1,600,000	1,632,000
	Sanchez Energy Corp.,			
	senior note, 7.75%, 6/15/21	United States	800,000	768,000
	senior note, 6.125%, 1/15/23	United States	100,000	75,500
b	Sunoco LP/Sunoco Finance Corp., senior note, 144A, 4.875%, 1/15/23	United States	700,000	696,500
b,f	W&T Offshore Inc., secured note,			
	second lien, 144A, PIK, 9.00%, 5/15/20	United States	290,289	277,770
	senior secured note, third lien, 144A, PIK, 10.00%, 6/15/21	United States	258,859	210,583
	Weatherford International Ltd.,			
	senior note, 5.125%, 9/15/20	United States	200,000	201,500
	senior note, 7.75%, 6/15/21	United States	400,000	396,750
	senior note, 4.50%, 4/15/22	United States	400,000	354,000
	senior note, 8.25%, 6/15/23	United States	600,000	583,500
				18,952,360
	Food & Staples Retailing 0.4%			
b	Aramark Services Inc., senior bond, 144A, 5.00%, 2/01/28	United States	700,000	699,125
	Food, Beverage & Tobacco 3.2%			
	B&G Foods Inc., senior note, 5.25%, 4/01/25	United States	1,200,000	1,158,000
b	Cott Holdings Inc., senior note, 144A, 5.50%, 4/01/25	Canada	1,700,000	1,697,620

[b]	Lamb Weston Holdings Inc.,			
	senior note, 144A, 4.625%, 11/01/24	United States	700,000	707,000
	senior note, 144A, 4.875%, 11/01/26	United States	1,000,000	1,002,500
[b]	Post Holdings Inc.,			
	senior bond, 144A, 5.00%, 8/15/26	United States	1,100,000	1,047,750
	senior bond, 144A, 5.625%, 1/15/28	United States	300,000	292,500
	senior note, 144A, 5.50%, 3/01/25	United States	400,000	403,500
				6,308,870
	Health Care Equipment & Services 5.8%			
[b]	Avantor Inc., senior secured note, first lien, 144A, 6.00%, 10/01/24	United States	700,000	701,750
[b]	Catalent Pharma Solutions Inc., senior note, 144A, 4.875%, 1/15/26	United States	1,400,000	1,389,500
	CHS/Community Health Systems Inc.,			
	senior note, 7.125%, 7/15/20	United States	700,000	592,375
	senior note, 6.875%, 2/01/22	United States	200,000	131,250
	senior secured note, first lien, 6.25%, 3/31/23	United States	600,000	549,000
[b]	Envision Healthcare Corp., senior note, 144A, 6.25%, 12/01/24	United States	1,500,000	1,586,250
	HCA Inc.,			
	senior bond, 5.875%, 2/15/26	United States	1,400,000	1,452,500
	senior secured bond, first lien, 5.875%, 3/15/22	United States	600,000	637,500

FRANKLIN UNIVERSAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS (UNAUDITED)

		Country	Principal Amount*	Value
	Corporate Bonds (continued)			
	Health Care Equipment & Services (continued)			
[b]	MPH Acquisition Holdings LLC, senior note, 144A, 7.125%, 6/01/24	United States	$ 1,300,000	$ 1,371,500
[b,f]	Polaris Intermediate Corp., senior note, 144A, PIK, 8.50%, 12/01/22	United States	400,000	408,250
	Tenet Healthcare Corp.,			
	senior note, 5.50%, 3/01/19	United States	400,000	407,565
	senior note, 8.125%, 4/01/22	United States	1,000,000	1,056,250
	WellCare Health Plans Inc., senior note, 5.25%, 4/01/25	United States	1,200,000	1,217,544
				11,501,234
	Materials 11.9%			
[f]	ARD Finance SA, secured note, PIK, 7.125%, 9/15/23	Luxembourg	400,000	417,000
[b]	Ardagh Packaging Finance PLC/Ardagh MP Holdings USA Inc., senior note, 144A, 6.00%, 6/30/21	Luxembourg	500,000	511,875
[b]	Axalta Coating Systems LLC, senior note, 144A, 4.875%, 8/15/24	United States	250,000	251,875
[b]	BlueScope Steel Ltd./BlueScope Steel Finance, senior note, 144A, 6.50%, 5/15/21	Australia	1,500,000	1,556,722
[b]	BWAY Holding Co., senior note, 144A, 7.25%, 4/15/25	United States	1,800,000	1,863,000
	The Chemours Co.,			
	senior bond, 7.00%, 5/15/25	United States	200,000	216,500
	senior note, 6.625%, 5/15/23	United States	1,100,000	1,161,875
	senior note, 5.375%, 5/15/27	United States	300,000	301,500
[b]	Crown Americas LLC/Crown Americas Capital Corp., senior note, 144A, 4.75%, 2/01/26	United States	700,000	691,250
[b]	Eldorado Gold Corp., senior note, 144A, 6.125%, 12/15/20	Canada	500,000	487,500
[b]	First Quantum Minerals Ltd.,			
	senior note, 144A, 7.00%, 2/15/21	Zambia	431,000	445,277
	senior note, 144A, 7.25%, 4/01/23	Zambia	600,000	624,000
	senior note, 144A, 6.875%, 3/01/26	Zambia	500,000	498,750
[b]	FMG Resources (August 2006) Pty. Ltd., senior note, 144A, 4.75%, 5/15/22	Australia	800,000	800,984
[b]	Grinding Media Inc./MC Grinding Media Canada Inc., senior secured note, 144A, 7.375%, 12/15/23	United States	1,000,000	1,060,000
[b]	New Gold Inc., senior note, 144A, 6.375%, 5/15/25	Canada	700,000	726,250
[b]	Northwest Acquisitions ULC/Dominion Finco Inc., secured note, second lien, 144A, 7.125%, 11/01/22	Canada	400,000	413,960
[b]	Novelis Corp.,			
	senior bond, 144A, 5.875%, 9/30/26	United States	500,000	505,000
	senior note, 144A, 6.25%, 8/15/24	United States	700,000	717,500
[b]		United States	1,000,000	1,023,750

Owens-Brockway Glass Container Inc.,				
senior note, 144A, 5.00%, 1/15/22				
senior note, 144A, 5.875%, 8/15/23	United States	500,000	522,188
[b] Plastipak Holdings Inc., senior note, 144A, 6.25%, 10/15/25	United States	1,200,000	1,227,000
[b] Platform Specialty Products Corp.,				
senior note, 144A, 6.50%, 2/01/22	United States	600,000	617,250
senior note, 144A, 5.875%, 12/01/25	United States	1,000,000	996,250
Reynolds Group Issuer Inc./Reynolds Group Issuer LLC/Reynolds Group Issuer Luxembourg SA,				
[b] senior note, 144A, 7.00%, 7/15/24	United States	200,000	211,000
senior secured note, first lien, 5.75%, 10/15/20	United States	484,554	491,822
[b] senior secured note, first lien, 144A, 5.125%, 7/15/23	United States	1,000,000	1,021,100
[b] Sealed Air Corp.,				
senior bond, 144A, 5.50%, 9/15/25	United States	200,000	209,750
senior note, 144A, 6.50%, 12/01/20	United States	400,000	428,000
Steel Dynamics Inc.,				
senior bond, 5.50%, 10/01/24	United States	900,000	933,750
senior bond, 5.00%, 12/15/26	United States	700,000	715,750

FRANKLIN UNIVERSAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS (UNAUDITED)

	Country	Principal Amount*	Value
Corporate Bonds (continued)			
Materials (continued)			
[b] SunCoke Energy Partners LP/SunCoke Energy Partners Finance Corp., senior note, 144A, 7.50%, 6/15/25	United States	$ 1,600,000	$ 1,676,000
			23,324,428
Media 10.0%			
[b] Altice Luxembourg SA, senior secured note, 144A, 7.75%, 5/15/22	Luxembourg	1,200,000	1,123,500
[b] Altice U.S. Finance I Corp., senior secured bond, 144A, 5.50%, 5/15/26	United States	1,200,000	1,191,000
AMC Entertainment Holdings Inc., senior sub. note, 5.875%, 11/15/26	United States	700,000	679,000
AMC Networks Inc., senior note, 5.00%, 4/01/24	United States	1,200,000	1,206,000
CCO Holdings LLC/CCO Holdings Capital Corp.,			
senior bond, 5.25%, 9/30/22	United States	1,700,000	1,734,000
[b] senior bond, 144A, 5.75%, 2/15/26	United States	700,000	712,250
Clear Channel Worldwide Holdings Inc.,			
senior note, 6.50%, 11/15/22.	United States	1,000,000	1,032,500
senior sub. note, 7.625%, 3/15/20	United States	700,000	701,750
CSC Holdings LLC,			
[b] senior bond, 144A, 5.50%, 4/15/27	United States	500,000	493,750
senior note, 6.75%, 11/15/21	United States	700,000	738,062
senior note, 5.25%, 6/01/24	United States	700,000	675,500
DISH DBS Corp.,			
senior note, 6.75%, 6/01/21	United States	700,000	721,000
senior note, 7.75%, 7/01/26	United States	800,000	791,000
[e] iHeartCommunications Inc.,			
senior secured bond, first lien, 9.00%, 3/01/21	United States	1,000,000	802,500
senior secured note, first lien, 9.00%, 9/15/22	United States	100,000	80,000
[b] Nexstar Broadcasting Inc., senior note, 144A, 5.625%, 8/01/24	United States	900,000	906,750
[b] Radio One Inc., senior sub. note, 144A, 9.25%, 2/15/20	United States	500,000	486,250
[b] Sirius XM Radio Inc.,			
senior bond, 144A, 6.00%, 7/15/24	United States	800,000	840,000
senior bond, 144A, 5.375%, 4/15/25	United States	700,000	713,125
Tegna Inc.,			
senior bond, 6.375%, 10/15/23	United States	900,000	941,625
senior note, 5.125%, 7/15/20	United States	800,000	811,000
[b]	United States	116,000	120,205

	Univision Communications Inc., senior secured bond, first lien, 144A, 6.75%, 9/15/22			
[b]	Virgin Media Finance PLC, senior bond, 144A, 6.375%, 4/15/23	United Kingdom	300,000	309,000
[b]	Virgin Media Secured Finance PLC,			
	senior secured bond, 144A, 5.25%, 1/15/26	United Kingdom	500,000	491,250
	senior secured bond, first lien, 144A, 5.50%, 1/15/25	United Kingdom	800,000	806,000
	senior secured bond, first lien, 144A, 5.50%, 8/15/26	United Kingdom	200,000	198,480
[b]	WMG Acquisition Corp.,			
	secured note, first lien, 144A, 5.00%, 8/01/23	United States	200,000	203,500
	senior note, 144A, 5.625%, 4/15/22	United States	92,000	94,415
				19,603,412
	Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology & Life Sciences 3.0%			
[b]	Concordia International Corp.,			
[e]	senior note, 144A, 7.00%, 4/15/23	Canada	900,000	85,500
	senior secured note, first lien, 144A, 9.00%, 4/01/22	Canada	400,000	368,000
[b]	Endo DAC/Endo Finance LLC/Endo Finco Inc.,			
	senior bond, 144A, 6.00%, 2/01/25	United States	800,000	577,500
	senior note, 144A, 6.00%, 7/15/23	United States	1,000,000	755,000
	Horizon Pharma Inc., senior note, 6.625%, 5/01/23	United States	1,500,000	1,507,500

FRANKLIN UNIVERSAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS (UNAUDITED)

	Country	Principal Amount*	Value
Corporate Bonds (continued)			
Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology & Life Sciences (continued)			
[b] Jaguar Holding Co. II/Pharmaceutical Product Development LLC, senior note, 144A, 6.375%, 8/01/23	United States	$ 700,000	$ 705,250
[b] Valeant Pharmaceuticals International, senior note, 144A, 6.375%, 10/15/20	United States	1,100,000	1,109,625
[b] Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc.,			
senior note, 144A, 5.625%, 12/01/21	United States	700,000	666,750
senior note, first lien, 144A, 7.00%, 3/15/24	United States	200,000	211,500
			5,986,625
Real Estate 2.8%			
CyrusOne LP/CyrusOne Finance Corp., senior note, 5.00%, 3/15/24	United States	1,400,000	1,414,000
Equinix Inc.,			
senior bond, 5.375%, 4/01/23	United States	1,300,000	1,340,625
senior bond, 5.875%, 1/15/26	United States	200,000	210,000
[b] Five Point Operating Co. LP/Five Point Capital Corp., senior note, 144A, 7.875%, 11/15/25	United States	1,000,000	1,017,500
MPT Operating Partnership LP/MPT Finance Corp.,			
senior bond, 5.25%, 8/01/26	United States	300,000	299,625
senior bond, 5.00%, 10/15/27	United States	500,000	489,750
senior note, 6.375%, 3/01/24	United States	600,000	634,500
			5,406,000
Retailing 1.1%			
Netflix Inc., senior bond, 5.875%, 2/15/25	United States	1,100,000	1,165,021
[b] PetSmart Inc.,			
senior note, 144A, 7.125%, 3/15/23	United States	300,000	192,720
senior note, 144A, 8.875%, 6/01/25	United States	300,000	192,750
senior secured note, first lien, 144A, 5.875%, 6/01/25	United States	900,000	706,500
			2,256,991
Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment 0.7%			
Qorvo Inc., senior bond, 7.00%, 12/01/25	United States	1,300,000	1,420,250
Software & Services 2.2%			
[b]	United States	1,700,000	1,736,125

	First Data Corp.,			
	secured note, second lien, 144A, 5.75%, 1/15/24			
	senior note, 144A, 7.00%, 12/01/23	United States	400,000	421,500
	Infor (U.S.) Inc., senior note, 6.50%, 5/15/22	United States	1,700,000	1,746,750
b	Symantec Corp., senior note, 144A, 5.00%, 4/15/25	United States	500,000	511,302
				4,415,677
	Technology Hardware & Equipment 4.3%			
b	Blackboard Inc., secured note, second lien, 144A, 9.75%, 10/15/21	United States	1,542,000	1,403,220
	CDW LLC/CDW Finance Corp., senior note, 5.00%, 9/01/25	United States	700,000	709,625
b	CommScope Technologies LLC, senior bond, 144A, 6.00%, 6/15/25	United States	1,200,000	1,245,360
b	Dell International LLC/EMC Corp.,			
	senior note, 144A, 5.875%, 6/15/21	United States	200,000	205,000
	senior note, 144A, 7.125%, 6/15/24	United States	200,000	216,046
	senior secured bond, first lien, 144A, 6.02%, 6/15/26	United States	200,000	214,304
b	Itron Inc., senior note, 144A, 5.00%, 1/15/26	United States	1,800,000	1,795,500
b	Tempo Acquisition LLC/Tempo Acquisition Finance Corp., senior note, 144A, 6.75%, 6/01/25	United States	1,300,000	1,313,000
b	TTM Technologies Inc., senior note, 144A, 5.625%, 10/01/25	United States	100,000	99,750
	Western Digital Corp., senior note, 4.75%, 2/15/26	United States	1,300,000	1,312,188
				8,513,993

FRANKLIN UNIVERSAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS (UNAUDITED)

	Country	Principal Amount*	Value
Corporate Bonds (continued)			
Telecommunication Services 5.3%			
[b] Block Communications Inc., senior note, 144A, 6.875%, 2/15/25	United States	$ 300,000	$ 312,000
CenturyLink Inc.,			
senior bond, 6.75%, 12/01/23	United States	200,000	198,000
senior bond, 5.625%, 4/01/25	United States	300,000	273,000
[b] Digicel Group Ltd., senior note, 144A, 8.25%, 9/30/20	Bermuda	900,000	842,814
[b] Digicel Ltd.,			
senior note, 144A, 6.00%, 4/15/21	Bermuda	500,000	480,130
senior note, 144A, 6.75%, 3/01/23	Bermuda	300,000	282,396
Hughes Satellite Systems Corp., senior bond, 6.625%, 8/01/26	United States	1,400,000	1,435,420
Intelsat Jackson Holdings SA, senior note, 7.50%, 4/01/21	Luxembourg	900,000	821,813
[b] Sprint Communications Inc., senior note, 144A, 9.00%, 11/15/18	United States	223,000	231,641
Sprint Corp.,			
senior bond, 7.875%, 9/15/23	United States	500,000	518,750
senior bond, 7.125%, 6/15/24	United States	500,000	493,438
senior note, 7.625%, 3/01/26	United States	600,000	598,500
[b] Sprint Spectrum Co. LLC/Sprint Spectrum Co. II LLC, first lien, 144A, 3.36%, 3/20/23	United States	1,312,500	1,319,062
T-Mobile USA Inc.,			
senior bond, 6.50%, 1/15/24	United States	200,000	210,000
senior bond, 6.375%, 3/01/25	United States	500,000	528,750
senior bond, 4.75%, 2/01/28	United States	600,000	585,978
senior note, 6.00%, 4/15/24	United States	200,000	208,500
[b] Zayo Group LLC/Zayo Capital Inc., senior note, 144A, 5.75%, 1/15/27	United States	1,000,000	1,007,500
			10,347,692
Transportation 0.9%			
[b] DAE Funding LLC,			
senior note, 144A, 4.50%, 8/01/22	United Arab Emirates	700,000	682,500
senior note, 144A, 5.00%, 8/01/24	United Arab Emirates	700,000	683,858
[b] Park Aerospace Holdings Ltd.,			
senior note, 144A, 5.25%, 8/15/22	Ireland	100,000	100,480
senior note, 144A, 5.50%, 2/15/24	Ireland	300,000	302,070
			1,768,908

	Utilities 4.4%			
	Calpine Corp., senior bond, 5.75%, 1/15/25	United States	1,800,000	1,692,000
	Dynegy Inc., senior bond, 7.625%, 11/01/24	United States	1,800,000	1,944,000
	Ferrellgas Partners LP/Ferrellgas Partners Finance Corp., senior note, 8.625%, 6/15/20	United States	800,000	732,000
b	InterGen NV, secured bond, 144A, 7.00%, 6/30/23	Netherlands	1,000,000	998,075
	NRG Yield Operating LLC,			
	senior bond, 5.375%, 8/15/24	United States	900,000	914,058
	senior bond, 5.00%, 9/15/26	United States	900,000	888,642
	Talen Energy Supply LLC, senior note, 6.50%, 6/01/25	United States	1,800,000	1,404,000
				8,572,775
	Total Corporate Bonds (Cost $173,686,698)			172,983,794
			Shares	
	Escrows and Litigation Trusts 0.0%			
a,c	Midstates Petroleum Co. Inc./Midstates Petroleum Co. LLC, Escrow Account	United States	700,000	
a,c	NewPage Corp., Litigation Trust	United States	1,200,000	
a	Penn Virginia Corp., Escrow Account	United States	700,000	2,625

FRANKLIN UNIVERSAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS (UNAUDITED)

		Country	Shares		Value
	Escrows and Litigation Trusts (continued)				
[a,c]	Vistra Energy Corp., Escrow Account	United States	700,000	$	8,120
	Total Escrows and Litigation Trusts (Cost $20,297)				10,745
	Total Investments before Short Term Investments (Cost $219,350,321)				251,459,290
	Short Term Investments (Cost $3,034,649) 1.6%				
	Money Market Funds 1.6%				
[g,h]	Institutional Fiduciary Trust Money Market Portfolio, 1.02%	United States	3,034,649		3,034,649
	Total Investments (Cost $222,384,970) 129.4%				254,493,939
	Notes Payable (30.5)%				(59,982,906)
	Other Assets, less Liabilities 1.1%				2,213,114
	Net Assets 100.0%				$ 196,724,147

See Abbreviations on page 26.

Rounds to less than 0.1% of net assets.

*The principal amount is stated in U.S. dollars unless otherwise indicated.

[a]Non-income producing.

[b]Security was purchased pursuant to Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933 and may be sold in transactions exempt from registration only to qualified institutional buyers or in a public offering registered under the Securities Act of 1933. These securities have been deemed liquid under guidelines approved by the Fund s Board of Trustees. At February 28, 2018, the aggregate value of these securities was $94,329,251, representing 48.0% of net assets.

[c]Fair valued using significant unobservable inputs. See Note 9 regarding fair value measurements.

[d]Perpetual security with no stated maturity date.

[e]See Note 8 regarding defaulted securities.

[f]Income may be received in additional securities and/or cash.

[g]See Note 4(c) regarding investments in affiliated management investment companies.

[h]The rate shown is the annualized seven-day yield at period end.

Financial Statements

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

February 28, 2018 (unaudited)

Assets:	
Investments in securities:	
Cost - Unaffiliated issuers	$ 219,350,321
Cost - Non-controlled affiliates (Note 4c)	3,034,649
Value - Unaffiliated issuers	$ 251,459,290
Value - Non-controlled affiliates (Note 4c)	3,034,649
Receivables:	
Investment securities sold	11,928
Dividends and interest	3,263,236
Total assets	257,769,103
Liabilities:	
Payables:	
Management fees	160,929
Distributions to shareholders	804,220
Accrued interest (Note 3)	19,133
Senior fixed rate Notes, at par value of $60,000,000 less unamortized Note issuance costs of $17,094 (Note 3)	59,982,906
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	77,768
Total liabilities	61,044,956
Net assets, at value	$ 196,724,147
Net assets consist of:	
Paid-in capital	$ 172,984,952
Distributions in excess of net investment income	(724,050)
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	32,108,969
Accumulated net realized gain (loss)	(7,645,724)
Net assets, at value	$ 196,724,147
Shares outstanding	25,131,894
Net asset value per share	$ 7.83

FRANKLIN UNIVERSAL TRUST

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Operations

for the six months ended February 28, 2018 (unaudited)

Investment income:	
Dividends: (net of foreign taxes)*	
Unaffiliated issuers	$ 1,308,948
Non-controlled affiliates (Note 4c)	13,218
Interest:	
Unaffiliated issuers	5,622,518
Total investment income	6,944,684
Expenses:	
Management fees (Note 4a)	995,556
Interest expense (Note 3)	865,783
Transfer agent fees	38,159
Custodian fees (Note 5)	1,128
Reports to shareholders	16,825
Professional fees	34,157
Trustees fees and expenses	3,820
Amortization of Note issuance costs (Note 3)	9,560
Other	43,473
Total expenses	2,008,461
Expense reductions (Note 5)	(92)
Expenses waived/paid by affiliates (Note 4c)	(5,960)
Net expenses	2,002,409
Net investment income	4,942,275
Realized and unrealized gains (losses):	
Net realized gain (loss) from:	
Investments:	
Unaffiliated issuers	3,997,455
Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on:	
Investments:	
Unaffiliated issuers	(14,354,763)
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	(10,357,308)

Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations	$ (5,415,033)

*Foreign taxes withheld on dividends	$ 6,167

Statements of Changes in Net Assets

	Six Months Ended February 28, 2018 (unaudited)	Year Ended August 31, 2017
Increase (decrease) in net assets:		
Operations:		
Net investment income.	$ 4,942,275	$ 9,570,044
Net realized gain (loss)	3,997,455	(2,029,380)
Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	(14,354,763)	16,392,768
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations	(5,415,033)	23,933,432
Distributions to shareholders from:		
Net investment income	(4,825,323)	(9,650,653)
Net increase (decrease) in net assets	(10,240,356)	14,282,779
Net assets:		
Beginning of period	206,964,503	192,681,724
End of period	$ 196,724,147	$ 206,964,503
Distributions in excess of net investment income included in net assets:		
End of period	$ (724,050)	$ (841,002)

FRANKLIN UNIVERSAL TRUST

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Cash Flows

for the six months ended February 28, 2018 (unaudited)

Cash flow from operating activities:	
Dividends, interest and other income received	$ 6,948,016
Operating expenses paid	(1,144,999)
Interest expense paid	(861,000)
Purchases of long-term investments	(38,116,789)
Sales and maturities of long-term investments	37,238,313
Net sales of short-term investments	761,782
Cash provided - operating activities	4,825,323
Cash flow used from financing activities - distributions to shareholders	(4,825,323)
Net increase (decrease) in cash	
Cash at beginning of period	
Cash at end of period	$

Reconciliation of Net Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets resulting from Operating Activities to Net Cash Provided by

Operating Activities
for the six months ended February 28, 2018 (unaudited)

Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operating activities	$ (5,415,033)
Adjustments to reconcile net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operating activities to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Amortization of Note issuance costs	9,560
Net amortization income	(39,533)
Reinvested dividends from non-controlled affiliates	(13,218)
Decrease in dividends and interest receivable and other assets	93,034
Decrease in receivable for investments sold	109,948
Decrease in payables to affiliates, accrued expenses, and other liabilities	(13,150)
Increase in cost of investments	(4,261,048)
Decrease in unrealized appreciation on investments	14,354,763
Net cash provided by operating activities	$ 4,825,323

Notes to Financial Statements (unaudited)

1. Organization and Significant Accounting Policies

Franklin Universal Trust (Fund) is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (1940 Act) as a closed-end management investment company and applies the specialized accounting and reporting guidance in U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (U.S. GAAP).

The following summarizes the Fund s significant accounting policies.

a. Financial Instrument Valuation

The Fund s investments in financial instruments are carried at fair value daily. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. The Fund calculates the net asset value (NAV) per share as of 4 p.m. Eastern time each day the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is open for trading. Senior fixed rate notes issued by the Fund are carried at cost. Under compliance policies and procedures approved by the Fund s Board of Trustees (the Board), the Fund s administrator has responsibility for oversight of valuation, including leading the cross-functional Valuation Committee (VC). The VC provides administration and oversight of the Fund s valuation policies and procedures, which are approved annually by the Board. Among other things, these procedures allow the Fund to utilize independent pricing services, quotations from securities and financial instrument dealers, and other market sources to determine fair value.

Equity securities listed on an exchange or on the NASDAQ National Market System are valued at the last quoted sale price or the official closing price of the day, respectively. Foreign equity securities are valued as of the close of trading on the foreign stock exchange on which the security is primarily traded, or as of 4 p.m. Eastern time. The value is then converted into its U.S. dollar equivalent at the foreign exchange rate in effect at 4 p.m. Eastern time on the day that the value of the security is determined. Over-the-counter (OTC) securities are valued within the range of the most recent quoted bid and ask prices. Securities that trade in multiple markets or on multiple exchanges are valued according to the broadest and most representative market. Certain equity securities are valued based upon fundamental characteristics or relationships to similar securities.

Debt securities generally trade in the OTC market rather than on a securities exchange. The Fund s pricing services use multiple valuation techniques to determine fair value. In instances where sufficient market activity exists, the pricing services may utilize a market-based approach through which quotes from market makers are used to determine fair value. In instances where sufficient market activity may not exist or is limited, the pricing services also utilize proprietary valuation models which may consider market characteristics such as benchmark yield curves, credit spreads, estimated default rates, anticipated market interest rate volatility, coupon rates, anticipated timing of principal repayments, underlying collateral, and other unique security features in order to estimate the relevant cash flows, which are then discounted to calculate the fair value.

Investments in open-end mutual funds are valued at the closing NAV.

The Fund has procedures to determine the fair value of financial instruments for which market prices are not reliable or readily available. Under these procedures, the VC convenes on a regular basis to review such financial instruments and considers a number of factors, including significant unobservable valuation inputs, when arriving at fair value. The VC primarily employs a market-based approach which may use related or comparable assets or liabilities, recent transactions, market multiples, book values, and other relevant information for the investment to determine the fair value of the investment. An income-based valuation approach may also be used in which the anticipated future cash flows of the investment are discounted to calculate fair value. Discounts may also be applied due to the nature or duration of any restrictions on the disposition of the investments. Due to the inherent uncertainty of valuations of such investments, the fair values may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had an active market existed. The VC employs various methods for calibrating these valuation approaches including a regular review of key inputs and assumptions, transactional back-testing or disposition analysis, and reviews of any related market activity.

Trading in securities on foreign securities stock exchanges and OTC markets may be completed before 4 p.m. Eastern time. In addition, trading in certain foreign markets may not take place on every Fund s business day. Occasionally, events occur between the time at which trading in a foreign security is completed and 4 p.m. Eastern time that might call into question the reliability of the value of a portfolio security held by the Fund. As a result, differences may arise between the value of

FRANKLIN UNIVERSAL TRUST

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

1. Organization and Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

a. Financial Instrument Valuation *(continued)*

the Fund s portfolio securities as determined at the foreign market close and the latest indications of value at 4 p.m. Eastern time. In order to minimize the potential for these differences, the VC monitors price movements following the close of trading in foreign stock markets through a series of country specific market proxies (such as baskets of American Depositary Receipts, futures contracts and exchange traded funds). These price movements are measured against established trigger thresholds for each specific market proxy to assist in determining if an event has occurred that may call into question the reliability of the values of the foreign securities held by the Fund. If such an event occurs, the securities may be valued using fair value procedures, which may include the use of independent pricing services.

When the last day of the reporting period is a non-business day, certain foreign markets may be open on those days that the Fund s NAV is not calculated, which could result in differences between the value of the Fund s portfolio securities on the last business day and the last calendar day of the reporting period. Any significant security valuation changes due to an open foreign market are adjusted and reflected by the Fund for financial reporting purposes.

b. Income and Deferred Taxes

It is the Fund s policy to qualify as a regulated investment company under the Internal Revenue Code. The Fund intends to distribute to shareholders substantially all of its taxable income and net realized gains to relieve it from federal income and excise taxes. As a result, no provision for U.S. federal income taxes is required.

The Fund may be subject to foreign taxation related to income received, capital gains on the sale of securities and certain foreign currency transactions in the foreign jurisdictions in which it invests. Foreign taxes, if any, are recorded based on the tax regulations and rates that exist in the foreign markets in which the Fund invests. When a capital gain tax is determined to apply, the Fund records an estimated deferred tax liability in an amount that would be payable if the securities were disposed of on the valuation date.

The Fund may recognize an income tax liability related to its uncertain tax positions under U.S. GAAP when the uncertain tax position has a less than 50% probability that it will be sustained upon examination by the tax authorities based on its technical merits. As of February 28, 2018, the Fund has determined that no tax liability is required in its financial statements related to uncertain tax positions for any open tax years (or expected to be taken in future tax years). Open tax years are those that remain subject to examination and are based on the statute of limitations in each jurisdiction in which the Fund invests.

c. Security Transactions, Investment Income, Expenses and Distributions

Security transactions are accounted for on trade date. Realized gains and losses on security transactions are determined on a specific identification basis. Interest income and estimated expenses are accrued daily. Amortization of premium and accretion of discount on debt securities are included in interest income. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date except for certain dividends from securities where the dividend rate is not available. In such cases, the dividend is recorded as soon as the information is received by the Fund. Distributions to shareholders are

recorded on the ex-dividend date. Distributable earnings are determined according to income tax regulations (tax basis) and may differ from earnings recorded in accordance with U.S. GAAP. These differences may be permanent or temporary. Permanent differences are reclassified among capital accounts to reflect their tax character. These reclassifications have no impact on net assets or the results of operations. Temporary differences are not reclassified, as they may reverse in subsequent periods.

d. Accounting Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the amounts of income and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

e. Guarantees and Indemnifications

Under the Fund s organizational documents, its officers and trustees are indemnified by the Fund against certain liabilities arising out of the performance of their duties to the Fund. Additionally, in the normal course of business, the Fund enters

into contracts with service providers that contain general indemnification clauses. The Fund s maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown as this would involve future claims that may be made against the Fund that have not yet occurred. Currently, the Fund expects the risk of loss to be remote.

2. Shares of Beneficial Interest

At February 28, 2018, there were an unlimited number of shares authorized ($0.01 par value). During the periods ended February 28, 2018 and August 31, 2017, there were no shares issued; all reinvested distributions were satisfied with previously issued shares purchased in the open market.

Under the Board approved open-market share repurchase program, the Fund may purchase, from time to time, Fund shares in open-market transactions, at the discretion of management. During the periods ended February 28, 2018 and August 31, 2017, there were no shares repurchased.

3. Senior Fixed Rate Notes

On August 28, 2013, the Fund issued $60 million principal amount of a new class of five-year senior fixed rate notes (Notes). The Notes bear interest, payable semi-annually, at a rate of 2.87% per year, to maturity on August 28, 2018. The Notes are general unsecured obligations of the Fund and rank senior to trust shares and all existing or future unsecured

indebtedness of the Fund. For the period ended February 28, 2018, total interest paid by the Fund on the Notes was $861,000. The Fund is required to maintain on a monthly basis a specified discounted asset value for its portfolio in compliance with guidelines established in the Notes Agreement, and is required under the 1940 Act to maintain asset coverage for the Notes of at least 300%. The Fund has met these requirements during the period ended February 28, 2018. The issuance costs of $126,916 incurred by the Fund are deferred and amortized on an interest method basis over the term of the Notes. For the period ended February 28, 2018, the Fund amortized $9,560 of Notes issuance costs. Subject to certain restrictions and make whole premiums, the Fund may prepay the Notes at any time. At February 28, 2018, if the Notes were fully prepaid, the make whole premium related to the current balance of the Notes would have been approximately $123,000.

The Fund employs an income-based approach to determine the fair value of the Notes, which uses the Notes current credit rating, remaining time to maturity, stated coupon rates, the current yield of a comparable asset, and a liquidity premium. At February 28, 2018, the estimated fair value of the Notes was approximately $59,953,000. The inputs used in determining the fair value of the Notes represent Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy. See Note 9 regarding fair value measurements for additional information about fair value hierarchy and Level 3 inputs.

4. Transactions with Affiliates

Franklin Resources, Inc. is the holding company for various subsidiaries that together are referred to as Franklin Templeton Investments. Certain officers and trustees of the Fund are also officers and/or directors of the following

subsidiaries:

Subsidiary	Affiliation
Franklin Advisers, Inc. (Advisers)	Investment manager
Franklin Templeton Services, LLC (FT Services)	Administrative manager

a. Management Fees

The Fund pays an investment management fee to Advisers of 0.75% per year of the average weekly managed assets. Managed assets are defined as the Fund s gross asset value minus the sum of accrued liabilities, other than the principal amount of the Notes.

b. Administrative Fees

Under an agreement with Advisers, FT Services provides administrative services to the Fund. The fee is paid by Advisers based on the Fund s average daily net assets, and is not an additional expense of the Fund.

FRANKLIN UNIVERSAL TRUST

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

4. Transactions with Affiliates (continued)

c. Investments in Affiliated Management Investment Companies

The Fund invests in one or more affiliated management investment companies for purposes other than exercising a controlling influence over the management or policies. Management fees paid by the Fund are waived on assets invested in the affiliated management investment companies, as noted in the Statement of Operations, in an amount not to exceed the management and administrative fees paid directly or indirectly by each affiliate. Prior to September 1, 2013, the waiver was accounted for as a reduction to management fees. During the period ended February 28, 2018, the Fund held investments in affiliated management investment companies as follows:

	Number of Shares Held at Beginning of Period	Gross Additions	Gross Reductions	Number of Shares Held at End of Period	Value at End of Period	Realized Gain (Loss)	Net Change in Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)	Dividend Income
Non-Controlled Affiliates								
Institutional Fiduciary Trust Money Market Portfolio, 1.02%	3,783,213	28,074,063	(28,822,627)	3,034,649	$ 3,034,649	$	$	$ 13,218

5. Expense Offset Arrangement

The Fund has entered into an arrangement with its custodian whereby credits realized as a result of uninvested cash balances are used to reduce a portion of the Fund s custodian expenses. During the period ended February 28, 2018, the custodian fees were reduced as noted in the Statement of Operations.

6. Income Taxes

For tax purposes, capital losses may be carried over to offset future capital gains. Capital loss carryforwards with no expiration, if any, must be fully utilized before those losses with expiration dates.

At August 31, 2017, the Fund had capital loss carryforwards of $8,755,072 expiring in 2018.

Capital loss carryforwards not subject to expiration:	
Short term	$ 525,190
Long term	2,362,810
Total capital loss carryforwards	$ 2,888,000

At February 28, 2018, the cost of investments and net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) for income tax purposes were as follows:

Cost of investments	$ 222,786,323
Unrealized appreciation	$ 41,458,925
Unrealized depreciation	(9,751,309)
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	$ 31,707,616

Differences between income and/or capital gains as determined on a book basis and a tax basis are primarily due to differing treatments of defaulted securities and bond discounts and premiums.

7. Investment Transactions

Purchases and sales of investments (excluding short term securities) for the period ended February 28, 2018, aggregated $38,116,789 and $37,128,365, respectively.

8. Credit Risk and Defaulted Securities

At February 28, 2018, the Fund had 66.2% of its portfolio invested in high yield or other securities rated below investment grade and unrated securities, if any. These securities may be more sensitive to economic conditions causing greater price volatility and are potentially subject to a greater risk of loss due to default than higher rated securities.

The Fund held defaulted securities and/or other securities for which the income has been deemed uncollectible. At February 28, 2018, the aggregate value of these securities was $998,000, representing 0.4% of the Fund s portfolio. The Fund discontinues accruing income on securities for which income has been deemed uncollectible and provides an estimate for losses on interest receivable. The securities have been identified in the accompanying Statement of Investments.

9. Fair Value Measurements

The Fund follows a fair value hierarchy that distinguishes between market data obtained from independent sources (observable inputs) and the Fund s own market assumptions (unobservable inputs). These inputs are used in determining the value of the Fund s financial instruments and are summarized in the following fair value hierarchy:

Level 1 quoted prices in active markets for identical financial instruments

Level 2 other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar financial instruments, interest rates, prepayment speed, credit risk, etc.)

Level 3 significant unobservable inputs (including the Fund s own assumptions in determining the fair value of financial instruments)

The input levels are not necessarily an indication of the risk or liquidity associated with financial instruments at that level.

For movements between the levels within the fair value hierarchy, the Fund has adopted a policy of recognizing the transfers as of the date of the underlying event which caused the movement.

FRANKLIN UNIVERSAL TRUST

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

9. Fair Value Measurements (continued)

A summary of inputs used as of February 28, 2018, in valuing the Fund s assets carried at fair value, is as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Assets:				
Investments in Securities:[a]				
Equity Investments:[b]				
Energy	$ 2,789,808	$ 229,493	$ 54	$ 3,019,355
Transportation		331,458		331,458
All Other Equity Investments	74,704,234			74,704,234
Convertible Bonds		409,704		409,704
Corporate Bonds		172,983,794		172,983,794
Escrows and Litigation Trusts		2,625	8,120[c]	10,745
Short Term Investments	3,034,649			3,034,649
Total Investments in Securities	$ 80,528,691	$ 173,957,074	$ 8,174	$ 254,493,939

[a]For detailed categories, see the accompanying Statement of Investments.

[b]Includes common and convertible preferred stocks as well as other equity investments.

[c]Includes securities determined to have no value at February 28, 2018.

A reconciliation of assets in which Level 3 inputs are used in determining fair value is presented when there are significant Level 3 financial instruments at the beginning and/or end of the period.

10. New Accounting Pronouncements

In March 2017, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2017-08, Receivables Nonrefundable Fees and Other Costs (Subtopic 310-20): Premium Amortization on Purchased Callable Debt Securities. The amendments in the ASU shorten the amortization period for certain callable debt securities acquired at a premium, to be amortized to the earliest call date. The ASU does not require an accounting change for securities acquired at a discount, which continues to be amortized to maturity. The ASU is effective for fiscal years and interim periods within those fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018. Management has reviewed the requirements and believes the adoption of this ASU will not have a material impact on the financial statements.

11. Subsequent Events

The Fund has evaluated subsequent events through the issuance of the financial statements and determined that no events have occurred that require disclosure.

Abbreviations

Selected Portfolio

ADR	American Depositary Receipt
FRN	Floating Rate Note
PIK	Payment-In-Kind

Annual Meeting of Shareholders

March 16, 2018

An annual shareholders meeting of Franklin Universal Trust (Fund) was held on March 16, 2018. At the meeting, the holders of 25,131,894 shares of the Fund s common stock were represented in person or by proxy, constituting a quorum. The following persons were elected by the shareholders to serve as Trustees of the Fund.

The results of the voting at the meeting are as follows:

Nominees	Shares For	% of Voted	% of Outstanding Shares	Shares Withheld	% of Voted	% of Outstanding Shares
Harris J. Ashton	19,912,979	96.12%	79.23%	803,784	3.88%	3.20%
Terrence J. Checki	19,888,016	96.00%	79.13%	828,746	4.00%	3.30%
Mary C.Choksi	19,935,701	96.23%	79.32%	781,062	3.77%	3.11%
Edith E. Holiday	19,929,455	96.20%	79.30%	787,308	3.80%	3.13%
Gregory E. Johnson	19,983,551	96.46%	79.51%	733,211	3.54%	2.92%
Rupert H. Johnson, Jr.	19,931,759	96.21%	79.31%	785,003	3.79%	3.12%
J. Michael Luttig	19,967,740	96.38%	79.45%	749,022	3.62%	2.98%
Larry D. Thompson	19,918,814	96.15%	79.26%	797,948	3.85%	3.18%
John B. Wilson	19,956,949	96.33%	79.41%	759,814	3.67%	3.02%

FRANKLIN UNIVERSAL TRUST

Dividend Reinvestment and Cash Purchase Plan

The Fund s Dividend Reinvestment and Cash Purchase Plan (Plan) offers you a prompt and simple way to reinvest dividends and capital gain distributions in shares of the Fund. The Plan also allows you to purchase additional shares of the Fund by making voluntary cash payments. American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC (Plan Agent), P.O. Box 922, Wall Street Station, New York, NY 10269-0560, acts as your Plan Agent in administering the Plan.

You are automatically enrolled in the Plan unless you elect to receive dividends or distributions in cash. If you own shares in your own name, you should notify the Plan Agent, in writing, if you wish to receive dividends or distributions in cash.

If the Fund declares a dividend or capital gain distribution payable either in cash or in stock of the Fund and the market price of shares on the valuation date equals or exceeds the net asset value, the Fund will issue new shares to you at the higher of net asset value or 95% of the then current market price. Whenever the Fund declares a distribution from capital gains or an income dividend payable in either cash or shares, if the net asset value per share of the Fund s common stock exceeds the market price per share on the valuation date, the Plan Agent shall apply the amount of such dividend or distribution payable to participants to the purchase of shares (less their pro rata share of brokerage commissions incurred with respect to open market purchases in connection with the reinvestment of such dividend or distribution). If the price exceeds the net asset value before the Plan Agent has completed its purchases, the average purchase price may exceed the net asset value, resulting in fewer shares being acquired than if the Fund had issued new shares. All reinvestments are in full and fractional shares, carried to three decimal places. The Fund will not issue shares under the Plan at a price below net asset value.

The Plan permits you on a voluntary basis to submit in cash payments of not less than $100 each up to a total of $5,000 per month to purchase additional shares of the Fund. It is entirely up to you whether you wish to buy additional shares with voluntary cash payments, and you do not have to send in the same amount each time if you do. These payments should be made by check or money order payable to American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC and sent to American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, P.O. Box 922, Wall Street Station, New York, NY 10269-0560, Attn: Franklin Universal Trust.

Your cash payment will be aggregated with the payments of other participants and invested on your behalf by the Plan Agent in shares of the Fund that are purchased in the open market.

The Plan Agent will invest cash payments on approximately the 5th of each month in which no dividend or distribution is payable and, during each month in which a dividend or distribution is payable, will invest cash payments beginning on the dividend payment date. *Under no circumstances will interest be paid on your funds held by the Plan Agent.* Accordingly, you should send any voluntary cash payments you wish to make shortly before an investment date but in sufficient time to ensure that your payment will reach the Plan Agent not less than two business days before an investment date. Payments received less than two business days before an investment date will be invested during the next month or, if there are more than 30 days until the next investment date, will be returned to you. You may obtain a refund of any cash payment by written notice, if the Plan Agent receives the written notice not less than 48 hours before an investment date.

There is no direct charge to participants for reinvesting dividends and capital gain distributions, since the Plan Agent s fees are paid by the Fund. However, when shares are purchased in the open market, each participant will pay a pro rata portion of any brokerage commissions incurred. The Plan Agent will deduct a $5.00 service fee from each of your voluntary cash payments.

The automatic reinvestment of dividends and capital gain distributions does not relieve you of any taxes which may be payable on dividends or distributions. In connection with the reinvestment of dividends and capital gain distributions, if the Fund issues new shares, shareholders receiving such shares generally will be treated as having a distribution equal to the market value of the shares received, and if shares are purchased on the open market, shareholders generally will be treated as having received a distribution equal to the cash distribution that would have been paid.

The Fund does not issue new shares in connection with voluntary cash payments. All investments are in full and fractional shares, carried to three decimal places. If the market price exceeds the net asset value at the time the Plan Agent purchases the additional shares, you will receive shares at a price greater than the net asset value.

FRANKLIN UNIVERSAL TRUST

DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT AND CASH PURCHASE PLAN

You will receive a monthly account statement from the Plan Agent showing total dividends and capital gain distributions, date of investment, shares acquired and price per share, and total shares of record held by you and by the Plan Agent for you. You are entitled to vote all shares of record, including shares purchased for you by the Plan Agent, and, if you vote by proxy, your proxy will include all such shares.

As long as you participate in the Plan, the Plan Agent will hold the shares it has acquired for you in safekeeping, in its name or in the name of its nominee. This convenience provides added protection against loss, theft or inadvertent destruction of certificates. However, you may request that a certificate representing your Plan shares be issued to you.

You may withdraw from the Plan without penalty at any time by notifying the Plan Agent, in writing, at the address above. If you withdraw, you will receive, without charge, stock certificates issued in your name for all full shares. The Plan Agent will convert any fractional shares you hold at the time of your withdrawal to cash at current market price and send you a check for the proceeds.

If you hold shares in your own name, please address all notices, correspondence, questions, or other communications regarding the Plan to the Plan Agent at the address noted above. If your shares are not held in your name, you should contact your brokerage firm, bank, or other nominee for more information and to determine if your nominee will participate in the Plan on your behalf.

The Fund or the Plan Agent may amend or terminate the Plan. You will receive written notice at least 90 days before the effective date of termination or of any amendment. In the case of termination, you will receive written notice at least 90 days before the record date of any dividend or capital gain distribution by the Fund.

FRANKLIN UNIVERSAL TRUST

Shareholder Information

Board Approval of Investment Management Agreements

FRANKLIN UNIVERSAL TRUST

(Fund)

At an in-person meeting held on February 27, 2018 (Meeting), the Board of Trustees (Board) of the Fund, including a majority of the trustees who are not interested persons as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940 (Independent Trustees), reviewed and approved the continuance of the investment management agreement between Franklin Advisers, Inc. (Manager) and the Fund (Management Agreement) for an additional one-year period. The Independent Trustees received advice from and met separately with Independent Trustee counsel in considering whether to approve the continuation of the Management Agreement.

In considering the continuation of the Management Agreement, the Board reviewed and considered information provided by the Manager at the Meeting and throughout the year at meetings of the Board and its committees. The Board also reviewed and considered information provided in response to a detailed set of requests for information submitted to the Manager by Independent Trustee counsel on behalf of the Independent Trustees in connection with the annual contract renewal process. In addition, prior to the Meeting, the Independent Trustees held a telephonic contract renewal meeting at which the Independent Trustees conferred amongst themselves and Independent Trustee counsel about contract renewal matters. The Board reviewed and considered all of the factors it deemed relevant in approving the continuance of the Management Agreement, including, but not limited to: (i) the nature, extent and quality of the services provided by the Manager; (ii) the investment performance of the Fund; (iii) the costs of the services provided and profits realized by the Manager and its affiliates from the relationship with the Fund; (iv) the extent to which economies of scale are realized as the Fund grows; and (v) whether fee levels reflect these economies of scale for the benefit of Fund investors.

In approving the continuance of the Management Agreement, the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, determined that the terms of the Management Agreement are fair and reasonable and that the continuance of such Management Agreement is in the interests of the Fund and its shareholders. While attention was given to all information furnished, the following discusses some primary factors relevant to the Board s determination.

Nature, Extent and Quality of Services

The Board reviewed and considered information regarding the nature, extent and quality of investment management services provided by the Manager and its affiliates to the Fund and its shareholders. This information included, among other things, the qualifications, background and experience of the senior management and investment personnel of the Manager; the structure of investment personnel compensation; oversight of third-party service providers; investment performance reports and related financial information for the Fund (including its share price discount to net asset value); reports on expenses and shareholder services; legal and compliance matters; risk controls; pricing and other services provided by the Manager and its affiliates; and management fees charged by the Manager and its affiliates to

U.S. funds and other accounts, including management s explanation of differences among accounts where relevant. The Board noted management s continuing efforts and expenditures in establishing effective business continuity plans and developing strategies to address areas of heightened concern in the mutual fund industry, such as cybersecurity and liquidity risk management. The Board also recognized management s commitment to facilitating Board oversight of particular areas, including derivatives, by enhanced reporting.

The Board also reviewed and considered the benefits provided to Fund shareholders of investing in a fund that is part of the Franklin Templeton family of funds. The Board noted the financial position of Franklin Resources, Inc. (FRI), the Manager s parent, and its commitment to the mutual fund business as evidenced by its continued introduction of new funds, reassessment of the fund offerings in response to the market environment and project initiatives and capital investments relating to the services provided to the Fund by the Franklin Templeton Investments (FTI) organization.

Following consideration of such information, the Board was satisfied with the nature, extent and quality of services provided by the Manager and its affiliates to the Fund and its shareholders.

Fund Performance

The Board reviewed and considered the performance results of the Fund over various time periods ended December 31, 2017. The Board considered the performance returns for the Fund in comparison to the performance returns of mutual funds deemed comparable to the Fund included in a universe (Performance Universe) selected by Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. (Broadridge), an independent provider of investment company

data. The Board received a description of the methodology used by Broadridge to select the mutual funds included in a Performance Universe. The Board also reviewed and considered Fund performance reports provided and discussions that occurred with portfolio managers at Board meetings throughout the year. A summary of the Fund s performance results is below. Such results are based on net asset value without regard to market discounts or premiums.

The Performance Universe for the Fund included the Fund and all leveraged closed-end high yield funds. The Board noted that the Fund s annualized income return for the one-, three-, five-and 10-year periods was below the median of its Performance Universe. The Board also noted that the Fund s annualized total return for the one- and five-year periods was above the median of its Performance Universe, but for the three- and 10-year periods was below the median of its Performance Universe. The Board concluded that the Fund s performance was acceptable and in keeping with its primary investment objective of high current income consistent with preservation of capital. In doing so, the Board noted that the Fund s annualized income return for each of the one-, three-, five- and 10-year periods, while below the median, exceeded 5%.

Comparative Fees and Expenses

The Board reviewed and considered information regarding the Fund s actual total expense ratio and its various components, including, as applicable, management fees; underlying fund expenses; investment-related expenses; and other non-management fees. The Board considered the actual total expense ratio and, separately, the contractual management fee rate, without the effect of fee waivers, if any (Management Rate) of the Fund in comparison to the median expense ratio and median Management Rate, respectively, of other mutual funds deemed comparable to and with a similar expense structure as the Fund selected by Broadridge (Expense Group). Broadridge fee and expense data is based upon information taken from each fund s most recent annual report, which reflects historical asset levels. While recognizing such inherent limitation and the fact that expense ratios and Management Rates generally increase as assets decline and decrease as assets grow, the Board believed the independent analysis conducted by Broadridge to be an appropriate measure of comparative fees and expenses. The Broadridge Management Rate includes administrative charges. The Board received a description of the methodology used by Broadridge to select the mutual funds included in the Expense Group.

The Expense Group for the Fund included the Fund and twelve other high yield (leveraged) closed-end funds. The Board noted that the Management Rate for the Fund was below the median of its Expense Group, and its actual total expense ratio, based on common and leveraged assets, was equal to, and, based on common assets, was below, the median of its Expense Group. The Board concluded that the Management Rate charged to the Fund is reasonable.

Profitability

The Board reviewed and considered information regarding the profits realized by the Manager and its affiliates in connection with the operation of the Fund. In this respect, the Board considered the Fund profitability analysis provided by the Manager that addresses the overall profitability of FTI s U.S. fund business, as well as its profits in providing investment management and other services to each of the individual funds during the 12-month period ended September 30, 2017, being the most recent fiscal year-end for FRI. The Board noted that although management continually makes refinements to its methodologies used in calculating profitability in response to organizational and product-related changes, the overall methodology has remained consistent with that used in the Fund s profitability report presentations from prior years. Additionally, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, auditor to Franklin Resources, Inc.

and certain Franklin Templeton funds, has been engaged by the Manager to periodically review and assess the allocation methodologies to be used solely by the Fund s Board with respect to the profitability analysis.

The Board noted management s belief that costs incurred in establishing the infrastructure necessary for the type of mutual fund operations conducted by the Manager and its affiliates may not be fully reflected in the expenses allocated to the Fund in determining its profitability, as well as the fact that the level of profits, to a certain extent, reflected operational cost savings and efficiencies initiated by management. The Board also noted management s expenditures in improving shareholder services provided to the Fund, as well as the need to implement systems and meet additional regulatory and compliance requirements resulting from recent SEC and other regulatory requirements.

The Board also considered the extent to which the Manager and its affiliates might derive ancillary benefits from fund operations, potential benefits resulting from personnel and systems enhancements necessitated by fund growth, as well as increased leverage with service providers and counterparties. Based upon its consideration of all these factors, the Board concluded that the level of profits realized by the Manager and

its affiliates from providing services to the Fund was not excessive in view of the nature, extent and quality of services provided to the Fund.

Economies of Scale

The Board reviewed and considered the extent to which the Manager may realize economies of scale, if any, as the Fund grows larger and whether the Fund s management fee structure reflects any economies of scale for the benefit of shareholders. The Board believes that the Manager s ability to realize economies of scale and the sharing of such benefit is a more relevant consideration in the case of an open-end fund whose size increases as a result of the continuous sale of its shares. A closed-end fund such as the Fund does not continuously offer shares, and growth following its initial public offering will primarily result from market appreciation, which benefits its shareholders. While believing economies of scale to be less of a factor in the context of a closed-end fund, the Board believes at some point an increase in size may lead to economies of scale that should be shared with the Fund and its shareholders and intends to monitor future growth of the Fund accordingly. The Board considered the Manager s view that any analyses of potential economies of scale in managing a particular fund are inherently limited in light of the joint and common costs and investments the Manager incurs across the Franklin Templeton family of funds as a whole.

Conclusion

Based on its review, consideration and evaluation of all factors it believed relevant, including the above-described factors and conclusions, the Board unanimously approved the continuation of the Management Agreement for an additional one-year period.

Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures

The Fund s investment manager has established Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures (Policies) that the Fund uses to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities. Shareholders may view the Fund s complete Policies online at franklintempleton.com. Alternatively, shareholders may request copies of the Policies free of charge by calling the Proxy Group collect at (954) 527-7678 or by sending a written request to: Franklin Templeton Companies, LLC, 300 S.E. 2nd Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301, Attention: Proxy Group. Copies of the Fund s proxy voting records are also made available online at franklintempleton.com and posted on the US Securities and Exchange Commission s website at sec.gov and reflect the most recent 12-month period ended June 30.

Quarterly Statement of Investments

The Fund files a complete statement of investments with the US Securities and Exchange Commission for the first and third quarters for each fiscal year on Form N-Q. Shareholders may view the filed Form N-Q by visiting the Commission s website at sec.gov. The filed form may also be viewed and copied at the Commission s Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. Information regarding the operations of the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling (800) SEC-0330.

Semiannual Report

Franklin Universal Trust

Investment Manager

Franklin Advisers, Inc.

(800) DIAL BEN® / 342-5236

Transfer Agent

American Stock Transfer & Trust Co., LLC

6201 15th Avenue

Brooklyn, NY 11219

www.astfinancial.com

To help ensure we provide you with quality service, all calls to and from our service areas are monitored and/or recorded.

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Item 2. Code of Ethics.

(a) The Registrant has adopted a code of ethics that applies to its principal executive officers and principal financial and accounting officer.

(c) N/A

(d) N/A

(f) Pursuant to Item 12(a)(1), the Registrant is attaching as an exhibit a copy of its code of ethics that applies to its principal executive officers and principal financial and accounting officer.

Item 3. Audit Committee Financial Expert.

(a)(1) The Registrant has an audit committee financial expert serving on its audit committee.

(2) The audit committee financial expert is John B. Wilson and he is independent as defined under the relevant Securities and Exchange Commission Rules and Releases.

Item 4. Principal Accountant Fees and Services. N/A

Item 5. Audit Committee of Listed Registrants.

Members of the Audit Committee are: Mary C. Choksi, J. Michael Luttig, Larry D. Thompson and John B. Wilson.

Item 6. Schedule of Investments. N/A

Item 7. Disclosure of Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures for Closed-End Management Investment Companies.

The board of trustees of the Fund has delegated the authority to vote proxies related to the portfolio securities held by the Fund to the Fund s investment manager, Franklin Advisers, Inc. in accordance with the Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures (Policies) adopted by the investment manager.

The investment manager has delegated its administrative duties with respect to the voting of proxies for securities to the Proxy Group within Franklin Templeton Companies, LLC (Proxy Group), an affiliate and wholly owned subsidiary of Franklin Resources, Inc. All proxies received by the Proxy Group will be voted based upon the investment manager s instructions and/or policies. The investment manager votes proxies solely in the best interests of the Fund and its shareholders.

To assist it in analyzing proxies of equity securities, the investment manager subscribes to Institutional Shareholder Services, Inc. (ISS), an unaffiliated third-party corporate governance research service that provides in-depth analyses of shareholder meeting agendas, vote recommendations, vote execution

services, ballot reconciliation services, recordkeeping and vote disclosure services. In addition, the investment manager subscribes to Glass, Lewis & Co., LLC (Glass Lewis), an unaffiliated third-party analytical research firm, to receive analyses and vote recommendations on the shareholder meetings of publicly held U.S. companies, as well as a limited subscription to its international research. Also, the investment manager has a supplemental subscription to Egan-Jones Proxy Services (Egan-Jones), an unaffiliated third party proxy advisory firm, to receive analyses and vote recommendations. Although analyses provided by ISS, Glass Lewis, Egan-Jones, and/or another independent third party proxy service provider (each a Proxy Service) are thoroughly reviewed and considered in making a final voting decision, the investment manager does not consider recommendations from a Proxy Service or any third party to be determinative of the investment manager s ultimate decision. Rather, the investment manager exercises its independent judgment in making voting decisions. For most proxy proposals, the investment manager s evaluation should result in the same position being taken for all Funds. In some cases, however, the evaluation may result in a Fund voting differently, depending upon the nature and objective of the Fund, the composition of its portfolio and other factors. As a matter of policy, the officers, directors/trustees and employees of the investment manager and the Proxy Group will not be influenced by outside sources whose interests conflict with the interests of the Fund and its shareholders. Efforts are made to resolve all conflicts in the best interests of the investment manager s clients. Material conflicts of interest are identified by the Proxy Group based upon analyses of client, distributor, broker-dealer and vendor lists, information periodically gathered from directors and officers, and information derived from other sources, including public filings. In situations where a material conflict of interest is identified, the Proxy Group may vote consistent with the voting recommendation of a Proxy Service; or send the proxy directly to the Fund s board or a committee of the board with the investment manager s recommendation regarding the vote for approval.

Where a material conflict of interest has been identified, but the items on which the investment manager s vote recommendations differ from a Proxy Service and relate specifically to (1) shareholder proposals regarding social or environmental issues, (2) Other Business without describing the matters that might be considered, or (3) items the investment manager wishes to vote in opposition to the recommendations of an issuer s management, the Proxy Group may defer to the vote recommendations of the investment manager rather than sending the proxy directly to the Fund s board or a board committee for approval.

To avoid certain potential conflicts of interest, the investment manager will employ echo voting, if possible, in the following instances: (1) when the Fund invests in an underlying fund in reliance on any one of Sections 12(d) (1) (E), (F), or (G) of the 1940 Act, the rules thereunder, or pursuant to a SEC exemptive order thereunder; (2) when the Fund invests uninvested cash in affiliated money market funds pursuant to the rules under the 1940 Act or any exemptive orders thereunder (cash sweep arrangement); or (3) when required pursuant to the Fund s governing documents or applicable law. Echo voting means that the investment manager will vote the shares in the same proportion as the vote of all of the other holders of the underlying fund s shares.

The recommendation of management on any issue is a factor that the investment manager considers in determining how proxies should be voted. However, the investment manager does not consider recommendations from management to be determinative of the investment manager s ultimate decision. As a matter of

practice, the votes with respect to most issues are cast in accordance with the position of the company s management. Each issue, however, is considered on its own merits, and the investment manager will not support the position of the company s management in any situation where it deems that the ratification of management s position would adversely affect the investment merits of owning that company s shares.

Engagement with issuers. The investment manager believes that engagement with issuers is important to good corporate governance and to assist in making proxy voting decisions. The investment manager may engage with issuers to discuss specific ballot items to be voted on in advance of an annual or special meeting to obtain further information or clarification on the proposals. The investment manager may also engage with management on a range of environmental, social or corporate governance issues throughout the year.

Investment manager s proxy voting policies and principles The investment manager has adopted general proxy voting guidelines, which are summarized below. These guidelines are not an exhaustive list of all the issues that may arise and the investment manager cannot anticipate all future situations. In all cases, each proxy and proposal (including both management and shareholder proposals) will be considered based on the relevant facts and circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

Board of directors. The investment manager supports an independent, diverse board of directors, and prefers that key committees such as audit, nominating, and compensation committees be comprised of independent directors. The investment manager supports boards with strong risk management oversight. The investment manager will generally vote against management efforts to classify a board and will generally support proposals to declassify the board of directors. The investment manager will consider withholding votes from directors who have attended less than 75% of meetings without a valid reason. While generally in favor of separating Chairman and CEO positions, the investment manager will review this issue as well as proposals to restore or provide for cumulative voting on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration factors such as the company s corporate governance guidelines or provisions and performance. The investment manager generally will support non-binding shareholder proposals to require a majority vote standard for the election of directors; however, if these proposals are binding, the investment manager will give careful review on a case-by-case basis of the potential ramifications of such implementation.

In the event of a contested election, the investment manager will review a number of factors in making a decision including management s track record, the company s financial performance, qualifications of candidates on both slates, and the strategic plan of the dissidents and/or shareholder nominees.

Ratification of auditors of portfolio companies. The investment manager will closely scrutinize the independence, role and performance of auditors. On a case-by-case basis, the investment manager will examine proposals relating to non-audit relationships and non-audit fees. The investment manager will also consider, on a case-by-case basis, proposals to rotate auditors, and will vote against the ratification of auditors when there is clear and compelling evidence of a lack of independence, accounting irregularities or negligence. The investment manager may also consider whether the ratification of auditors has been approved by an appropriate audit committee that meets applicable composition and independence requirements.

Management and director compensation. A company s equity-based compensation plan should be in alignment with the shareholders long-term interests. The investment manager believes that executive compensation should be directly linked to the performance of the company. The investment manager evaluates plans on a case-by-case basis by considering several factors to determine whether the plan is fair and reasonable, including the ISS quantitative model utilized to assess such plans and/or the Glass Lewis evaluation of the plans. The investment manager will generally oppose plans that have the potential to be excessively dilutive, and will almost always oppose plans that are structured to allow the repricing of underwater options, or plans that have an automatic share replenishment evergreen feature. The investment manager will generally support employee stock option plans in which the purchase price is at least 85% of fair market value, and when potential dilution is 10% or less.

Severance compensation arrangements will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, although the investment manager will generally oppose golden parachutes that are considered to be excessive. The investment manager will normally support proposals that require a percentage of directors compensation to be in the form of common stock, as it aligns their interests with those of shareholders.

The investment manager will review non-binding say-on-pay proposals on a case-by-case basis, and will generally vote in favor of such proposals unless compensation is misaligned with performance and/or shareholders interests, the company has not provided reasonably clear disclosure regarding its compensation practices, or there are concerns with the company s remuneration practices.

Anti-takeover mechanisms and related issues. The investment manager generally opposes anti-takeover measures since they tend to reduce shareholder rights. However, as with all proxy issues, the investment manager conducts an independent review of each anti-takeover proposal. On occasion, the investment manager may vote with management when the research analyst has concluded that the proposal is not onerous and would not harm the Fund or its shareholders interests. The investment manager generally supports proposals that require shareholder rights plans (poison pills) to be subject to a shareholder vote and will closely evaluate such plans on a case-by-case basis to determine whether or not they warrant support. In addition, the investment manager will generally vote against any proposal to issue stock that has unequal or subordinate voting rights. The investment manager generally opposes any supermajority voting requirements as well as the payment of greenmail. The investment manager generally supports fair price provisions and confidential voting. The investment manager will review a company s proposal to reincorporate to a different state or country on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration financial benefits such as tax treatment as well as comparing corporate governance provisions and general business laws that may result from the change in domicile.

Changes to capital structure. The investment manager realizes that a company s financing decisions have a significant impact on its shareholders, particularly when they involve the issuance of additional shares of common or preferred stock or the assumption of additional debt. The investment manager will review, on a case-by-case basis, proposals by companies to increase authorized shares and the purpose for the increase. The investment manager will generally not vote in favor of dual-class capital structures to increase the number of authorized shares where that class of stock would have superior voting rights. The investment manager will generally vote in favor of the issuance of preferred stock in cases where the company specifies the voting, dividend, conversion and other rights of such stock and the terms of the

preferred stock issuance are deemed reasonable. The investment manager will review proposals seeking preemptive rights on a case-by-case basis.

Mergers and corporate restructuring. Mergers and acquisitions will be subject to careful review by the research analyst to determine whether they would be beneficial to shareholders. The investment manager will analyze various economic and strategic factors in making the final decision on a merger or acquisition. Corporate restructuring proposals are also subject to a thorough examination on a case-by-case basis.

Environmental and social issues. The investment manager considers environmental and social issues alongside traditional financial measures to provide a more comprehensive view of the value, risk and return potential of an investment. Companies may face significant financial, legal and reputational risks resulting from poor environmental and social practices, or negligent oversight of environmental or social issues. Franklin Templeton s Responsible Investment Principles and Policies describes the investment manager s approach to consideration of environmental, social and governance issues within the investment manager s processes and ownership practices.

In the investment manager s experience, those companies that are managed well are often effective in dealing with the relevant environmental and social issues that pertain to their business. As such, the investment manager will generally give management discretion with regard to environmental and social issues. However, in cases where management and the board have not demonstrated adequate efforts to mitigate material environmental or social risks, have engaged in inappropriate or illegal conduct, or have failed to adequately address current or emergent risks that threaten shareholder value, the investment manager may choose to support well-crafted shareholder proposals that serve to promote or protect shareholder value. This may include seeking appropriate disclosure regarding material environmental and social issues. The investment manager will review shareholder proposals on a case-by-case basis and may support those that serve to enhance value or mitigate risk, are drafted appropriately, and do not disrupt the course of business or require a disproportionate or inappropriate use of company resources.

The investment manager will consider supporting a shareholder proposal seeking disclosure and greater board oversight of lobbying and corporate political contributions if the investment manager believes that there is evidence of inadequate oversight by the company s board, if the company s current disclosure is significantly deficient, or if the disclosure is notably lacking in comparison to the company s peers.

Governance matters. The investment manager generally supports the right of shareholders to call special meetings and act by written consent. However, the investment manager will review such shareholder proposals on a case-by-case basis in an effort to ensure that such proposals do not disrupt the course of business or require a disproportionate or inappropriate use of company resources.

Proxy access. In cases where the investment manager is satisfied with company performance and the responsiveness of management, it will generally vote against shareholder proxy access proposals not supported by management. In other instances, the investment manager will consider such proposals on a case-by-case basis, taking into account factors such as the size of the company, ownership thresholds and holding periods, nomination limits (e.g., number of

candidates that can be nominated), the intentions of the shareholder proponent, and shareholder base.

Global corporate governance. Many of the tenets discussed above are applied to the investment manager s proxy voting decisions for international investments. However, the investment manager must be flexible in these worldwide markets. Principles of good corporate governance may vary by country, given the constraints of a country s laws and acceptable practices in the markets. As a result, it is on occasion difficult to apply a consistent set of governance practices to all issuers. As experienced money managers, the investment manager s analysts are skilled in understanding the complexities of the regions in which they specialize and are trained to analyze proxy issues germane to their regions.

The investment manager will generally attempt to process every proxy it receives for all domestic and foreign securities. However, there may be situations in which the investment manager may be unable to successfully vote a proxy, or may choose not to vote a proxy, such as where: (i) a proxy ballot was not received from the custodian bank; (ii) a meeting notice was received too late; (iii) there are fees imposed upon the exercise of a vote and it is determined that such fees outweigh the benefit of voting; (iv) there are legal encumbrances to voting, including blocking restrictions in certain markets that preclude the ability to dispose of a security if the investment manager votes a proxy or where the investment manager is prohibited from voting by applicable law, economic or other sanctions, or other regulatory or market requirements, including but not limited to, effective Powers of Attorney; (v) additional documentation or the disclosure of beneficial owner details is required; (vi) the investment manager held shares on the record date but has sold them prior to the meeting date; (vii) a proxy voting service is not offered by the custodian in the market; (viii) due to either system error or human error, the investment manager s intended vote is not correctly submitted; (ix) the investment manager believes it is not in the best interest of the Fund or its shareholders to vote the proxy for any other reason not enumerated herein; or (x) a security is subject to a securities lending or similar program that has transferred legal title to the security to another person.

In some non-U.S. jurisdictions, even if the investment manager uses reasonable efforts to vote a proxy on behalf of the Fund, such vote or proxy may be rejected because of (a) operational or procedural issues experienced by one or more third parties involved in voting proxies in such jurisdictions; (b) changes in the process or agenda for the meeting by the issuer for which the investment manager does not have sufficient notice; or (c) the exercise by the issuer of its discretion to reject the vote of the investment manager. In addition, despite the best efforts of the Proxy Group and its agents, there may be situations where the investment manager s votes are not received, or properly tabulated, by an issuer or the issuer s agent.

The investment manager or its affiliates may, on behalf of one or more of the proprietary registered investment companies advised by the investment manager or its affiliates, determine to use its best efforts to recall any security on loan where the investment manager or its affiliates (a) learn of a vote on a material event that may affect a security on loan and (b) determine that it is in the best interests of such proprietary registered investment companies to recall the security for voting purposes.

Procedures for meetings involving fixed income securities. From time to time, certain custodians may process events for fixed income securities through

their proxy voting channels rather than corporate action channels for administrative convenience. In such cases, the Proxy Group will receive ballots for such events on the ISS voting platform. The Proxy Group will solicit voting instructions from the investment manager for each Fund involved. If the Proxy Group does not receive voting instructions from the investment manager, the Proxy Group will take no action on the event. The investment manager may be unable to vote a proxy for a fixed income security, or may choose not to vote a proxy, for the reasons described under the section entitled Proxy Procedures.

The Proxy Group will monitor such meetings involving fixed income securities for conflicts of interest in accordance with these procedures for fixed income securities. If a fixed income issuer is flagged as a potential conflict of interest, the investment manager may nonetheless vote as it deems in the best interests of the Fund. The investment manager will report such decisions on an annual basis to the Fund board as may be required.

Shareholders may view the complete Policies online at franklintempleton.com. Alternatively, shareholders may request copies of the Policies free of charge by calling the Proxy Group collect at (954) 527-7678 or by sending a written request to: Franklin Templeton Companies, LLC, 300 S.E. 2nd Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-1923, Attention: Proxy Group. Copies of the Fund s proxy voting records are available online at franklintempleton.com and posted on the SEC website at www.sec.gov. The proxy voting records are updated each year by August 31 to reflect the most recent 12-month period ended June 30.

Item 8. Portfolio Managers of Closed-End Management Investment Companies. N/A

Item 9. Purchases of Equity Securities by Closed-End Management Investment Company and Affiliated Purchasers.

N/A

Item 10. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders.

There have been no changes to the procedures by which shareholders may recommend nominees to the Registrant s Board of Trustees that would require disclosure herein.

Item 11. Controls and Procedures.

(a) Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures. The Registrant maintains disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the Registrant s filings under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940 is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the periods specified in the rules and forms of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Such information is accumulated and communicated to the Registrant s management, including its principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. The Registrant s management, including the principal executive officer and the principal financial officer, recognizes that any set of controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives.

Within 90 days prior to the filing date of this Shareholder Report on Form N-CSR, the Registrant had carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of the Registrant s management, including the Registrant s principal executive officer and the Registrant s principal financial officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Registrant s disclosure controls and procedures. Based on such evaluation, the Registrant s principal executive officer and principal financial officer concluded that the Registrant s disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

(b) Changes in Internal Controls. There have been no changes in the Registrant s internal controls or in other factors that could materially affect the internal controls over financial reporting subsequent to the date of their evaluation in connection with the preparation of this Shareholder Report on Form N-CSR.

Item 12. Exhibits.

(a) (1) Code of Ethics

(a) (2) Certifications pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 of Matthew T. Hinkle, Chief Executive Officer - Finance and Administration, and Gaston Gardey, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Accounting Officer

(b) Certifications pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 of Matthew T. Hinkle, Chief Executive Officer - Finance and Administration, and Gaston Gardey, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Accounting Officer

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

FRANKLIN UNIVERSAL TRUST

By /s/ MATTHEW T. HINKLE
Matthew T. Hinkle
Chief Executive Officer - Finance and Administration
Date April 26, 2018

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By /s/ MATTHEW T. HINKLE
Matthew T. Hinkle
Chief Executive Officer - Finance and Administration
Date April 26, 2018

By /s/ GASTON GARDEY
Gaston Gardey
Chief Financial Officer and Chief Accounting Officer
Date April 26, 2018