

# PR 8

Office of the President  
September 11, 2015

Members, Board of Trustees:

REAPPOINTMENT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the reappointments of Richard Kurzynske (public member) and Mark Meier (faculty member) for three-year terms ending June 30, 2018 to the Board of Directors of the University of Kentucky Research Foundation (UKRF).

Background: In accordance with the Bylaws, members of the Board of Directors of the University of Kentucky Research Foundation are appointed by the Board of Trustees to serve three-year terms. The Nominating Committee of the UKRF Board has recommended and the UKRF Board of Directors has endorsed the appointment of Richard Kurzynske and Mark Meier.

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Action Taken:     Approved     Disapproved     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Bio for Board of Directors  
University of Kentucky Research Foundation, Inc.

Dr. Richard Kurzynske

Dr. Kurzynske is the Director of Kentucky's Statewide EPSCoR Program. He shares this position part-time with his other responsibilities as a principal partner of the Cyrus Partnership, LLC, and Brigadier Development, LLC, business investment groups. His background includes a decade in Chicago as a senior R&D manager with a natural gas energy consortium that principally invested in the development and commercialization of energy related technologies.

Dr. Kurzynske moved to Lexington in 1992 when he became an officer of the Mason & Hanger Corporation, a Forbes 500 Company, which prior to its sale, principally provided technical and operational services to the Federal government. He has been responsible for two high-tech startup companies, and has been an officer/director of more than 12 companies and organizations. He has an MBA from the Keller Graduate School of Business, and a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering (energy and environmental focus) from the University of Tennessee – Knoxville.

Dr. Mark Meier

Professor and Chair, Department of Chemistry

Education:

A. B. Dartmouth College 1982

Ph.D. University of Oregon, 1988

Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin, 1988-90

Current Research:

We use the tools of synthetic organic chemistry to answer fundamental questions about chemical reactivity and we apply that knowledge to problems in energy and in materials science.

Our current projects involve the conversion of biomass to energy and chemical feedstocks. Lignin is one of the most abundant organic molecules on the planet, but despite significant effort there do not exist efficient methods for conversion of this plentiful resource into high-value products. Isolated as a waste product from paper pulping or from cellulosic ethanol production, lignin is usually burned as a low-grade fuel. We are interested in developing ways to convert this abundant resource into high-value petroleum replacement products, including both fuels and fine chemicals.

A highly cross-linked and durable polymeric material, lignin is notoriously difficult to chemically manipulate. We are working to reduce the molecular weight by targeting specific chemical features of this compound with catalytic oxidation reactions that utilize freely-available oxygen from the atmosphere. We use small-molecule model compounds to represent these key structural features and study how different conditions change those structures. Our goal is

develop inexpensive methods for breaking down lignin into small, valuable compounds that can be put to good use.