

# PR 7

Office of the President  
June 19, 2012

Members, Board of Trustees:

APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Recommendation: that the approval be given to the appointment of Mark Meier, Department of Chemistry (faculty member) and the reappointment of F. Richard Kurzynske (public member) for three-year terms ending June 30, 2015 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 Mark Meier and the reappointment of F. Richard Kurzynske.

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

## **Mark Meier**

Dr. Meier is currently Professor and Chairman of the Department of Chemistry. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Oregon in 1988. His graduate training is in Organic and Materials Chemistry. His current research involves Carbon Nanotube Chemistry. Carbon nanotubes present chemists with a novel set of challenges, both in the development of new reactions and in the development of characterization methods that are suitable for these insoluble materials. Chemical functionalization of nanotubes is essential for dispersion of nanotubes in a composite and for covalent bonding with the matrix material itself. We are actively involved in developing new chemical processes for making nanotube-based composite materials, in collaboration with Professors Jack Selegue and John Anthony, as well as Dr. Rodney Andrews and the Carbon Materials Group at the Center for Applied Energy Research.

We have been investigating cylindrical multiwalled carbon nanotubes (MWNTs) as well as a type of nanotube that appears to be composed of a series of stacked cups. The exposed surface of cylindrical MWNTs is simply basal plane graphite, while stacked-up structures present a surface that is composed of a set of graphene edges. Exposed edges result in a dramatic shift in reactivity; we are able to exploit these differences to producing some interesting changes in structure. Surprisingly, we are able to convert these "stacked cup" structures into beautiful carbon spirals, revealing an interior structure that is more complex than simple stacked cups. We are collaborating with Professor Y. T. Cheng in Materials Engineering to explore the use of these new materials in battery applications.

## **F. Richard Kurzynske**

Rick is the Director of Kentucky's Statewide EPSCoR Program which has been the channel for \$350 million in research funding to the Commonwealth's universities. He shares this position part-time with his other responsibilities as a principal member of Cyrus Partnership, LLC, and Brigadier Development, LLC, business investment groups. His background includes a decade in Chicago with a natural gas energy consortium that principally invested in research, development and commercialization of energy related technologies. There he managed a \$60 million technology investment portfolio and guided the successful commercialization of multiple technologies.

Rick moved to Lexington when he became an officer of the Mason & Hanger Corporation, a Forbes 500 Company, which prior to its sale, principally provided technical and manufacturing services to the Federal government. Rick has been responsible for two high-tech startup companies, and is or has been an officer/board member of 10 companies. 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.