Office of the President September 16, 2022

Members, Board of Trustees:

# REAPPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY GLUCK EQUINE RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.

<u>Recommendation</u>: that the Board of Trustees approve the reappointment of Michael Banahan, Benny Bell William, Dermot Ryan, Lynn Jones, Bill Thomason, Jamie Eads and Chauncey Morris to the Board of Directors of the University of Kentucky Gluck Equine Research Foundation for a two-year term, ending January 1, 2024.

<u>Background</u>: The Nominating Committee of the University of Kentucky Gluck Equine Research Foundation, which includes the Vice President for Land-grant Engagement and Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, recommended extending the terms of these seven members for an additional two years to ensure continuity and leadership as the international search for both the Department Chair/Director of the Gluck Equine Research Center and Albert G. Clay Chair in Equine Reproduction is underway.

These appointments require approval by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws for the University of Kentucky Gluck Equine Research Foundation approved by the Board of Trustees at its September 1984 meeting. These nominations are supported by the President and Provost.

Action taken:	☑ Approved	☐ Disapproved	☐ Other	

# Bios for University of Kentucky Gluck Equine Research Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors

### Michael Banahan, Godolphin USA

Michael Banahan is director of farm operations for the four Darley USA Thoroughbred farms in Kentucky, where he oversees the care of the stallions, broodmares and yearlings. He has worked for Darley since 1993 in both England and the United States. Michael has extensive experience in all aspects of major horse operations including the business and production side. He has a vested interest in research for the health and well-being of horses.

Michael Banahan acquired experience working for the following leading Thoroughbred industry professionals Coolmore/Ashford, Juddmonte, and trainers Colin Hayes (Australia), Guy Harwood (United Kingdom) and Bill Mott (USA) prior to working for Darley in Newmarket United Kingdom. He currently serves as director of farm operations for Godolphin LLC (USA), whose roster of leading stallions include MEDAGLIA D'ORO, BERNARDINI, as well as recently retired FROSTED and 2016 Derby winner NYQUIST. During his tenure, he has helped raise champions on both sides of the Atlantic including DUBAI MILLENIUM and BERNARDINI.

Banahan is also active as a successful breeder on a limited scale and serves on the board of Godolphin LLC, Kentucky Equine Management Internship (KEMI) and Central Kentucky Riding for Hope (CKRH).

### Benny Bell Williams, The Bell Group, Inc.

Benny Williams is the president and founder of The Bell Group, Inc., in Versailles, Kentucky, an agency dedicated to reaching the goals of its clients through marketing and communication platforms. Ms. Williams began the agency in 1979 as a one-person shop and quickly worked to add talented people to her staff.

Williams has spent a lifetime devoted to Thoroughbreds as a breeder, owner and farm director, as well as in leadership roles such as president of the Thoroughbred Club of America, Kentucky Horse Park Foundation board member and a member of such industry organizations as Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association.

# **Dermot Ryan, Ashford Stud/Coolmore**

Dermot Ryan is the manager of Ashford Stud, the American division of Coolmore Stud. A native of County Tipperary, Ireland, Mr. Ryan graduated from the Irish National Stud Thoroughbred Breeding Course before taking a position with Coolmore Stud in Ireland. Following eight years working for Coolmore in Ireland, Ryan relocated to Coolmore America in 1993. Mr. Ryan was a founding member of the Consignors and Commercial

Breeders Association and spent two terms on the board of the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association.

## William Lynn Jones, Equus Standardbred Station

Lynn Jones co-founded Equus Unlimited in 1985 and co-founded Standardbred Station in 1986. He currently co-owns Equus Standardbred Station with his spouse. Equus/Standardbred is the largest equine agency in the United States and one of the largest worldwide by premium volume, representing Underwriters at Lloyds, QBE, Great American, Markel and Caitlin.

With the Fasig-Tipton Livestock Underwriters, Jones developed a program and established a client base. He was vice president for operations from 1984 to 1986 and was manager of the Standardbred division from 1981 to 1984.

Jones is the past president, vice president and treasurer of Kentucky Lloyds Agents Association and Kentucky Harness Racing Commission. He was also previously appointed to the Kentucky Racing Commission.

#### Bill Thomason, Former President and Chief Executive Officer of Keeneland

Bill Thomason served as president and chief executive officer of Keeneland. He is a graduate of the University of Kentucky with a B.S. in Accounting with a Masters in Business Administration. He worked for two years at the accounting firm of Alexander Grant & Co. before joining Mill Ridge Farm, where he worked for 28 years as Financial and Administrative Manager prior to joining Keeneland.

Thomason has served in various leadership roles throughout the community: member of The Jockey Club, a Trustee of the American Horse Council, and a board member of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association, Thoroughbred Racing Associations, Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau, Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance, University of Kentucky Gluck Equine Research Foundation, Kentucky Chamber, Central Kentucky Chapter of the American Heart Association and Central Bank Lexington's advisory board of directors. He formerly served as the assistant treasurer for the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association/Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders and was a member of the audit committee of Breeders' Cup Limited. Thomason also previously served as treasurer of the Thoroughbred Club of America.

## Jamie Eads, Kentucky Horse Racing Commission

Jamie Eads was named director of the Division of Incentives and Development for the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission in 2008, two years after Kentucky's breeder incentive fund was created. The division is responsible for three breeder incentive funds

for different breeds, along with three development/purse supplement programs, the Backside Improvement Fund and the Health and Welfare Fund. A native of Lexington, Eads previously worked for the National Thoroughbred Racing Association and Breeders' Cup Ltd.

# Chauncey Morris, Kentucky Thoroughbred Association/Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders, Inc. (KTA/KTOB)

Chauncey Morris is the executive director of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association/ Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders, Inc. (KTA/KTOB) Mr. Morris is a University of Louisville graduate and spent two and half years as the chief executive of Thoroughbred Breeders Australia and Aushorse Marketing, achieving a dramatic increase in the export markets and investment in the Australian horse industry. Morris also brings extensive experience in Frankfort, having previously served in the Governor's Office as the project analyst and advisor for the Agricultural Development Fund.