Approved by the Board of Trustees

July 11, 2024

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 Board Meeting

 July 11, 2024

# APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS RESEARCH PARK, LLC, BOARD OF MANAGERS, URBANA

**Action:** Appoint Members to the University of Illinois Research Park, LLC, Board of Managers

**Funding:** No funding required

In January 2000, the Board of Trustees authorized the formation of the University of Illinois Research Park, LLC (UIRP) as a University-Related Organization to assist the university in developing and operating research parks in support of its economic development mission. In February 2019, the Board of Trustees amended the Operating Agreement, which sets forth the duties and responsibilities of the UIRP Board of Managers and its composition. Pursuant to the Operating Agreement, the voting members of the board of managers shall, to the extent reasonably feasible, include: the vice chancellor for research and innovation of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (VCRI), at least two faculty representatives from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, a representative of the University of Illinois System, a designee from the Board of Trustees, and at least four business leaders with appropriate expertise, as nominated by the chancellor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and vice president, University of Illinois System. Each manager appointed as a faculty representative or business leader shall serve an appointed term, with staggered appointments of 3 years to provide a gradual transition of leadership, or until such individual resigns or is removed as a manager. Appointed managers may not serve more than 2 consecutive full terms (6 years). A manager who has served 2 consecutive full terms may be re-appointed after a period of one-year absence from the board.

The final term for longtime voting member Rick Stephens expires in 2024. As such, there is a vacancy for a business leader representative on the UIRP Board of Managers. Chancellor Robert Jones has nominated Dennis Beard to fill this role. (A biographical sketch follows.)

Voting member Jeffrey Brown, dean of Gies College of Business, is leaving his role as dean and beginning a sabbatical, creating a vacancy for a faculty representative of the UIRP Board of Managers. Chancellor Jones has recommended Rashid Bashir, dean of The Grainger College of Engineering, to fill this role. (A biographical sketch follows.)

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The president of the University of Illinois System concurs.

DENNIS BEARD

Dennis is a managing partner with Serra Ventures and a resident of Champaign, IL. He has built a successful 40-plus-year career in financial services, healthcare services, and technology. Dennis has worked over 20 years with the University of Illinois technology community and is a charter member of the university’s Entrepreneur-in-Residence program at the EnterpriseWorks business incubator in the Research Park. Dennis has served on the Chancellor’s Economic Development Advisory Council.

Dennis has been involved throughout his career with businesses of all sizes with positions in public accounting, as well as private and public company management. He was formerly CEO of the Home Recovery Group of Companies, providers of home health services. That entity was successfully sold in 2008 after achieving more than ten-fold growth under his leadership. As a partner and CFO with Open Prairie Ventures, Dennis participated in the full range of early-stage venture investing activities including raising capital, sourcing investment opportunities, participating in oversight of portfolio investments, assisting with exit transactions, and reporting to investors. Dennis has served as a speaker at various professional and educational conferences and forums throughout the U.S. He has also served as an adjunct instructor for the University of Illinois Gies College of Business and the Millikin University MBA Program.

Dennis holds the Certified Public Accountant designation (CPA, 1983). Dennis earned a BS in accounting from Millikin University and an MBA from the University of Illinois Executive MBA Program, where he was recognized with the Academic Excellence Award.

Serra Ventures has invested in over 100 companies in 20 states with more than 125 other venture capital firms, including local companies in Champaign and the EnterpriseWorks business incubator.

Rashid Bashir

Rashid Bashir completed his PhD from Purdue University in October 1992. From October 1992 to October 1998, he worked at National Semiconductor in the Analog/Mixed Signal Process Technology Development Group, where he was promoted to Senior Engineering Manager. At National Semiconductor, he led the development and commercialization of four analog semiconductor process technologies. He joined Purdue University in October 1998 as an assistant professor and was later promoted to professor of electrical and computer engineering and a courtesy professor of biomedical engineering and mechanical engineering. In October 2007, he joined the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as the Abel Bliss Professor of Engineering, and professor of electrical and computer engineering and bioengineering. He was the director of the Micro and Nanotechnology Laboratory, a campus-wide clean room facility, from October 2007 to August 2013, and the co-director of the campus-wide Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology, a “collaboratory” aimed at facilitating center grants and large initiatives around campus in the area of nanotechnology. In October 2016, he was named the Grainger Distinguished Chair in Engineering. From August 2013 to August 2017, he was the head of the bioengineering department. From 2017 to 2018, he was the executive associate dean and the chief diversity officer of the Carle Illinois College of Medicine. In November 2018, he was appointed as the fifteenth dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

He has authored or co-authored more than 250 journal papers, more than 200 conference papers and conference abstracts, and more than 100 invited talks, and has been granted 45 patents. He is a fellow of eight international professional societies (IEEE, AIMBE, AAAS, APS, IAMBE, RSC, BMES, and NAI). His research interests include bionanotechnology, BioMEMS, lab on a chip, interfacing of biology and engineering from the molecular to the tissue scale, and applications of semiconductor fabrication to biomedical engineering, all applied to solving biomedical problems. Professor Bashir's key technical contributions and achievements lie in the area of BioMEMS and biomedical nanotechnology, especially in the use of electrical- or mechanical-based label-free methods for detection of biological entities on a chip. In addition, he has also made key contributions to 3-D fabrication methods that can be used for tissue engineering and development of cellular systems. He has been involved in three startups that have licensed his technologies (BioVitesse, Inc., Daktari Diagnostics, and, most recently, Prenosis, Inc.).

In addition to leading his own research group, he was the principal investigator on an NSF IGERT on cellular and molecular mechanics and bionanotechnology (2009-2016) and principal investigator on an NIH training grant on cancer nanotechnology (2009-2016). He is also the campus lead and co-PI on an NSF Science and Technology Center (STC) on emergent behavior of integrated cellular systems (headquartered at MIT, with partners at Georgia Tech and UIUC) (2009-2015, and renewed for another five years 2015-2020). He was also deputy director of the NSF Nanobio Node of the Network for Computational Nanotechnology. He also served on the external advisory board of the NIH-funded P41 BioMEMS Resource Center at Harvard/MGH and the NIH-funded Center for Cancer Nanotechnology Excellence at Stanford University, and on various editorial boards.

He holds the Grainger Distinguished Chair in Engineering, tenured appointment in bioengineering, and affiliate appointments in electrical and computer engineering, mechanical science and engineering, materials science and engineering, and molecular and integrative physiology.