**05**

Board Meeting

September 18, 2025

# 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

The chancellor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and vice president, University of Illinois System, recommends approval of a proposal to appoint one faculty member and two business representatives to the University of Illinois Research Park, LLC Board of Managers.

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 three years to provide a gradual transition of leadership, or until such individual resigns or is removed as a manager.

The term for Mr. Pat Daly expired in 2025. As such, there is a vacancy for a business representative on the UIRP Board of Managers. The board is seeking to fill that vacancy and expand the board, as permitted in the Operating Agreement, to have three faculty appointments and three business representatives, for a total of eleven voting managers. Chancellor Charles L. Isbell Jr. has nominated Dean W. Brooke Elliott as a faculty appointment and Ms. Shannon O’Hare and Mr. Ryan Coon as business representatives to the board.

(Biographical sketches follow.)

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.

W. BROOKE ELLIOTT

Dr. W. Brooke Elliott is the Josef and Margot Lakonishok Professor in Business and Dean of Gies College of Business at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She leads the college in developing a compelling, strategic vision while continuing to build upon its distinctive brand and identity. This includes assessing and expanding Gies Business’ portfolio of on-campus and online programs to strengthen its position as an innovative leader among the nation’s best business schools.

Prior to her current role, Dr. Elliott served as executive associate dean of academic programs and Ernst & Young Distinguished Professor in Gies College of Business, where she was responsible for providing strategic oversight of the Gies portfolio of academic degree and non-degree programs. Brooke also served as associate dean of online, where she was responsible for the development and execution of Gies’ strategy in online education, and head of the Department of Accountancy in Gies, leading one of the most innovative and high ranked accounting departments in the world.

Elliott holds a BS in accounting and an MBA with an accounting focus from the Indiana University Kelley School of Business. She earned her PhD in accounting from the University of Washington and joined the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign as a faculty member in 2003. Elliott is a recognized expert in the accounting field, and her work has been cited in popular press outlets ranging from *Fortune* to *The Wall Street Journal*. She currently serves on the board of directors and audit committee for Gordon Food Service.

SHANNON O’HARE

Ms. Shannon O’Hare is the executive managing director at Cushman and Wakefield. O’Hare leads the Business Incentives Practice and has over 20 years of experience in economic development and financial incentive negotiation. She creates financial benefits for clients in distribution, manufacturing, back office/call center operations, research, and headquarters facilities. She represents clients across a wide range of industries including automotive, energy, hospitality, healthcare, consumer products, and retail. Ms. O’Hare also successfully negotiates incentives for real estate development projects across the country. She has extensive experience in negotiation of public-private partnerships involving various economic development incentive tools. Ms. O’Hare prides herself on her long-standing client relationships and adding value to client deals throughout the U.S. She remains involved with clients and projects long after incentives are negotiated, ensuring clients have the ability to fully monetize benefits. Prior to her current position, Ms. O’Hare was director for NexGen Advisors, a boutique development finance and incentive consulting firm, and held previous positions at Deloitte & Touche LLP and Arthur Andersen LLP. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Gies College of Business with a BS in Accountancy.

RYAN COON

Mr. Ryan Coon is an entrepreneur, venture capital investor, and technology advisor in Chicago. He co-founded Avail, a platform that improves the rental experience for DIY landlords and renters, and joined Realtor.com as part of its large acquisition of Avail in December 2020 as CEO of Avail and Category Manager – Rentals at Realtor.com. Prior to co-founding Avail in 2015, Coon was an investment banking associate at BMO Capital Markets performing mergers and acquisitions and equity capital markets transactions for financial services firms. Outside of work, he is active in the Chicago tech community and serves on the Board of Directors of La Casa Norte, an organization fighting youth and family homelessness in Chicago. Coon earned Bachelor of Science degrees in accounting and finance with honors from Gies College of Business in 2007.