



University Faculty Council

Meeting: Tuesday, December 3, 2024 - 4:00-5:30 PM

Location: G204 | <https://neomed.zoom.us/j/97592756946?pwd=mqrxS6oUNTHbu2fm9ACJXmG02HFTeK.1>

ZOOM Information: Connection time 3:55 PM

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Or Telephone: +1 312 626 6799 (US Toll); +1 646 876 9923 (US Toll)

Meeting ID: 975 9275 6946 | Password: 928357

Members (attendees in bold): Jeffrey Mellott (chair), Petrea Cober (vice-chair), Timothy Barreiro, **Natalie Bonfine**, Yeong-Renn Chen, **Lukas Everly**, Sheila Fleming, Alex Galazyuk, Kristen Knepp, Yong Lu, Jennifer McKay, **Vahagn Ohanyan**, **Matthew Smith**, Erica Stovsky, Xinwen Wang

Speakers: Dr. George Litman, Dr. Rebecca German, Dr. Jennifer Hillyer, and Ms. Janel Koellner

Administrative Support: Andrea Coard, Deborah Loyet

4:00 p.m.- 4:05 p.m.	1	<p>Welcome <i>Jeff Mellott, Ph.D., Chair, University Faculty Council</i></p>	Dr. Mellott welcomed the council members to the last meeting of 2024. He shared that there would be a leadership report from Dr. German as well as a presentation on the faculty website and the Institute of Teaching Excellence ITE from Dr. Hillyer and Ms. Koellner.
	2	<p>Approve previous UFC minutes 11.05.2024 <i>(Approved minutes located on NEOMED website)</i></p>	Dr. Galazyuk moved to approve the minutes; Dr. Cober seconded. The minutes were approved by the council members.
	3	<p>Executive Management Team Notes Executive Management Team Spring 2025 meeting sign ups</p>	Dr. Mellott discussed the EMT meetings and the expectation for all council members to attend at least one meeting per semester.
4:05 p.m.- 4:10 p.m.	4	<p>Ohio Faculty Council Update <i>George Litman, MD., NEOMED University Faculty Council Representative</i></p>	<p>Dr. Litman provided a report from the November Ohio Faculty Council (OFC) meeting. He stated once again there was no quorum and as a result, no business was conducted.</p> <p>Each university representative provided updates. Dr. Litman shared information about the progress of NEOMED's new dental school.</p> <p>Chancellor Duffy, Ohio Department of Higher Education, (ODHE), was the guest speaker. He discussed the state budget which is not looking good for higher education. There is a decline in enrolment. Other states have been more invested in higher education than Ohio during the past 10 years. Students in</p>

			<p>high school are participating in the College Credit Plus (CCP) program which reduces their time in college.</p> <p>Dr. Mellott asked if there is a reason why the quorum is not being met at OFC. Dr. Litman noted challenges with communicating the meeting dates. The next meeting is scheduled for December 20.</p> <p>Dr. Mellott reported the University of Akron (UA) is currently undergoing retrenchment. Additionally, Kent State University (KSU) is implementing extensive reorganization efforts aimed at cost savings by reducing administrative roles and overhead. KSU is operating at a deficit for the first time in over 20 years.</p>
<p>4:10 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Leadership Presentation <i>Rebecca German, Ph.D., Vice President for Research</i></p>	<p>Dr. German provided the leadership report. She shared a proposed reorganized research structure at NEOMED aiming for research to be better served. See chart.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. German is working well with the Provost • There was some discussion about removing RFAs but she strongly argued that they are part of faculty identification with NEOMED and should remain. • Due to the Education RFA being integrated with education, it will move under the Provost, and will become part of the Institute for Teaching Excellence (ITE). • The RFAs will be divided into two groups as some are localized but others are not. • The three that are locus within a department (Cardiovascular, DOM and Musculoskeletal) will report to the department chair of BMS. • Bridge funding exists for faculty who have funding. Much of it is used for salary because staff who run labs are on grant funding. • Bridge funding was removed from the Deans' budgets last year. • Setting up the Research Advisory Council: Deans, the VP for Research will oversee all bridge funding and ensure the Deans have adequate resources. • The second group of RFAs have reached the status of being a center or institute. • The Hearing Research Group and Neuro Degenerative Diseases will form the Center Advanced Neuroscience. The name is serving as a placeholder for now. • The Health Services Research Center is serving as a placeholder umbrella for the Health Services Research RFA and a new center for Maternal Health and Infant Mortality. It is likely faculty will be hired to support this initiative. The center's focus will emphasis public health and clinical efforts aimed at developing, testing and working on interventions.

- The Clinical and Translational Research Institute (CTRI). Dr. Philip Turk is busy developing this initiative which aims to break down silos and build collaboration across different groups. This entity must be self-sustaining and generate income to support the ongoing operations of the institute.
- The Center for Medical Innovation (new) should incorporate a focus on research. Experts from biomechanics should be involved including those from Dentistry.

Dr. German said she is trying to allocate resources as effectively as possible to the groups and faculty conducting the research.

There are three kinds of big buckets of research funding:

1. Bridge funding
2. Start up funds for new hires
3. Seed funds (small amounts of \$\$ to jump-start faculty research)

Dr. German on gets \$\$ for bridge funding.

Dr Mellott asked how the University Research Council (URC) fits into the model being presented.

Dr. German said it serves a useful purpose and is an incredible communication piece. Regular meetings with the URC provide the VP with updates on ongoing matters. She can then share information that can be effectively distributed to other faculty members.

A council member asked a question regarding the hierarchy of the proposed organizational chat and where the department chairs are placed under the Centers and Institutes.

Dr. German advised there would not be any as there is not one department chair to report to but several and it would become difficult.

A question was asked on how the money is distributed to the RFAs.

Dr. German said she get the money and the URC discuss how to use it. Dr. German explained for the second year she has been allocated \$100,000. Each RFA received \$10,000 and she retained \$30,000 for emergencies.

Dr. Galazyuk asked a question regarding bridge funding and if it was based on individual cases.

Dr. German confirmed it is based on individual cases. A grant review must be submitted outlining what is required. The chair, dean and VP of research will meet and discuss.

The upper limit is currently \$100,000 but could be increased.

			Dr. German finished by saying her door is always open if anyone has any questions.
4:30 p.m.- 4:40 p.m.	6	<p>Restructured Faculty Website and Institute of Teaching Excellence Webpage <i>Jennifer Hillyer, Ph.D., Executive Director, Institute for Teaching Excellence</i></p> <p><i>Janel Koellner, MA. Ed., Director, Faculty Relations and Professional Development</i></p>	<p>Dr. Hillyer and Ms. Koellner provided a presentation on the Faculty Website Landing Page and the Institute of Teaching Excellence (ITE).</p> <p>Restructured Faculty Website and Institute of Teaching Excellence Presentation</p> <p>Revisions have been made to the faculty landing page for better navigation and usability by incorporating current best practices in web design to align with site structure. The process involved collaborating with stakeholders and presented to the Provost and Deans two weeks ago. The page is currently in its beta phase but hope to launch it soon.</p> <p>Ms. Koellner demonstrated a preview of the redesigned landing page, highlighting improvements aimed at reducing the need for excessive scrolling. She also emphasized updates to naming conventions to make them more intuitive and helpful.</p> <p>Dr. Hillyer introduced the ITE landing page and introduced the ITE staff, including the LMS administrator, Sharon Combs. There is a Canvas Request Ticket system to use for assistance. The page is simple to start but will continue to grow.</p> <p>A member asked if we will have to continue to have to login repeatedly when visiting different areas of the website. Dr. Hillyer suggested submitting an IT TeamDynamics ticket for this. This is an IT issue.</p> <p>A member asked what conversations have been had with the Education RFA and its relationship with the VP Research area. Dr. Hillyer said she had attended some Education RFA meetings led by Michael Appleman.</p> <p>Dr. Mellott asked a question about the ITE advisory board and what activity has occurred. Dr. Hillyer said there are monthly meetings and the board gives good insight into the Celebration of Health Professions Education Events. She also commented that the UFC representative, Dr. Christine Crish, is a great contributor. Dr. Hillyer requested that the council members ask at department meetings for input for delivery during 2025. The institute is growing a large repository.</p>
4:40 p.m.- 4:45 p.m.	7	<p>UFC Representative on URC <i>Jeff Mellott, Ph.D., Chair, University Faculty Council</i></p>	<p>Dr. Mellott asked for a motion to appoint a new UFC representative on the URC. Only one person has nominated himself for this role, Hans Thewissen. The term would be until next July. Dr. Galazyuk moved to approve the motion;</p>

			Dr. Cober seconded. The council members approved the motion. An appointment letter will be drafted for Dr. German to approve.
4:45 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	8	UFC Membership Structure <i>Jeff Mellott, Ph.D., Chair, University Faculty Council</i>	<p>Dr. Mellott talked about the merger of Anatomy and Neurobiology and Integrative Medical Sciences into one department effective January 1, 2025. According to the current bylaws, the UFC would lose two members.</p> <p>Dr. Mellott proposed revising the bylaws to say that if a department has more than 25 members, there would be 4 representatives on the UFC. This would result in no change to the current membership.</p> <p>A revision to the membership language for the Department of Pharmacy Practice may also be necessary.</p> <p>Dr. Mellott asked members to send their thoughts to him before Winter Break so that he could send a proposal to the chair of the bylaws committee.</p>
5:00 p.m.- 5:30 p.m.	9	Open Forum and Department updates from Council members <i>Group Discussion</i>	<p>Dr. Lu said he is attending the EMT meeting on Monday, Dec. 6 and asked what major issues should he address. Dr. Mellott said he would send some topics to him via email.</p> <p>Dr. Mellott ended the meeting by reminding everyone that the January meeting is scheduled for January 14 and not January 7.</p> <p>Dr. Galazyuk moved to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Cober seconded. The meeting ended at 5:35 p.m.</p>

Upcoming Agenda Items

January 14 – Working Meeting

January 14 – Strategic Plan Refresh (Tentative)