



University Faculty Council

Meeting: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 - 4:00-5:30 PM

Location: G-204 | <https://neomed.zoom.us/j/97164904258?pwd=o497jt1rAjGMfe2t2EPPsvEwhcNbps.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: 971 6490 4258 | Password: 583611

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

Speaker: Rebecca German, Ph.D., Vice President of Research

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>	<p>Dr. Mellott opened the meeting at 4:01 p.m. and shared there would be two major pieces of business to discuss today.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Cober to provide an update from the Ohio Faculty Council 2. Dr. German to provide the leadership report.
	2	<p>Approve previous UFC minutes 09.02.2025 <i>(Approved minutes located on NEOMED website)</i></p>	<p>He asked for any changes or discussion of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Dr. Galazyuk moved to approve the minutes; Dr. Cober seconded. Minutes were approved with no changes.</p>
	3	<p>Executive Management Team Notes Executive Management Team Fall 2025 meeting sign-ups</p>	<p>Dr. Mellott reminded the council members that the EMT notes are available on the one drive for viewing.</p> <p>All meetings are covered until the end of the Fall semester, and the Spring 2026 semester sign-ups will be available soon.</p>
4:05 p.m.- 4:10 p.m.	4	<p>Ohio Faculty Council Update <i>Petrea Cober, Pharm.D., Vice Chair, University Faculty Council</i></p>	<p>Dr. Cober reported on how various universities are handling Senate Bill 1 issues e.g. release of syllabi, faculty senate statuses, sunseting programs, etc.</p> <p>A lot does not impact NEOMED, there is no worry about sunseting programs.</p> <p>It was confirmed that posting the syllabi does not apply to NEOMED.</p>

			<p>Dr. Cober confirmed with the EMT that faculty evaluations are under discussion regarding implementation. Dr. Mellott noted that FEP faculty require two evaluations, while all other faculty must complete at least one annual peer evaluation under the new state law. Dr. Young has been very helpful in the Biomedical Sciences Department with faculty sign-ups.</p> <p>Dr. Bonfine shared that COM is developing its evaluation process and asked if there is an opportunity to coordinate the development of these tools across colleges to avoid duplication. COM wants to be certain the course evaluation process is in place for this years, though ownership remains unclear. Dr. Cober noted challenges for Pharmacy Practice since course directors often serve as primary instructors.</p> <p>Dr. Faison stated that the university will move toward a common evaluation process and form, with COM leading development in alignment with LCME requirements.COM will take the lead in developing a standardized form for course directors, consistent with LCME requirements.</p> <p>Dr. Faison shared that Bryce Cain, Director, Institutional Research and Assessment, has also been working on this.</p> <p>Dr. Faison said we will start with course directors and then he will have further discussions with the deans.</p> <p>Certain questions required by Senate Bill 1 must be included on all student evaluation forms. The UFC previously developed a peer evaluation form, which is available on the Intranet and should be used at this time.</p>
4:10 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.	5	<p>Leadership Report <i>Rebecca German, Ph.D., Vice President of Research</i></p>	<p>Dr. German shared a handout outlining the reorganization of the Research Focus Areas (RFAs), which has been approved by Dr. Langell and presented to the BOT.</p> <p>The reorganization recognizes that RFAs now fall into two categories, some that are larger, better funded, and extend across departmental, college, and partner boundaries. These broader initiatives are designated as centers or institutes.</p> <p>The first group contains the Hearing Research Group (HRG) and Neurodegenerative Disease & Aging (NDD), as they are both centers and partners with UH. They will be known as the Institute for Advanced Neuroscience.</p>

			<p>The Population Health group is currently in flux. It includes the Health Services Research (HSR)-RFA, and the Maternal Health and Infant Mortality initiative, which is highly active in collaboration with UH and led by Dr. Fassl.</p> <p>The third group is Clinical and Translational Research Institute (CTRI), which is run by Dr. Turk, and will also have a major partner at UH.</p> <p>These are Centers and Institutes that report to Dr. German, and she oversees them.</p> <p>The Research Advisory Council includes the deans of the colleges. They have regular meetings together with the Provost.</p> <p>Three of the four remaining RFAs exist within the BMS department and are overseen by Dr. Thewissen. These are, Cardiovascular, Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism (DOM), and Musculoskeletal Research. Most of the money will continue to come from the department.</p> <p>The last RFA, the Educational RFA run by Mike Appleman, will move to the Institute for Teaching Excellence (ITE) and will be under the Provost. Needs will hopefully be better served.</p> <p>Dr. German provided an update on AI initiatives at NEOMED. Working with the Provost, the Artificial Intelligence Governance Council (AIGC), has been established and has been charged with developing policies on AI use across the university. Dr. Turk is chair of the council, which includes three subgroups which are roughly aligned with the pillars of the strategic plan. Research – Dr. Reneker Admin – Maria Schimer Teaching – Dr. Wilson-Delfosse</p> <p>The council will draft policies, establish guidelines and guardrails for AI use, and provide regular updates. Future plans include offering educational and training opportunities for faculty, staff, and students. The group meets monthly to advance this work.</p> <p>During the first meeting, members set SMART goals. The Celebration of Health Professions Education event planned for November will feature guest speakers from the Ohio State University where a task force was launched and rolled AI training for pharmacy students to ensure they are AI-fluent by graduation. NEOMED is exploring approaches for integrating AI into coursework.</p> <p>New requests for grant proposals from faculty are due Oct 14. Anyone with questions, please reach out to Dr. German</p>
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President Langell has made \$300,000 available to support research at NEOMED for the following three areas. A UH partner is not required.

Student Research

- Students should write the proposal with the help of their mentor.
- Funds will be managed by the advisor and are to support student research. Funds cannot support stipends.
- The student must do a presentation at the fall student research symposium.

Equipment

- Designed for shared equipment
- Up to \$40,000 will be considered.
- Require three independent PIs who will use the equipment. Must be from three distinct labs
- Could include a UH person if using equipment

New and Development Research Projects

- Not open to faculty or researchers who are part of institutes or centers
- Designed to support the collection of preliminary data, with the expectation that recipients will submit a major grant proposal exceeding \$100,000 per year for more than one year within 18 months of receiving this award.
- Will be flexible – the application must describe what the bigger proposal will be and why the SEED funding will inform or strengthen the that proposal.
- Projects may be led by a single investigator but must include student involvement in the research.

Reviews will be like an NIH module and will be drawn from the URC.

This is for one year due to NEOMED's budget being in the black this year. President Langell is not averse to doing it again if there are dollars.

A member asked if BMS students could be involved. Dr. German confirmed for the student grants, the students must be NEOMED matriculated students. Students involved in the new and developing research projects can be students in labs, including BMS students, but preference is for NEOMED-matriculated students.

A member asked about the student presentations at next year's Research Day and specifically M4 students. Dr. German responded that alternative opportunities will be identified to allow those students to present their work.

All money must be spent by the end of FY 2026.

			<p>A question was asked about the collaboration with UH. Dr. German has been trying to identify people with aligned research interests. Faculty are encouraged to send information to Dr. German, and she will work on finding a partner at UH.</p> <p>A member asked what happens if the money is not all disbursed. Dr. German said money can be moved across the pots.</p>
4:30 p.m.- 5:30 p.m.	6	<p>Open Forum and Department updates from Council members <i>Group Discussion</i></p>	<p>Dr. Mellott asked the Council to consider reverting back to bi-monthly meetings with the option of calling a meeting if required.</p> <p>Laura Good, Executive Director of Human Resources, will be presenting at the November meeting to share current initiatives from HR</p> <p>Dr. Cober moved to adjourn; Dr. Smith seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 pm.</p>

Upcoming Agenda Items

November 4 – Working Meeting and Presentation from Laura Good, Executive Director of Human Resources

December 2 – Leadership Report from President Langell

Upcoming Faculty Development Opportunities

[New Faculty Onboarding Session 5: Here to Help: An Introduction to Faculty Affairs and Faculty Relations](#)

Monday, Oct. 13, 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the Training Room

October Teaching and Learning Session: "The Faculty Pod: Diving Deeper into Student Engagement Strategies"

Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2-3 p.m. in the RDEC

Save the Date for Celebration of Health Professions Education:

Nov. 17 from 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. - Great Hall and via Zoom.

Watch [The Pulse](#) and <https://www.neomed.edu/faculty/> for more information!

These events are incentivized in the Faculty Incentive Plan