

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES

August 9, 2024

7:30 a.m.

Members Present: Brad Britigan, Aviva Abosch, Jennifer Adams, Vimla Band, Surinder Batra, Sam Bierner, Matt DeVries, Sheila Ellis, Chuck Enke, Karen Gould, Rebekah Gundry, Jeff Harrison, Dwight Jones, Joe Khoury, Trek Langenhan, Kim Latacha, Lyn Mack, Travis McCumber, Dave Mercer, Matt Rizzo, Deb Romberger, Mo Shukry, Kari Simonsen, Carl Smith, Mike Wadman

Ad Hoc: Chandra Are, Howard Fox, Wendy Grant, Geoff Talmon

Guest: Kendra Schmid

1. Welcome (Dr. Britigan)  
Dr. Britigan welcomed all to the August meeting
2. Approval of July 12, 2024 Minutes and Announcements  
Minutes were unanimously approved

Dr Britigan announced the various department chair searches are on schedule  
Regional Campus Dean at Kearney is getting close to the end  
Assoc Dean of Faculty Affairs interviews will be wrapping up the end of August

3. Water Mark Presentation Kendra Schmid

Watermark Faculty Success (formerly Digital Measures) is an electronic system that allows faculty to build their portfolio for annual evaluations and P&T, and allows departments and colleges to automate the workflow. It can pull in publications and activity from PubMed, google scholar, and other systems to make it easy for faculty, and there is a CV upload with text recognition to avoid most of the manual entry. It will automatically generate faculty web pages based on CV information. In addition, it connects to many other systems to pull in teaching evaluations and other measures of faculty productivity. UNMC has contracted with Watermark, and we need delegates from the colleges to help us configure the system to meet the needs and nuances for the specific college. Watermark is one of the most common systems used for these purposes, and the other NU campuses also use it. We already use other products of Watermark, including for course evaluations and assessment, that will connect with one another.

4. Old Business (e.g., follow-up's, updates)
5. New Business
  - a. Topics brought forward by General Faculty Leadership
  - b. Topics brought forward by Department Chair Leadership
  - c. Topics brought forward by COM Administration

6. Informational Items and Announcements (if needed)
  - Admissions and Student Affairs Wendy Grant, MD  
Admissions is about to bring in the new class. Reminder to the faculty to please get letters of

recommendations in ASAP.

- Undergraduate Curriculum

Geoff Talmon, MD

Continuous Quality Improvement Policy

Due to Dr Caverzagie's departure, this policy needs to be tweaked slightly. The CQI Policy is a fairly old policy that helps us meet a handful of LCME requirements. It charters a group that looks at the COM curriculum that aren't solely curricular based. The policy is existing and has been approved by Faculty Council and been revised a couple of times. The change is to have the Chair of the committee (Dr Caverzagie) changed Dr Talmon.

**Change was unanimously approved.**

Kearney Update

We are still sorting through some of the lower level details; but, as of today:

1. All trainees are COM students – **Not** Kearney or Omaha students
2. All educational experiences should be COMPARABLE – all students will follow identical curriculum structure, learning objectives, required activities, patient encounters, etc. will all be the same and identical graduation requirements. Access to the extra curricular things like tutoring and ancillary support services need to be comparable as well.
3. The plan that we've put in place allows for flexibility. We need to be able to provide ways for students to move in different places based on what their career goals are. The first class of 2030 will set foot on campus in Fall of 2026. We will be looking at up to 15 students (they may or may not be in addition to our current 142/145 class size). Students will be admitted in the COM, they are not admitted into a Kearney or Omaha placement but have the opportunity to indicate a preference but then they will be assigned. They are not separately submitting an application to one campus or the other. In terms of facilities, the COM will have two dedicated, distance-capable, 20-person class rooms, its own anatomy lab. We are working through any iEXCEL offerings that we use in the required curriculum. The infrastructure will be a mix of UNMC and UNK, things like student health, library, wellness, fitness resources, etc.

Some accreditation considerations - We do not require LCME approval to open a regional campus. We will submit that notification in the Spring of 2025. We do receive feedback from the LCME, so we put forward our plans and get thoughts and feedback from them. Our next LCME survey will be in the Fall of 2029 The 3<sup>rd</sup> class of M1s will be present and our first class will just have begun Phase 3 at this time. The Independent Student Analysis will be completed when the students are in the middle of Phase 2. There will need to be Kearney campus faculty and student representation on the curriculum committee as well as other major college committees. We will need to do a lot more data collection to ensure comparability in real time and on an ongoing basis.

Staffing:

Faculty -

Regional Associate Dean (We are in the end stages of selecting this person)

Assistant Dean (to assist associate dean)

Executive Director of Medical Education (full time educator running day-to-day operations)

Anatomist (shared with other colleges)

3-4 part time compensated community physicians who will help with small group teaching

Staff -

OME and Student Affairs and Admissions will all have a coordinator

Some shared positions

Curriculum:

Phase 1 -

Students from the two campuses will be doing an identical block structure simultaneously

There will be cross teaching – all non-lecture content will be delivered in person at both sites  
Assessments will be delivered to individual campuses – exams will happen there, no traveling  
Phase 2 -

There will be an identical clerkship structure. Students in Kearney will not be doing something different than the students in Omaha are doing

Phase 3 -

Same rotation and other graduation requirements for all students

Kearney students will have the ability to participate in a special Community Leadership Track. It will give students foundational skills to position them to assume leadership roles in their community in partnership with local organizations/stakeholders within and outside of healthcare. Students will participate in a structured, longitudinal curriculum augmenting existing coursework and complete a process improvement and/or research project by graduation. Participating students could be eligible for applicable certificate(s) through Graduate Studies. Students choose an area of focus in the first semester and are paired with a relevant community organization in Central Nebraska region with whom they will work longitudinally over four years with required service “touchpoints” and a process improvement and/or research project, both identified collaboratively with the organization representative(s) and faculty mentor.

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| • GME   | Chanda Are, MBBS    |
| • Research  | Howard Fox, MD, PhD |
| Questions about bio stats – please contact Dr Fox |                     |
| • Clinical Affairs/Nebraska Medicine              | Steve Lisco, MD     |
| • Pediatric Affairs/CSP/Children’s Hospital       | Kari Simonsen, MD   |
| • COM Business Affairs                            | Mike McGlade        |

7. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,



Bradley Britigan  
Dean, COM