

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

May 9, 2025

7:30 a.m.

Members Present: Brad Britigan, Aviva Abosch, Vimla Band, Sam Bierner, Sheila Ellis, Surinder Batra, Charles Enke, Kevin Garvin, Karen Gould, Rebekah Gundry, Jeff Harrison, Dwight Jones, Joe Khoury, Ron Krueger, Trek Langenhan, Kim Latacha, Howard Liu, Dave Mercer, Kody Moffatt, Andrew Patterson, Matt Rizzo, Mark Rupp, Mike Wadman

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

1. Welcome and announcements (Dr. Britigan)

Dr. Britigan welcomed the group to the May Meeting and updated the group on the status of department chair searches in dermatology and internal medicine, as well as the proposed state budget and federal funding cuts.

2. Approval of April 11, 2025 Minutes
Minutes were unanimously approved

3. Old Business (e.g., follow-ups, updates)

4. New Business

a. Topics brought forward by General Faculty Leadership
Trek Langenhan gave an Update on behalf of UNMC faculty senate:

The Board of Regents (BOR) Bylaws are undergoing revision. The Bylaws include language regarding what items require BOR approval. Proposed revision language of section 1.6(d) of the Bylaws includes "the Board may delegate to the CEO/President in consultation with the respective campus CAO/Chancellor approval authority as it deems appropriate....regarding consolidation and/or elimination of any administrative unit, academic unit, department or school or division or center or administrative/business unit."

The UNO faculty senate reached out to the 3 other University of Nebraska campus faculty senates with concerns regarding language allowing unilateral decision power of the University President, as opposed elected BOR approval. In response, the UNMC faculty senate executive committee is sending a letter to the BOR with the recommendation "The Board of Regents should retain all approval authority for creation, consolidation, or elimination of any unit within the University of Nebraska system. We recommend that proposed Section 1.6(d) not be adopted and keeping the approval authority within the Board."

b. Topics brought forward by Department Chair Leadership - None
c. Topics brought forward by COM Administration - None

5. Informational Items and Announcements (if needed)

- Admissions and Student Affairs

Wendy Grant, MD

- Undergraduate Curriculum

Geoff Talmon, MD

The updated Curriculum Committee charter was presented for Faculty Council approval. The revisions included expanded membership to ensure representation of personnel and students from the Kearney Regional Campus. **The document was approved by unanimous vote.**

The university has provided preliminary guidance related to compliance with the expanded requirements under Title II for accessibility of student-facing, web-based material, to be completed by April 2026. The OME is awaiting additional details on specific changes that need to be made to all Canvas and other content and, when received, will provide faculty members with information and support for bringing instructional materials up to date.

- Office of Strategic Initiatives
Unavailable, no presentation

Shirley Delair, MD

- GME

Chandra Are, MBBS

1. Travel/Immigration updates

Avoid overseas travel for now unless necessary. If travel is needed, trainees should reach out to the GME Office and International Office before traveling

2. Rural rotations

An update on existing and planned expansion of rural residency rotations was provided, along with the factors stimulating the desire to provide such experiences

3. Onboarding of new residents deadline

April 15th suggested as deadline to decide on any new house officer hires. As onboarding requirements will likely prevent a July 1st start, if recruited after the April 15th deadline.

- Kearney

Robert Messbarger, MD

1. Dr Messbarger gave an update on staffing - currently Executive Director position is down to two priority candidates. They will be arranging in-person interviews for Kearney and Omaha.
2. He continues to meet with prospective preceptors for phase II clerkships. Hastings and Columbus have shown strong interest. Good Samaritan CHI is very open to having UNMC medical students.
3. They have selected students for a Student Advisory Board to help think through important transitions in starting the regional campus in 2026.
4. A Director of Operations interview process is in final stages for the HSEC. This is an interprofessional hiring process.

- Faculty Affairs
Unavailable, no presentation

Nada Fadul, MBBS

- Research

Howard Fox, MD, PhD

Brief update on NIH issues

Recent changes to NIH funding issues include not allowing subcontracts to foreign entities, these all will be changed to direct grants from the NIH to the foreign entity if it is approved. Note that many grants involving work outside of the US have already been cancelled. Another change is for R01 grants, which previously allowed carry-forward if unobligated funds were less than 25% of the total, the automatic carry-forward has been inactivated (not eliminated, so unclear if this is temporary or will be permanent). Currently, any carry-forward needs pre-approval. Note that with the staff reductions at the NIH getting approvals and other things have been subject to delays.

- Clinical Affairs/Nebraska Medicine
Unavailable, no presentation

Steve Lisco, MD

- Pediatric Affairs/CSP/Children's Hospital
Unavailable, no presentation

Kari Simonsen, MD

- COM Business Affairs
Unavailable, no presentation

Mike McGlade

6. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bradley Britigan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bradley Britigan
Dean, COM