

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES

April 11, 2025

7:30 a.m.

Members Present: Brad Britigan, Jennifer Adams, Vimla Band, Matt DeVries, Sheila Ellis, Howard Gendelman, Rebekah Gundry, Jeff Harrison, Zahid Iqbal, Dwight Jones, Trek Langenhan, Kim Latacha, Steve Lisco, Travis McCumber, Dave Mercer, Kody Moffatt, Andrew Patterson, Matt Rizzo, Mark Rupp, Kari Simonsen, Carl Smith, Mike Wadman

Ad Hoc: Chandra Are, Shirley Delair, Nada Fadul, Wendy Grant, Mike McGlade, Rob Messbarger

1. Welcome (Dr. Britigan)

Dr. Britigan welcomed the group to the April Meeting

Approval of March 14, 2025 Minutes and Announcements  
Minutes were unanimously approved

Dr. Britigan indicated that the searches for the chairs of dermatology and internal medicine are moving forward on schedule. On campus interviews for dermatology candidates will begin shortly. The internal medicine search is 6-8 weeks behind that for dermatology.

Dr. Britigan provided a state budget update. The appropriations committee voted to advance for legislative consideration a 1.25% increase in university appropriations for year 1 and no further increase for year 2 of the biennial budget. The tobacco settlement fund support was left intact relative to past years. The proposed budget contains \$50M/year for 6 years for Project Health, with that coming from the tobacco settlement, rather than general fund. These recommendations now will be debated and voted upon by the full legislature and once passed advanced to the governor for approval. The governor has line-item veto power. So, changes can come even if passed by the legislature. The Board of Regents will respond to the final budget at its June meeting, which may require modifications of what UNMC, and the COM currently are planning. A significant rise in healthcare costs to the university for its employees is expected and will likely consume any gain in state funds.

At the federal level the NU system, as has occurred across the country, has experienced significant losses of grant revenue due to decisions by NIH to terminate grants. The proposal to decrease F&A is on pause until a final court decision occurs. The delay in funding new and recurring grants is creating a major cash flow problem.

Dr. Britigan and the Associate Deans will host two hybrid Town Hall opportunities to discuss and answer questions about the current and future state of the college. They will be in MSC1010 and will be live streamed as well and take place at 12 PM, April 21 and 5:30 PM, April 22.

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

3. 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

4. Informational Items and Announcements (if needed)

- Admissions and Student Affairs Wendy Grant, MD
  
- Undergraduate Curriculum Geoff Talmon, MD  
Not in attendance
  
- Office of Strategic Initiatives Shirley Delair, MD  
Medical Pathway Initiatives:
  - Mini Medical School starting for 4<sup>th</sup> graders at Holy Name
  - Outreach to UNO TRIO program to reach out to pre meds in their health professions support group and with those who are starting in freshman year to encourage to consider careers in medicine and address any concerns and challenges. TRIO is for first gen and low income students.Community Engagement:
  - M1 Intersession day will be around Public Health and Comm Engagement with the Douglas County Health Department with on-site activities.Student Engagement:
  - Ongoing work on finalizing learning community framework and operations with feedback from students.
  
- GME Chandra Are, MBBS  
We are closely watching the travel advisories for our house officers that have a visa. It is recommended to avoid travel as much as possible. But, if you need to travel, do reach out to the GME Office before.
  
- Kearney Robert Messbarger, MD  
Dr Messbarger provided a brief update on the following:  
He is continuing to meet with pre-med students throughout the state to educate them on the opportunities on the Kearney campus.  
  
Also continuing with the process of hiring staff for Kearney Campus, currently focus is on Executive Director.  
  
Dr Messbarger has met with 5 of the 6 Clerkship Directors, working on developing the Greater Nebraska Track.  
  
He continues to meet with leadership and providers at medical communities throughout Nebraska. Working on obtaining commitments from preceptors that will allow us to complete LCME Notification Letter.
  
- Faculty Affairs Nada Fadul, MBBS  
Dr Fadul presented the faculty workload policy, gathered input on the research and education effort allocation with plans to send the edited policy to the group to make further comments before the next faculty council meeting.
  
- Research Howard Fox, MD, PhD  
Not in attendance
  
- Clinical Affairs/Nebraska Medicine Steve Lisco, MD  
1. Dr Lisco reported that funding for additional clinical research center FTEs was approved by NM. These analysts will be focusing on reducing time to clinical trial activation. A large part of the delay from study intake to readiness for patient accrual is the result of time in the queue waiting for regulatory and coverage analysis. All current analysts are working at maximum

capacity. Strategies for further improvement in study activation time require additional FTEs to be able to process larger numbers of trials.

2. MGEC approved the DynaMedX trial evaluation team's recommendation to transition the point of care reference tool UpToDate to DynaMedX. The trial team was led by Dr. Sam Bierner (Chair PMR) and Dr. Amy Duhachek Stapelman (VP education). The trial was completed over a six-week period and comprised of over 100 participants representing physicians, residents, students, APPs, pharmacy, and nurses. DynaMedX will replace UpToDate in EPIC as well as on the McGoogan library site if contract negotiations are successful. Target date is July 1.

- Pediatric Affairs/CSP/Children's Hospital  
No Update Kari Simonsen, MD
- COM Business Affairs  
No Update Mike McGlade

5. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,



Bradley Britigan  
Dean, COM