

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

Aug 08, 2025

7:30 a.m.

Members Present: Bradley Britigan, Vimla Band, Surinder Batra, Sheila Ellis, Charles Enke, Howard Gendelman, Karen Gould, Rebekah Gundry, Dwight Jones, Joe Khoury, Ron Krueger, Trek Langenhan, Kim Latacha, Howard Liu, Travis McCumber, David Mercer, Kody Moffatt, Andrew Patterson, Sarosh Rana, Matt Rizzo, Mark Rupp, Kari Simonsen, William Thorell

Ad Hoc: Chandra Are, Shirley Delair, Howard Fox, Robert Messbarger

1. Welcome and announcements (Dr. Britigan)

Dr Britigan welcomed everyone to the August Faculty Council Meeting

Dr Britigan provided updates on ongoing chair searches in dermatology and internal medicine, noting progress in clarifying candidates and scheduling interviews. He mentioned that the internal medicine search committee has recommended five candidates for a second round of visits, expected to conclude by the end of August. He also shared that the incoming medical school class is projected to be the largest ever, with 144-145 students, and discussed preparations for their upcoming orientation and white coat ceremony.

Dr Britigan mentioned an upcoming important announcement from the President's office. He explained the voluntary separation incentive program (VSIP) for tenured faculty, which offers a 70% one-time payout of base salary to eligible faculty who agree to separate by July 1, 2026. The program is open to faculty aged 62 or above as of July 1, 2026, with 10 or more years in rank, and applications must be submitted by September 30. Bradley noted that the Chancellor can deny requests if the faculty member is deemed critical to institutional missions, and clarified that those already with retirement plans announced are not eligible. His understanding from the Chancellor's office is that only 35-40 faculty in the College of Medicine qualify, and predicted low interest due to lack of retirement intent among eligible faculty.

2. Approval of June 13 and July 11, 2025 Minutes

The minutes from June 13th and July 11th meetings were approved without opposition

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

4. New Business

- a. Topics brought forward by General Faculty Leadership
- 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
Unavailable, no presentation

Wendy Grant, MD

- Undergraduate Curriculum
Unavailable, no presentation

Geoff Talmon, MD
- Office of Strategic Initiatives
Dr Delair provided updates on medical pathways initiatives, including a pilot mini-medical school program at Holy Name Elementary School and upcoming cultural shaping activities for incoming students.

Shirley Delair, MD
- GME
International Travel
Dr. Are recommended continuing to maintain caution with international travel with the evolving federal requirements. Dr Are shared information about international travel restrictions, including a new requirement for temporary visa holders to post bonds, and highlighted a document signed by Dr. Gold regarding travel policies for faculty and international observers.
A copy will be sent to faculty council members.

Chandra Are, MBBS
- Kearney
Dr. Messbarger reported on progress at Kearney, including the arrival of Dr. Andrew Priest as executive director and Dr. Angela Kratochvil as assistant associate Dean. He noted that while they have adequate preceptor sites for the LCME letter, they still need more sites in OB, Psychiatry and Family Medicine, with a particular focus on recruiting additional Family Medicine sites.

Robert Messbarger, MD

Dr. Messbarger reported on ongoing recruitment activities and a successful preceptor appreciation event in Kearney involving multiple colleges. The admissions process for the upcoming fall class, including the first class at Kearney, is underway, with students being admitted to the College of Medicine as a single group and then ranking their campus preferences.
- Faculty Affairs
Unavailable, Dr Britigan gave update

Nada Fadul, MBBS

The group approved the updated promotion and tenure guidelines document, which will now be distributed to the faculty for review and town hall discussions, followed by a vote of the faculty.
- Research
Update on NIH funding
Dr. Fox presented updates on research progress, highlighting the signing of a deal with Amazon Web Services for data storage and analysis, and the appointment of Michael Hasselberg who will have both UNMC and Nebraska Medicine appointments.

Howard Fox, MD, PhD

Dr. Fox explained that delays in receiving NIH grant awards are due to understaffing in the NIH Grants Management Office and a new requirement for presidential appointee review of grants, which has caused significant backlogs. He noted that if funds are not spent by September 30th, they may be returned to the federal government general fund, and thus would not be available to support new grants. He also mentioned that the National Cancer Institute has been directed to reserve funds for 5-year grants, potentially lowering payline rates to the top 4%. Dr. Fox offered to help Dr. Krueger clarify any confusing communications about the grant process.

He provided an update on federal funding and grant policies going forward. He noted that while Trump proposed a 40% cut to NIH funding, the Senate instead proposed a 0.7% increase, with significant bipartisan support. Dr Fox explained that both the Senate bill and Department of Defense bill addressed overhead costs, referring to the Joint Association Group model which would move certain costs from indirect to direct costs. He reported that several previously terminated grants, including their MD-PhD training grant, were being reinstated, and shared

updates on several ongoing IDEA grants including the Cognitive COBRE which received a good score but was still awaiting funding. Dr. Fox also mentioned a new NIH Data Counts project involving Nebraska Medicine and other institutions, and highlighted that the pediatric clinical trials unit received a JIT notice for their renewal.

- Clinical Affairs/Nebraska Medicine
Unavailable, no presentation Steve Lisco, MD
- Pediatric Affairs/CSP/Children's Hospital
Dr Simonsen reported on the successful Joint Commission survey at Children's Hospital and the ongoing search for Dr. Chris Maloney's replacement as Chief Physician Executive, with interviews expected to begin in September and a target start date of 2026. Kari Simonsen, MD
- COM Business Affairs
Unavailable, no presentation Mike McGlade

6. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,



Bradley Britigan
Dean, COM