

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

July 10, 2026
7:30 a.m.

Members Present: Bradley Britigan, Sam Bierner, Hannah Christiansen, Chuck Enke, Dan Firestone, Howard Gendelman, Karen Gould, Rebekah Gundry, Jeff Harrison, Wes Heckman, Dwight Jones, Trek Langenhan, Ryan Lee, Travis McCumber, David Mercer, Maria Michaelis, Andrew Patterson, Sarosh Rana, Matt Rizzo, Hemant Roy, Kari Simonsen

Ad Hoc: Nada Fadul, Howard Fox, Kim Jarzynka, Mike McGlade, Robert Messbarger

1. Welcome and announcements (Dr. Britigan)

Dr Britigan welcomed everyone to the July Faculty Council Meeting

The Faculty Council meeting was the first formal meeting of the academic year. Dr Britigan welcomed new council members and announced Trek Langenhan as the new Vice Chair of Faculty Council and Kim Jarzynka for Admissions and Student Affairs.

2. Approval of June 12, 2026 Minutes

The minutes were unanimously approved

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 Kim Jarzynka, MDDr. Dr Jarzynka reported onboarding two new assistant deans and updates on the incoming class of 153 students, including the first 10 students for the Kearney campus. She also outlined upcoming orientation plans for M1s starting August 17th.
- Undergraduate Curriculum Geoff Talmon, MD
Unavailable
- Office of Strategic Initiatives Shirley Delair, MD
Unavailable (Dr Britigan gave updates)
Dr Britigan mentioned that Dr. Delair is preparing for the Teen Health Summit, a program encouraging health profession careers among Omaha area youths, and highlighted ongoing initiatives including the mini medical school at Holy Name School and the SHPEP medical scholars program. He also noted that the Longitudinal Spanish Language Program and Community Engagement Emmett Program continue to support student development.

- GME
Unavailable

Chandra Are, MBBS

- Kearney
Robert Messbarger, MD
Dr Messbarger provided updates on the medical program's first phase in Kearney. The program will matriculate its first 10 students in August, with academic preparation for 6 students and orientation scheduled for Monday through Wednesday in Kearney and Thursday through Friday in Omaha. Six small group facilitators have been hired to assist with student activities and serve on various committees, including admissions and curriculum. Phase 2 development for spring 2028 is ongoing, with clerkship sites being established across greater Nebraska, and chairs will visit Kearney on October 15th.

- Faculty Affairs
Nada Fadul, MBBS
Dr. Fadul Nada provided updates on faculty affairs, including the onboarding of new faculty with consolidated orientation sessions and the approval of new bylaws with over 200 faculty voting, achieving 89% approval. She announced two open positions: an Assistant Dean for faculty data and analytics (with two finalists selected) and an Assistant Dean for Faculty Development (with five applications received). Nada also explained the quarterly strategic plan updates required through the Vision Sync platform, which tracks 14 strategies across five pillars, noting that the office currently handles these updates rather than individual departments.
Dr Britigan clarified that clinical initiatives are not included in the UNMC strategic plan as they fall under Nebraska Medicine or Children's plans, and explained that "outstanding departments" refers to both well-functioning departments and those whose five-year reviews have been delayed.

- Research
Howard Fox, MD, PhD
Dr Fox raised questions about the involvement of basic science faculty in faculty development and the R&D committee, expressing concern about the lack of representation from basic science chairs. The need for better coordination between the dean's office and basic science departments, highlighting issues around research development, biotechnology and faculty mentorship was discussed.
Dr Fadul clarified that the position for an assistant dean focused on faculty data and analytics rather than faculty development, and that while the selected candidate was from a clinical department, collaboration with basic science chairs would ensure their voices are heard.

- Pediatric Affairs/CSP/Children's Hospital
No Updates

Kari Simonsen, MD

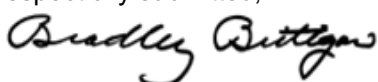
- COM Business Affairs
No Updates

Mike McGlade

- Other business
Dr Britigan announced his intention to transition out of his role as dean of the College of Medicine after 15 years, citing new senior leadership at UNMC and Nebraska Medicine as well as opportunities for new energy and vision. He committed to remaining in his current role to help recruit a successor and ensure a smooth leadership transition. He promised to share details via email to all faculty, staff, and students by noon.

6. Adjourn
There being no further business the meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,



Bradley Britigan
Dean, COM