

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

June 12, 2026
7:30 a.m.

Members Present: Bradley Britigan, Jennifer Adams, Surinder Batra, Sam Bierner, Sheila Ellis, Chuck Enke, Howard Gendelman, Karen Gould, Jeff Harrison, Dwight Jones, Ron Krueger, Trek Langenhan, Kim Latacha, Ryan Lee, Howard Liu, Travis McCumber, David Mercer, Kody Moffatt, Andrew Patterson, Sarosh Rana, Hemant Roy, Mike Wadman

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

1. Welcome and announcements (Dr. Britigan)

Dr Britigan welcomed everyone to the June Faculty Council Meeting

2. Approval of March 13, 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 Wendy Grant, MD
Unavailable
- Undergraduate Curriculum Geoff Talmon, MD
Dr. Talmon reported on leadership changes, including Dr. Grant stepping down after 15 years as senior associate dean for admissions and student affairs, with new appointments including Dr. Cutright as Associate Dean for Curriculum Operations and Dr. Jarzynka being elevated to Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs.
The incoming class size is expected to be 155 students, an increase of about 15 from the previous year, with roughly a dozen planning to attend year one in Kearney. Additional discussion covered plans for curriculum delivery on both campuses and the academic preparedness program, including a new structure where students will attend orientation on their respective campuses Monday-Wednesday before gathering in Omaha for Thursday-Friday activities. including the white coat ceremony.
- Office of Strategic Initiatives Shirley Delair, MD
Dr. Delair shared updates on medical pathways programs including a teen health summit and the CUIDAR program for the development of bilingual (Spanish/English) medical students.
Next Steps:
 - * Work with interim Chancellor's office to develop alternative enrichment programs to replace Robert Wood Johnson Foundation(RMJF) SHPP program that is ending due to termination of funding by RWJF.

* Continue coordination of Teen Health Summit and explore similar pathway programming for Kearney campus in future.

- GME Chandra Are, MBBS
Signing of House Officer Contracts
Dr. Are provided GME updates including ongoing visa issues and proposed changes to fellowship start dates, with some departments considering moving from July 1st to between July 1st and August 1st. The group discussed a proposal to streamline house officer contract signing processes by having only the DIO sign contracts instead of department chairs, with Dr. Arie assuring chairs would receive copies for their records. There was broad support among the departments for this approach.
- Kearney Robert Messbarger, MD
Dr. Messbarger provided updates on the Kearney campus preparations, including plans for small group facilitators starting July 1st and an upcoming visit from department chairs on October 15th.
Next Steps:
 - * Appoint individuals as recommended by Dr. Messbarger to fill new regional campus positions on Faculty Council and standing committees after bylaws are approved, with formal nomination and approval process to follow next year.
 - * Oversee onboarding and orientation for new small group facilitators at Kearney campus, including July orientation.
 - * Facilitate student advisory board meeting to determine class leadership structure for the incoming class and report back.
- Faculty Affairs Nada Fadul, MBBS
Unavailable
Dr Britigan updated the faculty on bylaws revisions that are out for faculty vote with final approval expected June 22nd.
- Research Howard Fox, MD, PhD
Dr. Fox discussed significant NIH changes including potential political review of grants and limitations on the number of grants investigators can hold, prompting UNMC to organize a response through the Vice Chancellor's office. Next Steps:
 - Work with business and finance (Karen and Shane) to explore options for graduate student FTE allocation to allow partial support from institutional funds while maintaining compliance with NIH regulations.
 - Send out the PowerPoint presentation on NIH changes to meeting attendees and offer to present to departments or research groups as requested.
 - Organize and coordinate UNMC's response to OMB/NIH regulatory changes, including guidance for individual faculty comments.
 - Continue bridge funding support for researchers between grants and communicate early application process to faculty.
 - Continue dialogue with Academic Affairs regarding graduate student funding and T32 grant utilization.
- Clinical Affairs/Nebraska Medicine Steve Lisco, MD
Unavailable
- Pediatric Affairs/CSP/Children's Hospital Kari Simonsen, MD
No Update

- COM Business Affairs

Unavailable

Mike McGlade

New committee member rosters for approval

The meeting covered the slate of nominees for faculty council and standing committee positions, with the motion to approve the slate passing unanimously.

All nominees and charters were unanimously approved by Faculty Council

Information was related that, at their upcoming meeting, the Board of Regents meeting is expected to approve a proposed 4.5% tuition increase and a 3% salary pool merit increase for faculty and staff.

- Next Steps:

Contact new Faculty Council members (post July 1) to conduct election for new vice chair, following approval of the slate of nominees.

6. Other business

7. Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bradley Britigan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bradley" and last name "Britigan" clearly distinguishable.

Bradley Britigan
Dean, COM