

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

March 13, 2026
7:30 a.m.

Members Present: Bradley Britigan, Vimla Band, Surinder Batra, Sam Bierner, Sheila Ellis, Howard Gendelman, Karen Gould, Rebekah Gundry, Zahid Iqbal, Dwight Jones, Joe Khoury, Kim Latacha, Ryan Lee, Travis McCumber, David Mercer, Kody Moffatt, Andrew Patterson, Sarosh Rana, Matt Rizzo, Mark Rupp, Kari Simonsen, Mike Wadman

Ad Hoc: Nada Fadul, Howard Fox, Wendy Grant, Mike McGlade, Robert Messbarger,

1. Welcome and announcements (Dr. Britigan)

Dr Britigan welcomed everyone to the March Faculty Council Meeting

He announced that Dr. Grant will step down as Senior Associate Dean for admissions and student affairs on July 1, and Dr. Talmon will take over that role.

Two new positions were created to support the Kearney campus, and an Associate Dean for curriculum will replace Dr. Talmon's responsibilities. Applications for these positions should be submitted to Sharon Secora.

2. Approval of February 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
- Undergraduate Curriculum Geoff Talmon, MD
Unavailable
- Office of Strategic Initiatives Shirley Delair, MD
 - **Medical Pathway Initiatives**
 - **K-8**
 - Mini Medical School at Holy Name, iExcel visit, featured in InterCOM graduation this Spring. Student leader presented an abstract at regional meeting at UNL
 - Career exploration event at MARRS middle school
 - **9-12**
 - **Students**
 - REACH (Recruit, Encourage and Advance Careers in Health) events at Benson and South Omaha HS.
 - **Teachers**
 - Second annual professional development with OPS HS science teacher, focusing on increasing literacy with science to meet OPS literacy goals.
 - **College**

- Record applicants for SHPEP this summer 309 applicants for 40 medical scholar spots. This is the last year of the program that was funded by RWJF.
- LEAP (Long-term enhanced advising and preparation) for Medical school. Ongoing monthly events led by medical students, this month's session is on personal statements for medical school applications.

Student Engagement

- Early this week, a planning committee made up of Student Engagement Advisory Council members and the class president and VP had their first meeting to improve orientation activities supported by our office for incoming M1s with special emphasis on welcoming the inaugural Kearney cohort.

Community Engagement

- **Phase 1:**
 - New EMETs, CUIDAR, and Advanced CUIDAR (both longitudinal Spanish language instruction and community engagement), Community engagement EMET selection finalized, and MSSRP assignments completed.
 - Planning for Spring 2026 Community Engagement Day with special focus on advocacy and patient outcomes.
- **Phase 2:** Lecture series for the Acute Care and Transition, Cultural sensitivity, care for new Americans, and inclusive and mindful language delivered this month
- **Phase 3:** Career Enhancement Seminars on Special Populations Council completed successfully last month.

- GME

Chandra Are, MBBS

International Medical Graduates

The meeting discussed visa-related challenges, particularly for the 86 employees with visas from 75 countries, including delays and potential separations due to new immigration procedures like RFEs. Dr Are highlighted the need for caution and communication with program directors about travel and visa renewals.

GME Funding

The meeting discussed the temporary hold on SBARs and UPL funding for GME programs due to pending reviews by DHHS, with Dr Are explaining that departments should prepare necessary paperwork but not submit new SBARs until clarity on funding is provided in April or May. Dr Britigan noted Nebraska's unique position as a red state under federal Medicaid fraud scrutiny, though the connection to funding reviews remains unclear. Dr Are advised that ACGME-accredited programs require both internal and ACGME approval, while non-accredited programs may need alternative body approval, suggesting departments prepare documentation regardless of current funding uncertainty.

- Kearney

Robert Messbarger, MD

Dr Messbarger noted they are continuing the application and hiring process for small group facilitators and administrative office associates for the Kearney campus.

Also continuing meetings with clerkship leaders (next: internal medicine and general surgery) to identify Phase 2 clinical sites in Greater Nebraska before Kearney students start Phase 2 in spring 2028.

- Faculty Affairs

Nada Fadul, MBBS

Bylaws Revisions

The Faculty Council reviewed and **approved updated bylaws** for the College of Medicine, with Dr Fadul leading the discussion of various amendments. Key changes included clarifying language about regional campus faculty appointments, adding two full-time or part-time regional campus representative members to the Faculty Council, and adjusting terminology around student dismissals and remediation.

COM Faculty Education Awards

The council also discussed new internal College of Medicine Educational Awards, with Dr Fadul encouraging nominations for faculty who meet the criteria.

- Research Howard Fox, MD, PhD
Dr. Fox (via Bradley): Provide update at next meeting regarding streamlining research project opportunities for medical students with Dr Talmon.
- Clinical Affairs/Nebraska Medicine Steve Lisco, MD
Unavailable
- Pediatric Affairs/CSP/Children's Hospital Kari Simonsen, MD
No Update
- COM Business Affairs Mike McGlade
No Update

6. Other business
Dr Britigan mentioned that there is an expectation that the salary freeze will be lifted for the coming year, though the exact increase amount will be determined by the Board of Regents.

7. Adjourn
There being no further business the meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,



Bradley Britigan
Dean, COM