

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES

September 11, 2026  
7:30 a.m.

Members Present: Bradley Britigan, Jennifer Adams, Vimla Band, Surinder Batra, Keely Cassidy, Hannah Christiansen, Alan Erickson, Kevin Garvin, Howard Gendelman, Karen Gould, Jeff Harrison, Steven Haskett, Trek Langenhan, Kim Latacha, Ryan Lee, Howard Liu, Travis McCumber, Maria Michaelis, Kody Moffatt, Andrew Patterson, Sarosh Rana, Matt Rizzo, Hemant Roy, William Thorell, Iqbal Zahid

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

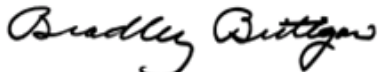
Guest: Sajid Shahul

1. Welcome and announcements (Dr. Britigan)  
Dr. Britigan opened the September Faculty Council Meeting and noted the presence of new members Steve Haskett and Michelle Krieger from Kearney, though they were unable to attend due to technical issues.  
He also gave updates on the search process for the Dean position, with Mary Sand conducting stakeholder surveys and Dr. Davies assembling a search committee.  
Dr Britigan also touched on the Board of Regents' approval of new Omaha Community Foundation membership and the ongoing work on Nebraska Medicine's bylaws.
2. Approval of July 10, 2026 Minutes  
Minutes from the July 10, 2026 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, MD  
Dr Jarzynka provided updates on admissions and student affairs, noting that the admission cycle is open with early decision interviews completed and regular cycle interviews scheduled for October through December.  
She mentioned upcoming visits from pathway students from Chadron State, Wayne State, UNK, and UNO on October 4th and 5th, and reported positive feedback on the academic preparedness program attended by 90 students.
  - Undergraduate Curriculum Geoff Talmon, MD  
Dr Talmon reported that 92% of students participated in research, putting the medical school in the 70th percentile nationally.
  - Office of Strategic Initiatives Shirley Delair, MD  
Unavailable

- GME Chandra Are, MBBS  
Unavailable
- Kearney Robert Messbarger, MD  
Dr Messbarger provided updates on the Kearney campus, including successful white coat ceremonies and student lectures.
- Faculty Affairs Nada Fadul, MBBS  
Dr Fadul announced Dr. Christy Bash's appointment as Assistant Dean for Faculty Analytics and Standards and discussed plans for the AAMC Standpoint Survey and ELAM leadership program.  
**The revised P&T charter was presented and approved unanimously by the Council.**
- Research Howard Fox, MD, PhD  
Drs Fox and Rizzo discussed the IDCTR program, which offers support for biostatisticians and access to large datasets, including a November 9th meeting with national leaders.  
Dr Fadul inquired about help with phenotyping HIV data, and Dr Rizzo confirmed they could provide assistance through regional and national networks.  
Dr Shahul presented an AI project with the IRB to improve IRB submissions using Copilot technology.  
Dr. Shahul also presented a new program partnership with the College of Public Health and Kari Nelson to help medical students conduct research using large epidemiological datasets, specifically Trinetics and Cosmos databases containing 290-310 million de-identified patients. The program will provide both faculty and statistical mentoring to ensure valid methodology and inferences, with medical students driving the research initiatives and working with identified faculty mentors.  
Dr. Rizzo then described the new P50 Great Plains IDEA CTR Network award, which includes 9 institutional partners and operating cores for research design, compliance, and data management that could potentially support the medical student research program.
- Pediatric Affairs/CSP/Children's Hospital Kari Simonsen, MD  
Unavailable
- COM Business Affairs Mike McGlade  
Mike McGlade reported that the state budget cut was reduced from 5% to 4.15%, affecting the College of Medicine with a \$3 million total cut, which the dean's office will handle in the current fiscal year.
- Other business

6. Adjourn  
There being no further business the meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,



Bradley Britigan  
Dean, COM