



University Faculty Council

Meeting: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 - 4:00-5:00 PM

Location: G204 | <https://neomed.zoom.us/j/97362108510?pwd=VTXUkFIY1J5RExKS3hqWUVpOTJXQT09;>

ZOOM Information: Connection time 3:55 PM

<https://neomed.zoom.us/j/97362108510?pwd=VTXUkFIY1J5RExKS3hqWUVpOTJXQT09;>

Or Telephone: +1 312 626 6799 (US Toll); +1 646 876 9923 (US Toll)

Meeting ID: 973 6210 8510 | Password:609086

Members (attendees in bold): **Jeffrey Mellott (chair), Petrea Cober (vice-chair),** Timothy Barreiro, **Natalie Bonfine,** Yeong-Renn Chen, Lukas Everly, **Sheila Fleming, Alex Galazyuk, Kristen Knepp, Yong Lu, Vahagn Ohanyan, Erica Stovsky, Xinwen Wang,** Taylor Watson, Liya Yin

Speakers: Dr. George Litman

Administrative Support: Andrea Coard, Deb Loyet

4:00 p.m.- 4:05 p.m.	1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>- Introduction to new UFC member – Dr. Vahagn Ohanyan <i>Jeff Mellott, PhD, Chair, University Faculty Council</i></p>	<p>Dr. Mellott convened the meeting at 4 p.m. He reminded the council members that every second meeting would be a working meeting with a scheduled end at 5 p.m.</p> <p>He welcomed Dr. Vahagn Ohanyan as a new member and asked him to provide a brief introduction. Dr. Ohanyan has been at NEOMED for 17 years doing clinical research and teaching. He said he was thankful for the opportunity.</p>
	2	<p>Approve previous UFC minutes 12.05.2023 <i>(Approved minutes located on NEOMED website)</i></p>	<p>Dr. Bonfine moved to approve the minutes; Dr. Chen seconded. The minutes were approved by the council members.</p>
OLD ACTION ITEMS (from previous meetings)			
4:05 p.m.- 4:10 p.m.	3	<p>Executive Management Team Notes</p> <p>Executive Management Team Spring 2024 meeting sign ups</p>	<p>Dr. Mellott reminded the group that the EMT Spring 2024 sign-up sheet is available, and all members are required to attend one meeting per semester. They are required to take notes and provide an update on behalf of the UFC.</p> <p>The new meeting location is the NEW Center in NEW 2002. A council member expressed concerns about invitations not being received. Andrea will conduct a weekly check every Friday to confirm that the correct</p>

			representative has been added for the Monday morning meeting and has received the meeting invitation.
		DISCUSSION ITEMS—NEW & FOLLOW-UP	
4:10 p.m.– 4:15 p.m.	4	Ohio Faculty Council Update <i>George Litman, MD., NEOMED University Faculty Council Representative</i>	<p>Dr. Litman provided an update on the OFC meeting. Senate Bill 83 continues to be modified and will be discussed further at the next meeting.</p> <p>The state is looking at programs at universities throughout the state to see what can be discontinued, especially in Humanities. There will still be related subject matter but not programs. For example, there will no longer be a major in Spanish but there will be Spanish courses available. Will not make an impact on NEOMED.</p> <p>There was a discussion regarding race based scholarships after the SCOTUS ruling and that there may be no further scholarships. A letter has been sent to the universities. Did NEOMED receive this letter?</p> <p>There is some concern about the General Education Act, which is being rewritten. The OFC is going to have a meeting with Florida colleagues to determine what Florida has done. This has not been finalized yet.</p> <p>Dr. Litman shared the Faculty Workload Policy with other members of the OFC.</p> <p>He asked if anyone had any questions.</p> <p>Dr. Mellott said NEOMED's Faculty Workload Policy is now posted online.</p> <p>Dr. Mellott inquired about the OFC's meeting with Florida's Council. Dr. Litman said the meeting is being planned for the near future, and while some OFC representatives will be in attendance, it is unlikely that all will participate. He continued to say he sensed they wanted to meet soon, especially considering the ongoing developments related to Senate Bill 83.</p>
4:15 p.m.- 4:20 p.m.	5	Provost notes and UFC Committee Representation Updates <i>Jeff Mellott, Ph.D., Chair, University Faculty Council</i>	<p>Dr. Mellott shared some updates from his meeting with the Provost. He reminded the council members that the chair and vice chair meet every month with the Provost before the UFC meetings.</p> <p>The Institute for Teaching Excellence will not involve faculty widely, but the UFC leadership will be engaged to provide input on faculty needs.</p>

Dr. Faison will be hosting Faculty Workload Policy Lunch and Learn sessions on Jan. 10, Jan. 16, and Jan. 23. Dr. Mellott asked faculty to attend at least one of the sessions. The target audience is deans and chairs but they are open to all NEOMED faculty and staff. The Provost will use example faculty workloads to illustrate how the policy is working. There is a desire to create equity across the colleges. There are still a number of topics to address and the Provost is looking forward to working with faculty. Dr. Mellott will be attending the first two lunch and learns sessions. He said Dr. Faison realizes some adjustments may be needed.

Dr. Bonfine mentioned that during the EMT meeting on Monday, Jan. 8, the President had echoed what the Provost had communicated to Dr. Mellott. He said the Policy is something new and efforts will be ongoing to smooth it out over time.

Dr. Mellott shared a question from the Anatomy and Neurobiology department on the rationale behind the 3 hour credit cap on student advising. There needs to be clarification as to why this maximum limit exists.

Dr. Mellott reported that he did not receive any updates from the council members who represent UFC on university committees.

Dr. Bonfine shared that she serves as the UFC representative on the Academic Management Partnership (AMP). The committee has been discussing a formal student withdrawal process. Another topic was streamlining the remediation process. There will be a Qualtrics pilot this Spring and the committee has also had conversations about defining semester credit.

Mr. Bob Larson is creating a tool, in the form of a spreadsheet, to calculate workload. This is expected to be ready at the beginning of February. The objective is to simplify the input of hours for automatic calculation. There will be some ability to make adjustments.

The goal for the Faculty Information System goal is to up and running by July.

Dr. Cober asked if faculty will be working closely with chairs. Will it be chair driven as some chairs calculate the workload. Ms. Deborah Loyet commented that the chair can utilize the tool and it will continue to be refined. She referred to Appendix A, where some credit is based on decisions by the chair/dean. The tool allows for some flexibility in those cells/slot so that additional people can make decisions about those areas.

			<p>Dr. Mellott began a discussion regarding department seminars.</p> <p>The chair of Anatomy and Neurobiology has been advised by the COM Dean that the departmental seminars are too plentiful, due to budgetary concerns. He asked if other departments were receiving the same message to make the UFC aware.</p> <p>Dr. Lu said our seminars are very established (longterm). The number was cut last year and is now being asked to cut again.</p> <p>Dr. Wang said this has been a discussion in Pharmaceutical Sciences. Our chair did not say that we have to cut but just the frequency. There are three fields and faculty are encouraged to invite one speaker for each field.</p> <p>Dr. Mellot asked if other departments have seminars?</p> <p>Dr. Cober said there is no budget in Pharmacy Practice specifically for regularly occurring research seminars. We do have department funds for an annual meeting which is being consolidated with the College of Medicine in May 2024.</p> <p>Announcements from the EMT meeting on Monday, Jan. 8, 2024:</p> <p>The number of major proposals being submitted this cycle for funding is very high. Dr. German has granted permission for ORSP staff to turn down proposals if they do not meet ORSP's submission deadlines.</p> <p>Dr. Langell distributed a book to all members of EMT as mandatory reading for their upcoming retreat. The book is Whatever It Is, I'm Against It: Resistance to Change in Higher Education. He described this as a provocative and uncomfortable read that current legislators in Ohio and our Board of Trustees are reading. He recommends that administrators and faculty read it.</p> <p>Dr. Mellott shared that the next meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 6 will include leadership reports from Dr. Aultman, COGS Dean, and Dr. Tromp, COP Interim Dean.</p>
4:25 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	6	Open Forum and Department updates from Council members	<p>Dr. Bonfine asked if there are any open task forces for the UFC.</p> <p>The Faculty Workload Policy Task Force has concluded but may need to be reactivated during the pilot year.</p>

			<p>Compensation Plan is still open – as of July 1, 2024, it will no longer be a pilot.</p> <p>Dr. German will be sending out another message to faculty regarding ORSP deadlines.</p> <p>Dr. Galazyuk moved to adjourn the meeting; Dr. Ohanyan seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.</p>
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Upcoming Agenda Items

- February 2024 – Leadership Reports – College of Graduate Studies, College of Pharmacy
- March 2024 – Working Meeting
- April 2024 – Leadership Report – President Langell