



Northeast Ohio

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

Board of Trustees

Northeast Ohio Medical University
Cook Alumni Hall
June 8, 2023

Trustees Present:

Phillip L. Trueblood, Chair
E. Douglas Beach, Ph.D., Vice Chair
Paul R. Bishop, J.D. (Trustee Emeritus)
Sharlene Ramos Chesnes
William H. Considine, M.H.S.A.
Sanjay K.A. Jinka
Darrell L. McNair, M.B.A.
Richard B. McQueen
Olivia L. Safady
Susan Tave Zelman, Ph.D. (Remote)
John T. Langell, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., Ex Officio

Not Present:

Ward J. "Tim" Timken Jr., M.B.A.

NEOMED Personnel Present:

Julie M. Aultman, Ph.D.
Patricia Babkoff
M. Frank Beck, D.D.S.
Samantha A. Bliss
Janet S. Coon
C. Forrest Faison, III, M.D., Sc.D. (Hon), FAAP
Shelia Fleming, Ph.D.
Rebecca Z. German, Ph.D.
Roderick L. Ingram Sr., M.B.A.
Richard J. Kasmer, Pharm.D., J.D.
Lindsey H. Loftus, M.Ed., M.A.
Lacey A. Madison, M.B.A., M.Ed., LSSBB
Heather L. McColloch
Eugene M. Mowad, M.D.
Clayton R. O'Neal
Doreen K. Riley, M.S.
Maria R. Schimer, J.D., M.P.H.
Mary Taylor, M. Tax., CPA
Kristin Z. Victoroff, D.D.S., Ph.D.

Others Present:

Dr. Patrick J. Gallegos
Grant B. Guyuron, CFA
Deborah Okey

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Approval of the Minutes
Phillip L. Trueblood, Chair

**CALL TO ORDER
AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Trueblood called the meeting to order. Ms. Coon, Acting Secretary, called the roll and noted that a quorum was present.

Request for Recusal

**REQUEST FOR
RECUSAL**

Chair Trueblood asked if any Trustee would need recusal from any of the agenda items presented; there being none, he proceeded with the meeting

1.1. Approval of the Minutes of the March 16, 2023, Meeting

**APPROVAL OF THE
MARCH 16, 2023,
MINUTES**

Chair Trueblood noted that all Trustees had received copies of the minutes from the full Board meeting on March 16, 2023. He asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections. There being none, Chair Trueblood called for a motion to approve the March 16, 2023 meeting minutes. Trustee Beach moved approval. Trustee Considine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

2. OATH OF OFFICE

APPROVAL

Maria R. Schimer, M.P.H., J.D.

Chair Trueblood acknowledged the need to fill Administrative Appointments for the Board of Trustees. I move to appoint Janet S. Coon as Secretary, Heather L. McCulloch as Administrative Secretary and Patricia G. Babkoff as Administrative Specialist. Chair Trueblood called for a motion to approve these appointments. Chair Trueblood moved approval. Trustee McQueen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

3. Chair Trueblood called for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters and the compensation of a public employee. Trustee Beach moved approval. Trustee McNair seconded the motion. Secretary Coon called the roll and the motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

4. Chair Trueblood moved to reconvene the Board meeting. Trustee McQueen seconded the motion. Chair Trueblood confirmed that during Executive Session, no action was taken and asked General Counsel to draft an amendment for signature by the Board Chair and President.

Chair Trueblood stated that all committees met in the morning and approved their respective resolutions and moved to include them in the Consent Agenda. This includes Resolutions R2023-17 through R2023-23. Trustee Beach moved approval. Trustee McQueen seconded the motion. No one opposed. The motion was carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Chair Trueblood asked Committee Chair Beach to provide a summary of the Academic and Scientific Affairs Committee meeting.

The Academic and Scientific Affairs Committee reviewed and approved resolutions earlier today. Dr. Kasmer presented the following resolutions.

4.2. The recommendation to approve Academic Personnel Actions (R2023-17) was approved under consent agenda.

**ACADEMIC
PERSONNEL ACTIONS
APPROVED (R2023-17)**

4.3. The recommendation to approve Non-tenure Track Faculty Appointments (R2023-18) was approved under consent agenda.

**NONTENURE-TRACK
FACULTY
APPOINTMENTS
APPROVED (R2023-18)**

4.4. The recommendation to approve Non-tenure Track Faculty Promotions (R2023-19) was approved under consent agenda.

**NONTENURE-TRACK
FACULTY
PROMOTIONS
APPROVED (R2023-19)**

4.5. Dr. Beck provided a report on the steps taken by University leadership related to the Commission on the Dental Accreditation (CODA) application. The CODA Application was finalized and submitted in mid-February and CODA confirmed receipt. Additional submissions were made to the Ohio Department of Higher Education and the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

**COMMISSION ON
DENTAL
ACCREDITATION
(CODA) UPDATE**

4.6. Dr. German provided brief highlights regarding Research and Sponsored Programs and said the University is trending in a positive direction.

**RESEARCH AND
SPONSORED
PROGRAMS UPDATE**

5. Chair Trueblood thanked Trustee Beach for his report and asked Committee Chair McNair to provide a summary of the Institutional Advancement Committee meeting.

Ms. Riley talked about alumni engagement and recognition to raise awareness of the amazing achievements of NEOMED's alumni. The goal is to reposition and create a

robust program of measurable activities that inspire alumni support. She shared the success of the alumni communications e-newsletter, the newly established Alumni Regional Welcome Team and optimizing portfolios and engaging volunteers more strategically to open doors for transformational gifts.

In closing, Chair McNair said Ms. Riley has a strategic plan in place to increase NEOMED's funding, and as Trustees, it is a priority to support the advancement team in any way possible.

6. Chair Trueblood provided a summary of the Finance, Fiscal Policy and Investment Committee meeting since Chair Timken has an excused absence. Mary Taylor presented the following resolutions.

6.2. A recommendation to approve Hourly Personnel Actions (R2023-20) was approved under the consent agenda.

**HOURLY PERSONNEL
ACTIONS APPROVED
(R2023-20)**

6.3. A recommendation to approve Administrative Personnel Actions (R2023-21) was approved under the consent agenda.

**ADMINISTRATIVE
PERSONNEL ACTIONS
APPROVED (R2023-21)**

6.4. A recommendation to approve Fiscal Year 2024 Tuition and Fees and Operating Budget (R2023-22) was approved under the consent agenda.

**FY 2024 TUITION AND
FEES AND OPERATING
BUDGET APPROVED
(R2023-22)**

6.5. A recommendation to approve the Authorization of Capital Renovation and Improvements Construction Project for the College of Dentistry Exceeding \$500,000 (R2023-23) was approved under consent agenda.

**CAPITAL
RENOVATION AND
IMPROVEMENTS
CONSTRUCTION
PROJECT FOR
COLLEGE OF
DENTISTRY
EXCEEDING \$500,000
APPROVED (R2023-23)**

Mr. Guyuron with Clearstead reviewed the University's investments and the Investment Policy. He anticipates volatility will continue; Clearstead will keep NEOMED informed of new developments as well as provide recommendations if action needs to occur.

Ms. Taylor shared there were changes within the Key Performance Indicators Report in the Board Book, but no updates related to finance, fiscal policy and investments.

The Consent Agenda includes Resolutions 2023-17 through 2023-23. Given these Resolutions were approved by the Committees, a second is not required. Chair Trueblood asked if there were any items that required further discussion. There being none, a motion was moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

APPROVAL

7. **Report of the President**

John T. Langell, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., FACS

**REPORT OF THE
PRESIDENT**

President Langell welcomed everyone and recognized NEOMED's graduating class of 274 students, the largest ever. Dr. Langell also recognized the leadership and

great achievements of Dr. Sanjay Jinka, M.D., whose board term expires as a student trustee at the end of June. Jinka moves on to begin his surgery residency at Case Western/University Hospitals Cleveland. NEOMED thanks Dr. Jinka and wishes him the best of luck as he moves on in his medical career.

Dr. Langell announced that U.S. News and World Report published its 2023-2024 Best Graduate Schools and revealed that NEOMED was voted as one of the Best Graduate Schools, was recognized as #41 for Diversity and #106 for Research. The University continues to have a huge impact in terms of research and enterprise dollars and continues to make great strides in the College of Graduate Studies (COGS) thanks to the efforts of our faculty. COGS has seen a 778 percent increase in applicants and new programs. The University is excited for this college to grow and become more competitive.

The College of Dentistry has filed for accreditation in record time and raised more than \$7 million in state and federal grants plus the \$10 million Bitonte Family Foundation to move forward.

Dr. Langell welcomed deans Dr. Katherine Tromp, Ph.D., College of Pharmacy and Dr. Marc Basson, M.D., Ph. D., M.B.A., College of Medicine. Dr. William Chilian, Ph.D., Chair of Integrated Medical Sciences is retiring in July, but will remain with the University part-time. Dr. Chilian has been a top researcher at NEOMED, and the University looks forward to retaining his services and expertise on a part-time basis.

Congratulations to newly honored fellows Vahagn Ohanyan, M.D., Ph.D. and Adam Goodwill, Ph.D., who were elected by the American Physiological Society-Cardiovascular Section (APS-CV section) as well as Mate Soric, Pharm.D. and Jackie Boyle, Pharm.D., on being honored as 2023 American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) fellows. These are examples that shine positive light on NEOMED nationally and the University is proud to highlight their success.

Dr. Langell discussed ongoing initiatives with the 135th General Assembly. NEOMED's budget was also approved. Discussion of Lean Six Sigma (LSS) principles has a huge impact on the organization and the leadership of Jordan Cinderich, Process Engineer, Strategic Planning, received accolades for leading the charge with this program as 56 percent of NEOMED's workforce is becoming a trained LSS organization, allowing the University to grow and become more efficient, reduce waste, and simplify processes.

Dr. Langell also touched on Giving. The Advancement department had the highest philanthropic donations ever last year due to the efforts of Doreen Riley and her team and the new strategic approach on how the University approaches fundraising.

A successful Healthcare Ideator Transformation event was held in partnership with University Hospitals at the Bounce Innovation Hub in Akron with over 200 in attendance on June 2. Five teams competed during two full days of brainstorming on the high issue of infant mortality. Dr. Michael Forbes, M.D., at Akron Children's Hospital, was amazing and inspiring; the feedback was positive, and we hope to do it again next year.

Student surveys were submitted, and the University is responding to the requests. Availability of food options was a priority. Changes that are being implemented include Starbucks extending its hours and The Bistro offering a variety of food options. Finally, the location of the bookstore is set to open at the beginning of July. The new location is in the old pharmacy space next to the coffee shop which will be more accessible for guests. The next big project is the development of a fourth tower in The Village.

Dr. Langell introduced Ms. Lacey Madison, M.B.A., M.Ed., L.S.S.B.B., Vice President for Strategy and Transformation, to give the report on Northeast Ohio Medical University's Strategic Plan.

Ms. Madison reported the University's strategic plan is at 62 percent progress overall on strategic initiatives at the midpoint of the plan. Progress is tracked and aggregated at each pillar, and the University is trending forward. Ms. Madison shared the strategic roadmap and progress for each pillar. The strategic plan consists of a total of 136 action plans and 104 Envisio users (which is 20 percent of the NEOMED workforce using the system). Six update cycles have been completed since launch in January 2022 and 674 action plan updates have been submitted.

People Pillar - As a result of the strategic initiatives related to recruitment, retention, and growth, enrollment is at 21 percent diversity and mirrors Ohio's population and 86 percent of NEOMED students are Ohio residents. The FAME Research class saw 10 fellows complete the inaugural program in May 2023 and all were from Summa Health (a mixture of physicians and research program directors). Finally, the Employee Referral Program included nine percent of current applicants referred by NEOMED employees.

Education Pillar – The College of Graduate Studies has seen an increase in growth by 43 percent since 2020 and the University was ranked as # 41 in Diversity among Medical Schools by U.S. News and World Report. Other amazing celebrations include the Writing Center, which had 685 visits since March 2022 and the Bitonte College of Dentistry was awarded \$14M in state, federal and gift support for the college.

Discovery Pillar - To address the strategic initiative, there has been a concerted effort to promote excellence in NEOMED's research enterprise. There has been a 200 percent increase in the demand for student research opportunities. In addition, 17 peer reviewed articles have been published in two volumes of the Journal of Medical Sciences and a third volume is in development now. The UH-NEOMED Ideator Innovation Competition held its inaugural event with 62 NEOMED and UH employees participating on teams pitching ideas on how to improve maternal and infant wellness.

Service and Community Engagement – There are 12 action plans within this pillar. The Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence is working in all 88 counties with officers training for CIT. Currently \$4.5M is in the biennial budget passed by the House for the Certified Mental Health Assistant program development. The Student-Run Free Clinic has seen 134 unique patients in 2023 and the Student Government Affairs Advocacy Council, led by NEOMED students, has raised \$1.5M in medical debt relief for Akron residents.

Growth Pillar - We have seen tremendous growth and success across multiple programs. Seven percent of all clerkship rotations are within the University Hospitals system. The UH-NEOMED affiliation are working across six pillar working groups with 77 dedicated employees. Five programs have been launched or rebranded since 2020 and moved into the Education Pillar and NEOMED Healthcare has seen a 62 percent growth in provider visits this year.

Administrative and Academic Support Operations – Finally, in pursuit of operational excellence, 50 percent of the NEOMED's active workforce is trained in Lean Six Sigma, and 35 percent receive additional training with the launch of the Employee Empowered Excellence training programs. In addition, \$1.25M was awarded in Strategic Initiative Funding.

In closing, Dr. Langell welcomed Sheila Fleming, PhD., Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Director, Neurodegenerative Diseases and Aging Research Focus Area to provide an update on research at NEOMED.

RESEARCH UPDATE

Dr. Fleming spoke on the topic of exercise in Parkinson's disease and the effects on motor and cognitive function. Parkinson's is the most common neurodegenerative

disease followed by Alzheimer's. There is an urgent need to discover a cure; there is nothing to stop or slow the disease currently.

A huge advancement in the field is the discovery of Alpha-Synuclein: a major component of Lewy bodies, the first biomarker which can be used to diagnose Parkinson's disease. Dr. Fleming also discussed the experiments she is doing with movement initiation including ballroom dancing and the funding NEOMED is receiving for research and grants.

8. Old Business

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

9. New Business

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Trueblood recommended the approval of the Resolution of Appreciation for Sanjay K.A. Jinka, M.D. for his efforts on behalf of the University and as a student trustee since July 2021. Dr. Jinka has been an active student on the NEOMED campus where he served as the Chief Executive Officer at the Student-Run Free Clinic, was a member of the Virtuous Healer Society and served as President of the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society and served as the NEOMED delegate to the American Medical Association (AMA) where he was able to create several different AMA resolutions that were adopted. Dr. Jinka was also the recipient of the 2022 Ohio Physicians of Tomorrow Scholarship.

**APPRECIATION TO
SANJAY K.A. JINKA,
M.D. APPROVED
(R2023-24)**

Chair Trueblood moved approval of Resolution of Appreciation of Sanjay, K.A. Jinka, M.D. (R2023-24). Trustee McQueen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10. Executive Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No need for Executive Session.

11. Adjournment

**MOTION TO
ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Chair Trueblood reminded the Board of Trustees that the next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 24, 2023, in Cook Alumni Hall.

Chair Trueblood called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Beach moved the approval. Trustee McQueen seconded the motion. No one opposed. The motion was carried unanimously by voice vote.

**For a fully executed version of the minutes,
please contact the Board office at 330.325.6864**