



# Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Aug 24, 2023 at 12:00 PM EDT

Northeast Ohio Medical University - NEW Center - Cook Hall

## Attendance

**Trustees:** Phillip L. Trueblood, Chair, E. Douglas Beach, Ph.D., Vice Chair, Omer Ashruf, Paul R. Bishop, J.D. (Trustee Emeritus), Sharlene Ramos Chesnes, William H. Considine, M.H.S.A., John T. Langell, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., Ex Officio, Darrell L. McNair, M.B.A., Richard B. McQueen, Olivia Safady, Ward J. "Tim" Timken, Jr., M.B.A., Susan Tave Zelman, Ph.D. (remote)

**NEOMED Personnel:** Tricia Babkoff, Marc Basson, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A, M. Frank Beck, D.D.S, Janet S. Coon, Dr. Patrick Gallegos, Rebecca Z. German, Ph.D., Roderick L. Ingram Sr., M.B.A., Lacey A. Madison, M.B.A., M.Ed., LSSBB, Heather L. McColloch, Doreen K. Riley, M.S., Maria R. Schimer, J.D., M.P.H., John Stilliana, Mary Taylor, M. Tax., CPA, Katherine Tromp, Pharm.D.

**Guests:** Grant B. Guyuron, CFA, Mark Mosely, J.D.

### 1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Approval of the Minutes

*Phillip L. Trueblood, Chair*

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

#### Request for Recusal

REQUEST FOR RECUSAL

Chair Trueblood called the meeting to order. Secretary Coon called the roll and noted that a quorum was present. 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 June 8, 2023, Meeting

APPROVAL

Chair Trueblood noted that all Trustees had received copies of the minutes from the full Board meeting on June 8, 2023. He asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections. There being none, Chair Trueblood called for a motion to approve the June 8, 2023 meeting minutes.

Motion moved by Trustee Chesnes and seconded by Trustee McQueen. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

### 2. Oath of Office

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

OATH

Chair Trueblood welcomed newly appointed Student Trustee, Omer Ashruf. Chair Trueblood then asked Attorney Schimer to administer the Oath.

**2.1. New Student Trustee**

OATH OF OFFICE TO NEW TRUSTEE OMER ASHRUF

The oath of office to new Student Trustee Omer Ashruf was administered by Attorney Schimer.

**3. Executive Session**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an executive session. Chair Trueblood stated that all committees met in the morning, approved their respective resolutions, and moved to include them in the Consent Agenda. This includes Resolutions R2023-25 through R2023-32.

Motion moved by Chair Trueblood and seconded by Trustee Beach. The motion was carried unanimously by a roll call vote.

**4. Report of the Institutional Advancement Committee**

*Darrell L. McNair, M.B.A., Committee Chair*

Chair Trueblood asked Committee Chair McNair to provide a summary of the Institutional Advancement Committee meeting.

**4.2. FY24 Progress on Goals**

No resolutions were brought forth and the June 8 committee minutes were approved. Doreen Riley shared progress on FY24 advancement goals and the team's accomplishments year-to-date including operational effectiveness, key staff hires, alumni engagement, and the creation of robust programs to grow engagement and giving. An update on major gifts confirmed, pending, and in the pipeline was highlighted. Committee Chair McNair stressed the importance of trustee engagement and representation at University events, which is critical.

**5. Report of the Academic and Scientific Affairs Committee**

*E. Douglas Beach, Ph.D., Committee Chair*

Committee Chair Beach said the Committee reviewed and approved resolutions earlier today. Deborah Loyet presented the following resolutions.

**Academic Actions**

**5.2. Recommendation to Approve Academic Personnel Actions (R2023-25)**

APPROVED

The recommendation to approve Academic Personnel Actions (R2023-25) was approved under consent agenda.

**5.3. Recommendation to Approve Nontenure-Track Faculty Appointments (R2023-26)**

APPROVED

The recommendation to approve Nontenure-Track Faculty Appointments (R2023-26) was approved under consent agenda.

**5.4. Recommendation to Approve the Award of Professor Emeritus, College of Medicine, Northeast Ohio Medical University to William P. Lynch, Ph.D., Professor of Molecular Virology and Neuroscience (R2023-27)**

APPROVED

The recommendation to approve the Award of Professor Emeritus, College of Medicine, Northeast Ohio Medical University to William P. Lynch, Ph.D., Professor of Molecular Virology and Neuroscience (R2023-27) was approved under consent agenda.

**5.5. Recommendation to Approve the University Faculty Bylaws (R2023-28)**

APPROVED

The recommendation to approve the University Faculty Bylaws (R2023-28) was approved under consent agenda.

**Academic Reports and Updates**

**5.6. Commission On Dental Accreditation (CODA) Update**

INFORM

Dr. Frank Beck provided a timeline for the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) application and possible site visits for CODA and the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). Fall 2025 is the target date for the first dental class.

**5.7. College of Graduate Studies Update**

INFORM

Dr. Julie Aultman provided an update on the increase in enrollment in the College of Graduate Studies (COGS) as well as spring projections.

## **Report on Research and Sponsored Programs**

### **5.8. Report on Research and Sponsored Programs**

INFORM

Dr. German gave an update on Research and Sponsored Programs; there has been an increase in submissions and a moderate increase in awards and funds. The University is headed in the right direction and working to increase numbers.

### **6. Report of the Finance, Fiscal Policy and Investment Committee**

*Ward J. "Tim" Timken Jr., M.B.A., Committee Chair*

INFORM

Committee Chair Timken said Mary Taylor presented the following resolutions that were reviewed and approved earlier.

## **Personnel Actions**

### **6.2. Recommendation to Approve Hourly Personnel Actions (R2023-29)**

APPROVED

A recommendation to approve Hourly Personnel Actions (R2023-29) was approved under the consent agenda.

### **6.3. Recommendation to Approve Administrative Personnel Actions (R2023-30)**

APPROVED

A recommendation to approve Administrative Personnel Actions (R2023-30) was approved under consent agenda.

## **Finance Actions**

### **6.4. Recommendation to Approve Capital Equipment Lease Expenditures to Install Switches and Storage for Production and Back-Up Environments Exceeding \$500,000 (R2023-31)**

APPROVED

A recommendation to approve Capital Equipment Lease Expenditures to Install Switches and Storage for Production and Back-Up Environments Exceeding \$500,000 (R2023-31) was approved under consent agenda.

### **6.5. Recommendation to Approve Voluntary Intergovernmental Transfer (R2023-32)**

APPROVED

A recommendation to approve the Voluntary Intergovernmental Transfer (R2023-32) was approved under consent agenda.

## **Finance Reports and Updates**

### **6.6. Clearstead Report**

INFORM

Mr. Guyuron with Clearstead reviewed the University's investments and the Investment Policy and reported that NEOMED is in compliance. He discussed the timing of a recession, high-interest rates and consumer spending. Clearstead will keep NEOMED informed of new developments and provide recommendations if action is needed.

### **6.7. Revenue and Expenditures, Budget to Actual Comparison**

INFORM

Ms. Taylor reported no issues or problems with balancing the budget; tuition fees are below budget due to enrollment numbers.

### **6.8. Asset Allocation Report**

INFORM

### **6.9. Market Value**

INFORM

### **6.10. Update on Key Performance Indicators**

INFORM

### **6.11. Government and External Affairs Update**

INFORM

John Stilliana provided a brief overview of the Biennium Budget. The state wants to provide universities with additional funding to support expanded student mental health services or access.

## **7. Report of the Nominating Committee**

*Richard B. McQueen, M.B.A., Committee Chair*

Trustee McQueen provided a report of the Nominating Committee to include the election of new leadership. The committee discussed the need for continuity on the Board to meet the University's mission, goals, and culture. Board members agreed it is in the University's best interest that both the Board Chair and Vice Chair be willing to serve in their respective positions for two consecutive one-year terms, if possible, and if elected by the full Board.

Secretary Coon informed the Committee of the interested candidates at Chair McQueen's request. She also noted that other Trustees may be nominated from the floor or self-nominate if they desire to do so. No other Trustees other than those that expressed interest were suggested for

nomination during the discussion. Recommendations by the Committee have been passed to the chair.

## 8. Election of Officers

APPROVAL

The Committee recommended Chair McQueen place into nomination E. Douglas Beach as Chair of the Board. There were no other nominations. Trustee Considine seconded the nomination. The motion carried unanimously by secret ballot.

The Committee recommended Chair McQueen now place into nomination Darrell L. McNair as Vice Chair of the Board. Trustee Considine seconded the nomination. The motion carried unanimously by secret ballot.

### 8.1. Oath of Office Chair

OATH OF OFFICE TO E. DOUGLAS BEACH, Ph.D.

### 8.2. Oath of Office Vice Chair

OATH OF OFFICE TO DARELL L. MCNAIR, M.B.A.

### 8.3. Recommendation of Administrative Appointment

Board Chair Trueblood moved approval of the administrative appointment of Secretary, NEOMED Board of Trustees, to Janet S. Coon. Trustee McQueen seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROVAL

## 9. Report of the President

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

INFORM

**Northeast Ohio Medical University Strategic Plan**

Lacey A. Madison, M.B.A., M.Ed., LSSBB

Vice President for Strategy and Transformation

**Inspirational**

Cayman Pearsall

Student Representative, Master in Foundations of Medicine at NEOMED

Dr. Langell said the campus is full of excitement welcoming students back, celebrating milestone events, and watching them bond with each other, faculty, and staff. Enrollment continues to grow and an effort to engage students in social and wellness activities is a priority. Dr. Langell mentioned the U.S. News and World Report rankings for Most Diverse Medical Schools where NEOMED ranks #41 nationally (a 52 percent increase). Numbers are anticipated to increase as a

result of the work to achieve NEOMED's mission, which supports evidence that healthcare improves when providers are representative of the patients they serve. The University is currently at 20 percent Underrepresented Minority (URM); the SCOTUS ruling could impact the next enrollment cycle, however, it would only be slight as NEOMED has always looked holistically at grit and resiliency as determining factors. Trustee Beach inquired what the SCOTUS ruling means. Dr. Langell said the University is not allowed to look at race or ethnicity for admission but students as individuals and how they evolve and overcome barriers.

Dr. Langell was pleased to share that NEOMED is a new partner in the Northern Ohio Clinical and Translational Science Collaborative (CTSC) grant; a \$56 million award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. The partnership also includes Cleveland Clinic, The MetroHealth System, University Hospitals, the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System, and the University of Toledo. The CTSC, one of the few programs in the country, will be a benchmark in providing resources and training to create premier research in addressing disparities in healthcare. Dr. Langell also noted that research funding this fiscal year at NEOMED has already exceeded \$4 million, an amazing accomplishment.

Moving on to the Bitonte College of Dentistry, incredible progress has been made. The amount needed to launch the College has been surpassed due to a combination of private, federal, and state contributions.

Dr. Langell said the medical footprint on campus is growing and recognized leadership for their contributions and knowledge. The Press Club of Cleveland honored Sebastian Diaz, Ph.D., J.D., associate dean for Quality Initiatives in the College of Medicine for his reflection, titled "Our Culture, Our Community: Cuba," Michael Appleman, M.A.Ed., who was selected as a 2023 Greater Akron Chamber "30 for the Future" Award recipient and Feng Dong, M.D., Ph.D. for being named M1 Teacher of the Year, voted by students. NEOMED's mission is to be great educators, the University can't accomplish the mission without great educators so congratulations on these meaningful recognitions.

Dr. Langell welcomed Marc Basson, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., to his first trustee meeting as the College of Medicine Dean. Dr. Basson has hit the ground running and is leading the charge for accreditation and reinvigorating student support in the COM. Congratulations to Sonja Harris-Haywood, M.D., former associate dean, of NEOMED College of Medicine; she is now the dean of MeHarry Medical College School of Medicine, and Richard Kasmer, Pharm.D., J.D., on his official retirement. If it was not for him, the University would not have gone through the HLC accreditation process without flying colors. Dr. Kasmer did an incredible job and his daily presence will be missed. Lastly, a special thank you to Rick McQueen for his nine years of service on the

Board of Trustees. Dr. Langell noted that Trustee McQueen made his transition to the University a smooth process; NEOMED is blessed to have wonderful trustees.

NEOMED is entering its golden anniversary as the University celebrates 50 years. Many events will be scheduled in the future, including uncovering the time capsule near the administration entrance; the University has experienced lots of growth and expansion, and this is an exciting time to celebrate the history and changes.

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 said NEOMED is creating transformative leaders to improve health through education, discovery, and service. The strategic plan progress is above target at 66 percent on all action plans. Strategic Initiative Funding (SIF) is an internal grant process that empowers the workforce to bring forward ideas and address initiatives to move the mission ahead. A recap shows \$1.5 million allocated, \$3.3 million was requested in proposals and \$1.3 million was awarded. Fifty-eight percent of proposals were funded and 50 percent of action plans were completed for 75 percent combined progress to goal on all SIF awards.

Several grants have been awarded to improve the Exceptional Student Experience. Campus climate was addressed including student-requested improvements around campus, innovative enrollment strategies resulting in 25 percent growth in transformational pathways to medicine, funds to give College of Pharmacy students access to a prep course resulting in raising NAPLEX pass rates (surpassing the national pass rate) and addressing a major academic need, creating a Writing Center with over 800 visits. Funding has also enabled innovative simulation models to be created to train providers to care for patients with disabilities using simulated patients. NEOMED's multidisciplinary and translational research grants awarded seven seed pilot grants, leading to collaboration with students, faculty, and clinical faculty within NEOMED's consortium, specifically Akron Children's Hospital (Dr. Cohen). It has led to preliminary data being parlayed into NIH, Parkinson Foundation, National Center Advancing Translational Sciences, and multiple manuscripts to be submitted for peer review. The University also expanded its Research Scholars Day which showcases the scholarship of clinical faculty, partner residents, and other health professionals. There were 267 posters and presentations from this group that were shared across disciplines.

Entering into the final phase of the strategic planning period, the focus is on quality. The goals are to deliver an exceptional experience, empower student success through academic excellence, enhance research programs, both basic science and translational, expand innovation,



demonstrate impact in the State and surrounding communities, accelerate NEOMED's growth and vitality, and advance operational excellence and elevate NEOMED's brand, reputation and visibility.

Dr. Langell introduced Cayman Pearsall, NEOMED Master of Foundation in Medicine (MFM) graduate and first-year College of Medicine student, to share her experience at NEOMED.

Ms. Pearsall said her student experience and strong foundation at the University is invaluable. The MFM program is unique as it allows students to have one foot inside COM, to understand what it would be like to be an M1 and the other foot inside COGS, to experience research, ethics, diagnostic imaging, and a capstone project. A great support and mentoring system is in place to ensure success throughout the program; Ms. Pearsall said she is currently a mentor to incoming master's students to provide the same experience.

Ms. Pearsall also discussed healthcare disparities. When it comes to bettering patient care, it is important to be able to have diverse medical professionals that match our increasingly diverse patient population. With increased diversity comes different lines of thinking, different considerations, and different conversations that can be had on how to address healthcare disparities. This program has introduced diverse populations within each medical school class and is invaluable in helping increase diversity.

## **10. Old Business**

DISCUSS

No old business was discussed.

## **11. New Business**

DISCUSS

### **11.1. Recommendation to Approve a Resolution of Appreciation to Richard J. Kasmer, Pharm.D., J.D. (R2023-33)**

APPROVAL

Chair Trueblood recommended the approval of the Resolution of Appreciation for Richard J. Kasmer, Pharm.D., J.D., who is retiring in September. Dr. Kasmer served as vice president for academic affairs and dean, College of Pharmacy since 2017 and professor of pharmacy practice since 2012. He was instrumental as the lead on the Commission of Dental Accreditation application for the Bitonte College of Dentistry and served as the University Chair for the Higher Learning Commission Comprehensive Review and Reaccreditation Site Visit.

Dr. Kasmer served as an advocate and friend of the University's students, faculty, and staff and provided exceptional academic and administrative advice as a member of Northeast Ohio. His extraordinary vision, collaboration, and talent have fostered partnerships like the joint venture with Summa Rehab Hospital, Ritzman Pharmacy at NEOMED, Transitions in Care Program, and relationships with external organizations, promoting the College of Pharmacy's reputation and enhancing its impact on the profession. Dr. Kasmer has led the University through growth by launching Pharmacy Innovations, LLC to provide advanced practice pharmacy services to campus and launched the Interprofessional Education & Simulation (IPES), Growing programs in the College of Graduate Studies.

Motion moved by Trustee Timken and seconded by Trustee McQueen. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**11.2. Recommendation to Approve a Resolution of Appreciation to Richard B. McQueen  
(R2023-34)**

APPROVAL

Chair Trueblood recommended the approval of the Resolution of Appreciation for Richard B. McQueen, whose term ends on September 21, 2023. Mr. McQueen, as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Northeast Ohio Medical University since 2014, has served as an advocate and friend of the University's students, faculty, and staff, and has provided exceptional academic and administrative advice based on his successful experiences in business, strategic management and as an innovative collaborative partner. His unwavering commitment to NEOMED's mission, vision, and core values has played a pivotal role in advancing the institution's goals and objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan.

Mr. McQueen is well-known for his active community involvement. He has been a tireless advocate for various causes and has dedicated his time and efforts to making a positive impact on his community. Some of his notable contributions include service to the Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce and the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce, serving as a Board member on the Akron/Summit County Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Stark Economic Development Board, and the Ohio Aviation Association. McQueen's commitment to community involvement has inspired many others to get involved and has helped create a sense of unity and solidarity within the community.

Motion moved by Trustee Timken and seconded by Trustee Considine. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

## 12. Adjournment

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Trueblood reminded the Board of Trustees that the next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 30, 2023. Chair Trueblood called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. No one opposed. The motion was carried unanimously by roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

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