University Faculty Council

Meeting: Tuesday, June 2, 2026 - 4:00-5:00 PM
Location: G-204 | https://neomed.zoom.us/j/97164904258?pwd=o497jt1rAjGMfe2t2EPPsvEwhcNbps.1

ZOOM Information: Connection time 3:55 PM
https://neomed.zoom.us/j/97164904258?pwd=o497jt1rAjGMfe2t2EPPsvEwhcNbps.1
Or Telephone: +1 312 626 6799 (US Toll); +1 646 876 9923 (US Toll)
Meeting ID: 971 6490 4258 | Password: 583611

Members (attendees in bold): **Jeffrey Mellott (chair), Petrea Cober (vice-chair),** Timothy Barreiro, Natalie Bonfine, **Stacey Gardner-Buckshaw, Yeong-Renn Chen, Lukas Everly,** Sheila Fleming, Alex Galazyuk, **Kristen Knepp, Yong Lu,** Jennifer McKay, Vahagn Ohanyan, **Matthew Smith, Erica Stovsky, Alexandra Ukmar, Xinwen Wang**

Administrative Support: Andrea Coard, Deborah Loyet

4:00 p.m.- 4:05 p.m.	1	**Welcome** *Jeff Mellott, Ph.D., Chair, University Faculty Council*	Dr. Mellott convened the meeting at 4 p.m.
	2	Approve previous UFC minutes 05.05.2026 (Approved *minutes located on NEOMED website)*	Dr. Cober moved to approve the minutes; Dr. Ukmar seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.
	3	Executive Management Team Notes 2026 Executive Management Team Spring 2026 meeting sign ups Executive Management Team Fall 2026 meeting sign ups	The Fall sign-ups are available in the OneDrive folder. Dr. Mellott reminded the council members to sign up for at least one meeting per semester. He shared that the meeting notes from the EMT meetings are available in the OneDrive folder.
4:05 p.m.- 4:10 p.m.	**4**	**Ohio Faculty Council** *Petrea Cober, Pharm.D., Ohio Faculty Council Representative*	Dr. Cober informed the council members that the Ohio Faculty Council (OFC) would not be meeting during the summer. There was an offline discussion regarding one of the house bills. The EMT has indicated that the bill is unlikely to advance, and the Senate does not believe the legislation is necessary. A document addressing concerns was drafted and signed by several universities. Many of the issues raised are not relevant to NEOMED. Dr. Mellott reported that the OFC has requested that each university submit a shared governance statement by the end of July. He is

			currently drafting this and will share it with UFC and Ms. Schimer, General Counsel, for review prior to submission.
4:10 p.m.– 4:20 p.m.	**5**	**Election for Vice Chair** **Stacey Gardner-Buckshaw, Ph.D.** *Jeff Mellott, Ph.D., Chair, University Faculty Council*	Dr. Mellott discussed the election for the University Faculty Council (UFC) Vice Chair position. He informed the council that the current Vice Chair, Dr. Cober, would assume the role of the Chair per the University Appendix G – University Standing Committees. Dr. Gardner-Buckshaw was nominated for the Vice Chair and following a brief statement, the council members conducted an election. The council members voted unanimously to approve the appointment, effective July 1, 2026.
4:10 p.m.- 4:15 p.m.	**6**	**Provost Notes and UFC Committee Representation Updates** *Jeff Mellott, Ph.D., Chair, University Faculty Council*	The UFC representatives serving on the University Standing Committees provided updates: **University Bylaws Committee (UBC) – Dr. Jesse Young** Dr. Young provided the following PowerPoint presentation: UBC Faculty Council Report 2026 **University Research Committee (URC) – Dr. Lisa Cooper** Dr. Cooper provided the following update on behalf of the URC: She advised that Dr. Smith had led a discussion regarding research equipment across campus that is not compatible with Windows 11. Jonathan Wagner is working on a solution to designate a dedicated server specifically for computers that cannot support Windows 11. This initiative is particularly relevant to the microscopes located on the fourth floor of the RGE building. Equipment purchased through internal grants sponsored by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs includes a slide stainer. This instrument automates the staining of tissue sections onto unstained slides. The slides are loaded onto the mechanism, and the slides are processed and stained within one hour. The council is brainstorming strategies to increase enrollment of the BTB program in support of President Langell's long-term vision. Open to hearing ideas. Dr. Mellott asked if Dr. Aultman, Dean of COGS, was involved in any discussions. She has not at this point. Dr. Cooper will raise her involvement moving forward with the URC. Dr. Mellott shared a brief URC update on behalf of Dr. Thewissen. He reported that the internal grant mechanisms appear to be functioning

			effectively and that faculty have benefited from the initiatives developed by the URC. The URC is currently discussing creating roles for sunsetting RFAs. Dr. Cooper noted that the URC is making progress, but it is slow due to the number of questions under consideration. She added that Dr. Thewissen's participation in the URC has been valuable. The relationship with KSU is being sunset. Dr. Mellott feels there needs to be a significant effort to place students on the BTB program, particularly from a teaching assistant (TA) perspective. The agreement ends in 2029. Students may still be admitted in the Fall 2026 and August 2027 cohorts. Beginning with the 2028 cohort, new students will not be permitted to select a NEOMED laboratory. However, students already conducting research in NEOMED labs may remain in their assigned labs and continue their research beyond 2029 as they complete their dissertations. Dr. Gardner Buckshaw asked if a NEOMED student could be hired as a graduate assistant (GA) or teaching assistant (TA). Dr. Mellott explained that students admitted to the KSU Biomedical Sciences Program (BMS) could elect to work in a NEOMED laboratory. **<u>University Nominating and Membership Committee (UNMC) – Dr. Cooper</u>** Dr. Cooper provided the following update: Dr. Moses Oyewumi replaced Dr. Jeff Wenstrup as chair Currently a request for Vice Chair – likely to be Dr. Lisa Cooper The committee met in May to review and recommend the nominations for the University Standing Committees for the academic year 2026-27. **<u>COM Dean's Advisory Group (DAG) – Dr. Mellott</u>** Dr. Mellott provided the following update on behalf of the DAG: The LCME visit is scheduled for April 2027, which involves a lot of preparatory work. Regarding the evaluation process, the COM had been exploring the adoption of new evaluation tools. This has been paused, and following a workgroup led by Dr. Sheridan, new evaluation tools have been developed across the university. There will be some COM curriculum changes. In two years, it is proposed that courses will be combined under the umbrella of one course. For example, the Body and Brain course would become a

			module with CPR and POM2. These changes have not yet been voted on or approved, as several decisions remain outstanding, including the designation of course director/s. COM has developed two new policies: one addressing student attendance and another addressing professionalism. Dr. Mellott shared the following updates from Provost Faison: . Dr. Mellott indicated that a more coordinated institutional approach to artificial intelligence (AI) messaging is needed. While the AI workgroup has been dissolved, Ms. Schimer, General Counsel, is working to harmonize and consolidate the recommendations generated by the various workgroups. The university will place significant focus on Information Technology (IT), Faculty Information System (FIS) implementation, Student Success Services, and support for the College of Graduate Studies (COGS) as it continues to grow. Ms. Loyet provided an update on the Faculty Information System (FIS) implementation. Most data loads have been completed, with the exception of teaching workload assignments. The implementation team has been working closely with department heads, who recommended waiting until after July 1 to load faculty data to ensure the system contains accurate and current information when it becomes available to users. Customized data loads are being used rather than standardized loads. Teaching workload assignments are being collected from department chairs through spreadsheets. Implementation activity is expected throughout July. The team will likely roll out the system first to employed faculty, followed by a department-by-department rollout for affiliated and voluntary faculty. Dr. Mellott asked about the results of the COGS pilot for faculty evaluations. Ms. Loyet explained that faculty evaluations are managed by Human Resources through the Cornerstone system and are not handled through FIS. Implementation team is probably going to roll out the system to the employed faculty group first. Then go dept by dept for the affiliated or voluntary faculty after that.
4:15 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	**7**	**Open Forum and Department updates from Council members** *Group Discussion*	The Provost will be holding Faculty Townhalls during July. New Exam Rescheduling Policy – started June 1 – this will be discussed at the Faculty Townhalls, as well as the faculty evaluations and other University updates.

			Dr. Everly's term will expire on June 30, 2026. Dr. Mellott thanked him for his contributions to the University Faculty Council (UFC). The terms of the other representatives that will also expire at the end of June have been renewed Dr. Cober recognized Dr. Mellott for his outstanding leadership as Chair over the past three years and expressed appreciation for his dedication and service to the University Faculty Council (UFC). She thanked Dr. Mellott for his hard work, commitment, and many contributions to the council during his tenure. Dr. Cober moved to adjourn; Dr. Everly seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Upcoming Agenda Items

No July Meeting

August 4- Leadership Report – Dean Basson. College of Medicine

MANDATORY TRAINING:

FERPA Compliance Training 2026-2028 to be completed between May 4, 2026, and June 12, 2026.

Watch The Pulse and https://www.neomed.edu/faculty/ for more information! If you have any questions, please contact facdev@neomed.edu.