



University Faculty Council

Meeting: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 - 4:00-5:30 PM

Location: G-204 | <https://neomed.zoom.us/j/83777007471?pwd=PbTxLkQoxEGK4E3B6ZKKUz5anCNyYK.1>

ZOOM Information: Connection time 3:55 PM

<https://neomed.zoom.us/j/83777007471?pwd=PbTxLkQoxEGK4E3B6ZKKUz5anCNyYK.1>

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

Meeting ID: 837 7700 7471 | Password: 447458

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

Speaker: Dean Marc Basson, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A

Administrative Support: Andrea Coard, Jennifer Lint

4:00 p.m.- 4:05 p.m.	1	Welcome <i>Petrea Cober, Pharm.D., Chair, University Faculty Council</i>	Dr. Cober convened the meeting at 4:02 p.m.
	2	Approve previous UFC minutes 06.02.2026 (Approved <i>minutes located on NEOMED website</i>)	Dr. Galazyuk moved to approve the minutes; Dr. Gardner-Buckshaw seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.
	3	Executive Management Team Notes 2026 Executive Management Team Fall 2026 meeting sign ups	Dr. Cober reminded the EMT members that they are required to sign up for one meeting per semester. Dr. Cober explained that the EMT are using a score card system to submit their updates prior to the meetings. The Provost is asking for the UFC leadership to be granted access so that any important updates can be shared with the UFC representatives attending the meetings.
4:05 p.m.– 4:25 p.m.	5	Leadership Report <i>Dean Marc Basson, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.</i> <i>College of Medicine</i>	Dr. Basson provided the Leadership Report. He shared the following presentation. State of COM July 2026

			Provost Faison shared the following comments regarding student financial support: NEOMED has adjusted the timeline to allow students time to demonstrate their ability to pay before classes start. There are two students in this bucket. One student has been granted a year deferred to make financial arrangements and will be matriculated next year. Jim Barrett and his team have done a great job of working with the banks and lending institutions to present a portfolio of potential loan products for the students. Depending on credit rating and availability of co-signers the interest rates range from 6-14%. In addition, information regarding loan programs with scholarship-like features is being made available to students. Provost Faison emphasized that the university is doing everything possible to support students and is applying the policy as leniently as circumstances allow. He added that he anticipates the policy may be revisited in the future. Dr. Cober talked about COP tuition being lower, and more manageable for students, but that there are still some issues. Dr. Lu asked about faculty hiring and if there are any plans to hire senior-level faculty members. Dr. Basson responded that the Zero-Based Budgeting (ZBB) model provides opportunities to replace faculty positions when appropriate justification is provided. Faculty hiring this year will include a mix of replacement and new positions, with some vacancies currently open and some already filled. He explained that, in general, there is a preference to limit the hiring of senior faculty due to cost considerations and the existing number of senior faculty members, while focusing on developing the next generation of NEOMED faculty. Provost Faison, noted that hiring decisions are not one-size-fits-all. In certain areas, such as dental education, market conditions make recruitment more challenging, requiring the institution to remain flexible and competitive to secure qualified faculty needed to deliver the curriculum. It is a balancing game.
--	--	--	---

4:25 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.	6	Provost Notes and UFC Committee Representation Updates <i>Petrea Cober, Pharm.D., Chair, University Faculty Council</i>	Dr. Cober asked for updates from committee representatives: <u>University Research Council (URC) - Dr. Thewissen</u> The University Research Council (URC), meets monthly and is chaired by Dr. Fleming. The council serves as a valuable mechanism for information exchange between the Research Focus Area (RFA) leaders and the Vice President for Research (VPR), facilitating communication in both directions. It was noted that, during the past year, the RFAs have demonstrated varying needs, priorities, and approaches. Maintaining awareness of these differences is important as the university continues to plan and strengthen its research strategy. A significant area of current discussion is the development of a more formal process for evaluating existing RFAs, establishing new RFAs, and determining when RFAs should be sunsetted. Implementing such a process may require revisions to existing bylaws. It was also suggested that RFA evaluations should involve not only review by the VPR but also input from faculty, similar to faculty evaluation processes. Additionally, members emphasized the importance of RFAs contributing to the university's graduate education mission. Given the critical role graduate students play in research, RFAs should be encouraged to develop initiatives, educational opportunities, and courses that support graduate training and attract students to their programs. <u>Academic Management Partnership (AMP) – Dr. Bonfine</u> Dr. Bonfine reported that activity has been quieter during the summer. Discussion focused on planning for the 2027-2028 academic calendar, as well as policy changes related to exam rescheduling and student enrollment processes moving forward. The committee also had a productive discussion regarding the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and how the various colleges are currently addressing AI-related issues while a university-wide policy is under development. Provost F addressed the topic during the recent town hall. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 13.. Provost Faison introduced Dr. Moorman, the new Vice President for Academic Expansion and Regional Campus Development. Dr. Moorman's initial focus will be on the satellite medical school at Miami University and the expansion of the university's partnerships with Christ Hospital and TriHealth in Cincinnati.
---------------------------------	----------	---	--

			Provost Faison also highlighted the launch of a new program and the hiring of faculty liaisons to support faculty members and partner hospitals. He noted that NEOMED's goal is to become the partner of choice in Ohio for medical education and clinical training. A key component of supporting future growth will be ensuring sufficient clinical rotation opportunities are available for students. Dr. Moorman will also support initiatives across NEOMED's other colleges and programs, including the CMHA and CAA programs, as well as the College of Dentistry. His role will include helping to strengthen partnerships and expand community outreach efforts as these programs continue to grow. Provost Faison continued his update: NEOMED has matriculated the largest first-year medical school class (M1) in the university's history. Preparations are also underway for the matriculation of students in the Colleges of Pharmacy (COP), Dentistry (BCOD), and Graduate Studies (COGS), bringing increased activity and energy to campus as enrollment continues to grow. Faculty recruitment is ongoing for the CMHA program and efforts continue to secure additional clinical rotation opportunities for CAA students. Pharmacy enrollment remains strong, and the College of Dentistry is scheduled to open its clinic in September, initially offering oral cancer screenings. Provost Faison remarked on the high regard in which NEOMED is held across the state and noted that, once the affiliation with the University of Toledo is finalized, NEOMED will have partnerships in every major city of Ohio. He emphasized that the university's growth is a direct reflection of the dedication and contributions of its faculty and described this as an exciting time for NEOMED, with the institution well-positioned for continued success.
4:30 p.m.– 5:30 p.m.	7	Open Forum and Department updates from Council members <i>Group Discussion</i> • NEOMED Faculty Shared Governance for Ohio Faculty Council (OFC)	Dr. Cober discussed the shared governance document prepared by Dr. Mellott for the Ohio Faculty Council (OFC). She encouraged UFC members to review the document and provide any feedback or comments for consideration. She reminded the UFC members to sign up for an EMT meeting and to review the Professional Development opportunities. We will be working with Dr. German and adding some research professional development opportunities.

			A question was asked about the FIS Training Sessions. Provost Faison said these will evolve as different modules are brought online. Dr. Galazyuk moved to adjourn; Dr. Lu seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.
--	--	--	---

Upcoming Agenda Items:

September 1 – Working Meeting

October 6 - Leadership Report – Dean Tromp, College of Pharmacy, Dr. German, VP of Research

Upcoming NEOMED Faculty Professional Development Opportunities

August 2026

Monday, Aug. 3	noon – 1 p.m.	via Zoom	Interfolio Faculty Information System Training (Rootstown faculty, via Outlook invitation)
Monday, Aug. 10	noon – 1 p.m.	via Zoom	New Faculty Onboarding – Communicating via Canvas (Outlook/The Pulse)
Wednesday, Aug. 19	11 a.m. – noon	In person/Zoom	Interfolio FIS Training (Rootstown faculty)
Monday, Aug. 31	noon – 1 p.m.	In person/Zoom	Interfolio FIS Training (Rootstown faculty)

September 2026

Thursday, Sept. 3	noon – 1 p.m.	via Zoom	IAMSE Webinar (register for any/all sessions)
Thursday, Sept. 10	noon – 1 p.m.	via Zoom	IAMSE Webinar
Tuesday, Sept. 15	3 – 4 p.m.	In-person/Zoom	Interfolio FIS Training (Rootstown faculty)
Thursday, Sept. 17	noon – 1 p.m.	via Zoom	IAMSE Webinar
Thursday, Sept. 24	noon – 1 p.m.	via Zoom	IAMSE Webinar
Thursday, Sept. 24	noon – 1 p.m.	In-person/Zoom	Interfolio FIS Training (Rootstown faculty)

October 2026

Thursday, Oct. 1	noon – 1 p.m.	via Zoom	IAMSE Webinar
------------------	---------------	----------	---------------

Watch [The Pulse](#) and <https://www.neomed.edu/faculty/> for more information! If you have any questions, please contact facdev@neomed.edu.