University Faculty Council

Meeting: Tuesday, October 6, 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, Jeffrey Mellott, Vahagn Ohanyan,** Kelsey Rice, Matthew Smith, Erica Stovsky, **Alexandra Ukmar,** Xinwen Wang

Speakers: Rebecca German, Vice President of Research, Kat Tromp, Dean, College of Pharmacy

Administrative Support: Andrea Coard, Jennifer Lint

4:00 p.m.-4:05 p.m.	1	**Welcome** *Petrea Cober, Pharm.D., Chair, University Faculty Council*	Dr. Gardner-Buckshaw convened the meeting at 4 p.m. She shared that she would be chairing the meeting today.
	2	Approve previous UFC minutes 09.01.2026 (Approved *minutes located on NEOMED website*)	Dr. Galazyuk moved to approve the minutes; Dr. Ukmar seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.
	3	Executive Management Team Notes 2026 Executive Management Team Fall 2026 meeting sign ups	All meetings for the Fall semester have been assigned a UFC representative attendee. The Spring semester sign-up sheet will be made available in November. Dr. Gardner-Buckshaw reminded council members that they are required to sign up to attend at least one meeting per semester. The structure of EMT meetings has recently changed. EMT members now submit their updates to a scorecard prior to Monday morning meetings. UFC representatives are encouraged to review the report in advance and use EMT meetings as an opportunity to share updates on UFC initiatives, priorities, and activities. Operational concerns or challenges should continue to be addressed through appropriate channels rather than raised during the EMT meetings. UFC representatives were asked to forward the weekly reports to Andrea and she will add this to the EMT notes on the UFC one drive

			folder. Any additional notes captured at the meetings can also be shared to be included. Dr. Gardner-Buckshaw shared an update from the EMT meeting on Monday, Oct. 5. Lacey Madison recently provided on strategic alignment initiatives and resources. She will attend the November UFC meeting and provide a presentation. A reminder was shared that Casino Night will take place on Saturday. An update was provided regarding the university's branding initiative. Additional guidance on email signatures will be distributed soon. Members were advised that when using the “NEOMED”, it should be accompanied by the university's tagline, "Ohio's Health and Sciences University," to improve external recognition and reduce confusion. Reference to the full name, Northeast Ohio Medical University, remains sufficient on its own. Look out for training opportunities
4:05 p.m.– 4:10 p.m.	**4**	**Ohio Faculty Council (OFC) Update** *Petrea Cober, Pharm.D., Chair, University Faculty Council*	Dr. Gardner-Buckshaw provided the Ohio Faculty Council update. The primary topic of discussion was concerns raised by faculty at several undergraduate institutions regarding the impact of civic center initiatives on academic instruction, particularly in areas such as American history. Additional discussion focused on responses by the Ohio Board of Education to actions involving a faculty member at another university. It was noted that these issues are not currently affecting our institution, and Dr. Langell emphasized that similar actions would not be pursued here.
4:10 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.	**5**	**Leadership Report** *Rebecca German, Ph.D., Vice President of Research*	Dr. German provided her leadership report for Research Staffing within the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) is stable. Bianca Hernandez is now the Executive Director, and Maureen Brown is now the Director of Grants Accounting.

			Dr. German reminded committee members to submit proposals for well in advance of ORSP deadlines. Jesse Zampedro and the Biosafety function now report to Dr. German rather than Dale Hluch and Campus Operations, as 90% of their responsibilities are research-related biosafety activities. Occupational Health responsibilities will continue to be supported. Office relocations are also planned, with the IACOC and IRB offices relocating to Redizone. Dr. German discussed NEOMED account structures, noting that general fund indexes begin with a number, while grant-funded indexes begin with a "G." There are plans to centralize oversight of research-related "2" accounts, including Research Focus Area (RFA), seed funding, startup, bridge funding, and internal grant accounts. Responsibility for managing these accounts will transition to the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP), with implementation targeted before year-end. The purpose of this change is to strengthen compliance and financial oversight by ensuring expenditures align with approved research protocols, sponsor requirements, federal Uniform Guidance, and State of Ohio spending regulations. Members discussed the distinction between restricted and unrestricted funds and noted that all university funds, regardless of source, must comply with applicable spending policies. The new process is expected to provide clearer guidance on allowable expenses and improve coordination between ORSP and Purchasing when questions arise regarding expenditures. Dr. German expressed confidence in ORSP's ability to improve consistency, compliance, and organization of research account management. Additional discussions are underway, and faculty will continue to be informed as changes are implemented. Efforts are also underway to secure a university subscription to a comprehensive funding opportunity database, such as Pivot, to help faculty identify federal, state, and private funding opportunities. The goal is to increase grant submissions and overall research funding. Dr. Bonfine inquired about the current funding landscape. NIH funding opportunities remain available but are increasingly competitive, while future NSF funding priorities remain uncertain.

			Faculty were encouraged to continue submitting proposals despite the more challenging environment. The Vice President for Research reiterated a willingness to review specific aims and executive summaries and provide feedback to investigators seeking assistance with proposal development. Interest in additional grant-writing support was discussed. Faculty were encouraged to suggest workshop topics. Dr. Chilian previously tried to establish a grant writers' circle where faculty who were writing met regularly, but it did not gain significant participation. Dr. German stated that if there was interest, she would be happy to help to provide support to pursue a collaborative writing group. The proposed funding database is expected to improve access to funding opportunities beyond NIH and provide more effective search capabilities for identifying relevant sponsors and programs. Dr. Lu asked a question regarding whether a proposed subscription to the Pivot funding database could satisfy NIH data management and sharing requirements. Dr. German said she would obtain information and share with faculty regarding approved repositories and options for research data deposition.
4:30 p.m.- 4:45 p.m.	**6**	**Provost Notes** *Petrea Cober, Pharm.D., Chair, University Faculty Council*	Provost Faison shared the following update: He attended the College of Pharmacy Faculty Awards today and shared that he was impressed by the significant contributions faculty are making across a wide range of areas. He noted that similar accomplishments and impact are evident throughout all of the university's colleges, reflecting the strong commitment and excellence of the faculty across NEOMED. An update was provided on several institutional growth initiatives, including development of the Miami campus and the Satellite Medical School. Dr. Moorman, Vice President for Regional Campuses and Academic Expansion, is leading these efforts. The university is working hard to expand its partnerships with community partners to ensure sufficient clinical rotations for students across all colleges. At the Rootstown campus, planning is underway to accommodate future growth through academic and administrative space utilization initiatives. Work continues on the implementation of CourseDog, the university's academic scheduling system. A cross-functional workgroup has developed scheduling business rules to support more

			equitable and efficient room scheduling, improve visibility of classroom technology and capacity, and enhance the overall scheduling process. Training will begin later this year, with full implementation planned for the next academic year. An administrative space utilization review, led by Mary Taylor, is also being initiated to ensure adequate office and meeting space as the university grows. Provost Faison commended the faculty for their efforts to improve accessibility compliance. Three of the four colleges have already exceeded the university's compliance target of 95%, and the remaining college is nearing compliance. The university remains on track to meet federal accessibility requirements by June. An update was also provided on implementation of the university's strategic plan. The Academic Affairs leadership team has identified key academic priorities and scorecard measures focused on academic quality and effectiveness, including student progression and graduation outcomes. Initial efforts will focus on a select group of high-priority initiatives related to student support, faculty development, and academic growth, with each initiative being led by a dean or vice president for academic expansion. More information will follow. Provost Faison concluded by expressing appreciation for the faculty's contributions and noted that the university is well-positioned for continued growth and success. A question was raised regarding planned enrollment growth and timelines across the colleges, particularly within the College of Medicine. The Provost noted that growth in the College of Medicine will be considered only after completion of the upcoming LCME review. At the Rootstown campus, enrollment is projected to increase next year, pending accreditation outcomes. Planning for the Miami campus continues, with a tentative opening targeted for Fall 2028 or January 2029. Initial enrollment is expected to be approximately 50 students. Current efforts are focused on determining how much of the curriculum can be delivered remotely, utilizing existing Miami faculty resources, and identifying additional faculty needs. The College of Medicine is actively involved in developing the implementation plan.

			The CMHA program remains on track for launch, with an anticipated inaugural class of 20-30 students. Key priorities include marketing, establishing workforce demand, and addressing licensure considerations in collaboration with state partners. The College of Pharmacy is experiencing increased application activity compared with recent years, reflecting renewed interest in the profession and strong employer demand. Enrollment projections remain under review as application trends continue to develop. Within the College of Graduate Studies, the CAA program is expected to remain stable at approximately 24 students. Future growth is currently limited by the availability of clinical rotation sites, particularly in pediatrics, cardiology, and obstetrics/gynecology. Other graduate programs continue to draw interest, including from applicants on the College of Medicine waitlist. For the Bitonte College of Dentistry, enrollment will remain capped at 52 students, consistent with current CODA approval. Growth beyond that level will not be considered until after the next CODA site visit. The college continues to maintain strong demand and expects to fill all available seats. Dr. Ukmar requested clarification regarding whether full-time faculty at the rank of Assistant Professor or higher in BCOD are enrolled in the Faculty Empowerment Plan or the Faculty Incentive Plan, noting that conflicting information had been received from Human Resources and during faculty orientation. Provost Faison said he would ask for additional guidance from Human Resources, including the development of FAQs. He noted that participation in the Faculty Incentive Plan generally requires enrollment in the Faculty Empowerment Plan. The Faculty Empowerment Plan is predominantly intended for PhD faculty hires. Clinical faculty compensation is typically aligned with CUPA-HR market data to remain competitive and, therefore, clinical faculty are generally not included in the Empowerment Plan. However, clinical faculty have the option to participate if doing so provides compensation that is competitive with market-based benchmarks. Dr. Gardner-Buckshaw noted that the College of Medicine's PCS recently announced a restructured curriculum that will be implemented next year. The new model will include a Course Director, two Associate Course Directors for each semester, and

			Thread Leaders. These positions are not currently reflected in the Faculty Empowerment Plan, and faculty may have questions regarding how these positions will be recognized under the plan. Provost Faison agreed that clarification is needed and will be included in discussions with Human Resources. It was also noted that the annual review of the faculty workload plan will be used to update committee assignments, time commitments, and responsibilities associated with the revised curriculum structure. Provost Faison concluded by encouraging faculty to reach out with additional questions or concerns. Broader communication regarding the curriculum changes will be provided to all College of Medicine faculty.
4:45 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	**7**	**Open Forum and Department updates from Council members** *Group Discussion*	Dr. Gardner-Buckshaw provided an update on the University Faculty Awards committees. Dr. Fox was asked to identify a BCOD representative for both the Liebelt Wheeler Award Committee and the Junior Faculty Award Committee. COM and COP representation will be reduced to two per college, and a BCOD representative will be added. A separate COS representative will not be added because current committee members already have COGS teaching or leadership responsibilities. Members also discussed concerns regarding faculty travel funding and use of the university's travel portal. Faculty have reported challenges related to reduced departmental travel budgets and higher travel costs associated with the approved booking system. While the portal requirement was implemented to reduce financial losses from canceled travel, some faculty believe independent booking may be more cost-effective. UFC will send out a poll to members to gather feedback from their departments regarding travel funding and travel portal usage to determine whether these concerns are widespread across the university.
5:00 p.m.- 5:20 p.m.	**8**	**Leadership Report** *Kat Tromp, Pharm.D., Dean, College of Pharmacy*	Dr. Tromp shared the following presentation: UFC COP Updates 2026 Dr. Bonfine asked about COP research opportunities for students.

			Dr. Tromp noted that the College of Pharmacy offers a variety of research experiences through both Pharmaceutical Sciences and Pharmacy Practice faculty. Students may participate in laboratory, clinical, and independent research projects, including a P3 research elective for academic credit. In addition, recently launched curricular concentrations include research components that further encourage student engagement in scholarly activities. Members also discussed opportunities for interdisciplinary research collaboration and encouraged faculty to share research opportunities with pharmacy students to promote broader engagement and professional development. There were no further questions for Dr. Tromp. Dr. Gardner-Buckshaw reminded faculty that the next UFC meeting on November 3 will include a report from Lacey Madison. She also noted that President Langell will provide his leadership report at the December meeting. Dr. Bonfine moved to adjourn; Dr. Ukmar seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Upcoming Agenda Items:
November 3 – Working Meeting
December 1 – Leadership Report – President Langell

Upcoming NEOMED Faculty Professional Development Opportunities

October 2026

Thursday, Oct. 1	11-2:30 p.m.	Via Zoom	Department of Defense (DOD) Workshop with ATG, Understanding Military Research Funding Register
Thursday, Oct. 1	noon-1 p.m.	Via Zoom	IAMSE Webinar
Wednesday, Oct. 21	noon-12:30 p.m.	Via Zoom	Offered by ITE: Canvas Gems Zoom Link *Participants will explore time-saving tips, shortcuts, and tools to make the most of the Canvas LMS. Experienced and new Canvas users alike can expect to leave with at least one 'gem' to begin using in their own course.*
Thursday, Oct. 22	noon-1 p.m.	Via Zoom	Interfolio FIS Training for Rootstown faculty (optional for affiliated faculty) Zoom Link

November 2026

Monday, Nov. 2	Noon-1 p.m.	Via Zoom	Practice What We Preach: Shared Responsibility for Professionalism in Medical Education. Kristen Knepp, Ph.D. *Reimagining Health Professions Education series Session 1* Zoom Link
Monday, Nov. 16	2-3 p.m.	Via Zoom	*Reimagining Health Professions Education series Session 2*. Sebastian Diaz, Ph.D., J.D. Zoom Link
Tuesday, Nov. 17	noon-1 p.m.	Via Zoom	Interfolio FIS Training for Rootstown faculty (optional for affiliated faculty) Zoom Link
Monday, Nov. 30	1-2 p.m.	Via Zoom	Modeling What We Teach: Faculty Wellbeing as Pedagogy, Professionalism, and Professional Identity Formation. Sabrina Cali, PH.D. *Reimagining Health Professions Education series Session 3* Zoom Link
December 2026			
Monday, Dec. 14	noon-1 p.m.	Via Zoom	Interfolio FIS Training for Rootstown faculty (optional for affiliated faculty) Zoom Link
Wednesday, Dec. 16	noon-1 p.m.	Via Zoom	Offered by ITE: Active Learning Strategies for Online and Hybrid Zoom Link *Participants will examine practical active learning strategies grounded in best practices for online and hybrid teaching.*

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