



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 1:15 PM

Pro Football Hall of Fame - Nash Family Event and Conference Center

Attendance

Trustees: Darrell L. McNair, M.B.A., Chair, William H. Considine, M.H.S.A., Vice Chair, Omer Ashruf, Sharlene Ramos Chesnes, Trinity A. Kronk, Karen Soehnlén McQueen, J.D., Ward J. "Tim" Timken Jr., M.B.A., Phillip L. Trueblood, Susan Tave Zelman, Ph.D., John T. Langell, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., FACS, Ex Officio

Others Present: Paul Bishop, J.D., Jim Dickie II

NEOMED Personnel: Julie Aultman, Ph.D., Tricia Babkoff, Marc Basson, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., Carrie Circosta, Janet Coon, Eric Eickhoff, Forrest Faison III, M.D., Sc.D.(hon), FAAP, Rebecca German Ph.D., Richard Kasmer, PharmD, Ph.D., Lacey A. Madison, M.B.A., M.Ed., LSSBB, Heather McColloch, Maria R. Schimer, J.D., M.P.H., Tonya Strong-Charles, Sophie Sureau, Mary Taylor, M. Tax., CPA, Katherine Tromp, Pharm.D.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Request for Recusal

Request for Recusal

Chair McNair called the meeting to order at 12:57 PM. Secretary Coon called the roll and noted that a quorum was present. Chair McNair 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 December 5, 2024, Meeting

APPROVAL

Chair McNair noted that all Trustees had received copies of the minutes from the full Board meeting on December 5, 2024. He asked if there were any changes. There being none, Chair McNair called for a motion to approve the December 5, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion moved by Trustee Timken and seconded by Trustee Considine. Motion is approved unanimously.

2. Oath of Office

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

Chair McNair welcomed newly appointed Student Trustee, Trinity A. Kronk. Chair McNair asked Attorney Schimer to administer the Oath.

2.1. New Student Trustee

The Oath of Office to new Student Trustee Trinity A. Kronk was administered by Attorney Schimer. Chair McNair welcomed Trustee Kronk and asked her to tell the Board a little bit about herself.

Ms. Kronk received her undergraduate degree at Emory University and is pursuing a combined M.D./Ph.D. degree. Ms. Kronk, is founder of the Journal of Medical Sciences at NEOMED, founder and Co-President of the Dual Degree Society, and past Co-President of NEOvations Bench to Bedside. She has volunteered as an assistant instructor at GiGi's Playhouse, helping adults and children with Down Syndrome engage in fitness and wellness activities and is a co-inventor of a provisional patent for a minimally invasive orthopedic medical device.

3. Executive Session

DISCUSS

Chair McNair called for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters. Motion moved by Trustee Considine and seconded by Trustee Zelman.

Chair McNair moved to reconvene the Board meeting and Trustee Timken seconded. Chair McNair confirmed that during Executive Session, no action was taken. Chair McNair asked Committee Chair Timken to provide a summary of the Finance, Fiscal Policy and Investment Committee.

4. Report of the Finance, Fiscal Policy and Investment Committee

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

INFORM

Committee Chair Timken confirmed the minutes from the December 3, 2024 meeting were approved. Resolutions were also unanimously approved for hourly and administrative personnel. Ms. Taylor shared information related to the NEOMED ARP, 403(b) and 457(b) Retirement Plans Activity Report.

Grant Guyuron and Claire Xu from Clearstead reviewed the University's investments and Investment Policy; the University remains in good standing. Finally, Ms. Taylor reviewed updates pertaining to operating cash, revenue and expenditures. Chair McNair thanked Committee Chair Timken for his report and asked Committee Chair Considine to provide the update related to Institutional Advancement.

5. Report of the Institutional Advancement Committee

William H. Considine, M.H.S.A., Committee Chair

INFORM

Committee Chair Considine confirmed the minutes of the December 5, 2024, meeting were approved and no resolutions were brought forward before the committee. Sophie Sureau, Vice President for Advancement and President of the NEOMED Foundation shared an update on Development, Advancement Services, and Alumni Engagement. Ms. Sureau said Advancement is focused on alumni and donor engagement to increase engagement from 15 to 20 percent and

increase alumni giving to 9.5 percent by the end of FY27. Ms. Sureau introduced Carrie Circosta, the new Senior Director of Alumni Relations and Major Gifts, to spearhead this initiative.

Total cash and new commitments are at \$4M with four months left to hit the \$5M goal. The FY25 donor pipeline shows solicitations at 26 proposals totaling \$5.2M with an expectation of receiving \$4.6M at the close of the fiscal year. Ms. Sureau discussed NEOMED's first ever Giving Week (March 10-14, 2025) and thanked matching donors that totaled \$75,000 for the largest matching pool ever for a giving day/week. She also highlighted the Youngstown Reception for the Bitonte College of Dentistry, Florida Outreach trips, and the NEOMED Alumni Association Awards Dinner on Saturday, April 5.

Chair McNair thanked Committee Chair Considine and Ms. Sureau for their report and asked Committee Chair Zelman to share the Academic and Scientific Affairs Committee report.

6. Report of the Academic and Scientific Affairs Committee

Susan Tave Zelman, Ph.D., Committee Chair

INFORM

Committee Chair Zelman reported that the committee approved the minutes from the December 5, 2024, meeting. The Committee reviewed and approved resolutions earlier today including the Colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy and Graduate Studies Class of 2025 graduates. Also addressed were the recommendations to approve the award of Degree, Doctor of Science, Honoris Causa to both Francis A. Papay, M.D. and Scott Becker, J.D., as well as recommendations to approve Professor of Emeritus to Dr. John M. Boltri, for the College of Medicine and Dean Emeritus to Dr. Richard J. Kasmer, in the College of Pharmacy. Distinguished University Professor designation was awarded to Dr. Brett Schofield. Dr. Faison brought forward several resolutions for Board approval including academic personnel actions, non-tenure track faculty appointments and non-tenure track faculty promotions.

Two new programs in the College of Graduate Studies were discussed: the Certified Mental Health Assistant Program (CMHA) and the Masters of Science in Health Data Science and AI. All resolutions brought forward to the Committee for consideration were unanimously approved. Dr. Julie Aultman provided an update on the College of Graduate Studies and Dr. Rebecca German shared educational insight on developments with NIH and the impacts it will have on research at NEOMED.

Chair McNair noted that all reports and action items were reviewed and approved in their respective committees and a second is not required. The Consent Agenda includes Resolutions R2025-01 through R2025-17. Chair McNair asked if any items required further discussion. There being none, the Consent Agenda was adopted. Chair McNair asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion moved by Trustee Timken and seconded by Trustee Considine. The Consent Agenda was approved unanimously.

Chair McNair turned the meeting over to President Langell for his report. Following Dr. Langell, Lacey Madison, Vice President for Strategy and Transformation shared updates related to the Strategic Plan Refresh, which was presented to the Board for Endorsement.

7. 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

Dr. Langell highlighted milestone events including the Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants White Coat ceremony (February 21), Match Day (March 21), and Commencement on May 3, 2025. He welcomed new Student Trustee Trinity Kronk, appointed by Governor Mike DeWine to run a two-year term through June 2026 and congratulated second year medical student Zarah Shah, recognized as an AMA Rising Star at the Interim Meeting of the American Medical Association in November. Dr. Langell also recognized NEOMED Alumni Teri Lash-Ritter, M.D., M.B.A., FAAFP, who was named president of the South Submarket of Cleveland Clinic's Northeast Ohio market. These are examples of NEOMED superstars doing great things and creating transformational leaders.

Dr. Langell discussed NEOMED's compliance with Federal and State laws mandated by the U.S. Department of Education and the Office for Civil Rights. The University held a Q&A session that was beneficial and said NEOMED is compliant with all policies. The State budget process is also underway, and the University is lobbying for a two percent increase in SSI.

The UH-NEOMED Affiliation agreement is thriving, offering new, and exciting programs and opportunities for students. A new College of Nursing with 200 clinical training spots per year is being developed and the business model will be presented to the Board for formal approval in June. The expansion is also funding a new center for maternal health and infant mortality, a neurodegenerative hearing research center, and continues to expand the Executive Education program which is now certified nationally with over 600 students participating in Lean Six Sigma programs. NEOMED recently celebrated the first Health and Wellbeing Coaching graduates and is also National Board Certified; the only school in the nation to do this.

Dr. Langell shared the Bitonte College of Dentistry has its first class of 50 students selected and the Certified Mental Health Assistant program, designed by NEOMED to address the critical workforce shortages and high demand, was signed by Governor DeWine, effective April 9, 2025. Other programs he highlighted included Vitals, Bench-to-Bedside, UH-NEOMED Faculty and

Student Scholars and Chalk Talk as part of the Cleveland Browns sponsorship. Dr. Langell also recognized and thanked Jim Dicke for his generous donation of 11 paintings from Australian artist Robert Hagen, currently displayed in the President's Suite hallway.

Dr. Langell reminded the Board that Commencement is May 3, 2025 and this year's speaker is Dr. Frank Papay, 1984 NEOMED alumni and Cleveland Clinic Chair of the Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery department.

Moving on to the Strategic Plan update, Dr. Langell provided an overview of progress to date and plans for the Refresh. The Strategic Plan includes 42 goals and objectives and said progress to date is at 92 percent. Finances are in incredible shape due to LSS processes and zero-based budgeting practices but the goal is to fund the University's mission and provide sustainability. The academic mission is thriving, research is expanding and growing and it is now time for a refresh. A team came together and engaged the community to streamline the mission to provide a vision to do something spectacular. Dr. Langell welcomed Lacey Madison, Vice President for Strategy and Transformation to share that vision.

Ms. Madison said the refresh plan involved a yearlong collaboration that actively engaged the NEOMED community for input through surveys, interviews, focus groups, and strategic planning sessions. Insight results included 17 percent overall response rate to all surveys, 24 percent NEOMED employee participation in strategic planning sessions, and over 500 data responses collected and analyzed. A streamlined three-pillar structure was created that includes academics, discovery and engagement and operations with 12 targeted strategic initiatives with value-driven action plans that outline specific steps to achieve the mission and vision. Dr. Langell asked for the Board's endorsement of the Strategic Plan Refresh with action planning beginning in phase four next. Endorsement was granted unanimously.

8. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

9. New Business

FFPI Committee Chair Timken, made a motion from the floor for a recommendation to authorize Dr. Langell to make adjustments to the University budget as needed. Trustee Timken shared that during the FFPI Committee meeting, Dr. Langell shared that the Chancellor from the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) asked universities' Board of Trustees to "hold" on approving FY26 tuition and fees until the State budget process is finalized. Dr. Langell requested the Board's approval to authorize him to adjust the FY26 tuition and fees policy as necessary until the State budget becomes law, to meet the request with the memo from the ODHE to the State of Ohio University Presidents dated March 4, 2025.

Chair McNair asked for a motion for the Board of Trustees to authorize President Langell to adjust the FY26 tuition and fees policy when the State budget becomes law to be consistent with the memo from the ODHE to the State of Ohio University Presidents dated March 4, 2025. Motion moved by Trustee Timken and seconded by Trustee Trueblood. The motion was unanimously approved.

9.1. Recommendation to Approve a Resolution to Appoint James F. Dickie, II as Advisory Trustee (R2025-18)

APPROVAL

Chair McNair asked for approval of the Resolution to appoint James F. Dickie, II as an Advisory Trustee. Mr. Dickie has been an instrumental figure in providing invaluable guidance and support to NEOMED. Mr. Dickie's extensive experience and leadership in the capital goods manufacturing industry and passion for and curation of the arts have made him a highly respected and influential figure. He has demonstrated exceptional strategic vision, a commitment to excellence, and a deep understanding of the complex challenges and opportunities organizations face today. The Board of Trustees acknowledges the value of continued association with Mr. Dickie to further advance the mission and vision of the University. Motion moved by Trustee Timken and seconded by Trustee Trueblood. The motion was carried unanimously by voice vote.

10. Adjournment

ADJOURN

Chair McNair reminded Trustees the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 3, 2025. Chair McNair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Considine moved approval and Trustee Timken seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

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