



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 3, 2025 12:15 PM
Northeast Ohio Medical University

Attendance

Present:

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, Robert Klunk, Mark S. Lerner,*

NEOMED Personnel: *Tricia Babkoff, Marc Basson, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., Frank Beck, D.D.S., FAAHD, Janet Coon, Forrest Faison III, M.D., Sc.D.(hon), FAAP, Rebecca German 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

Chair McNair called the meeting to order at 12:10 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 March 4, 2025, Meeting

APPROVAL

Chair McNair noted that all Trustees had received copies of the minutes from the full Board meeting on March 4, 2025. He asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections. There being none, Chair McNair called for a motion to approve the March 4, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion moved by Trustee Timken and seconded by Trustee Trueblood. Motion is approved unanimously.

2. Oath of Office

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

There has not been an appointment for a new trustee from the Governor to date.

Chair McNair stated Dr. Langell would begin this meeting with his report, followed by executive session and committee reports. Chair McNair then turned the meeting over to Dr. Langell for his report.

3. Report of the President

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

INFORM

Dr. Langell provided a recap of the progress NEOMED has made during his tenure over the last five years, and the extraordinary accomplishments and improvements including overcoming the 2020 global pandemic, creating exceptional student experience programs and achieving full LCME accreditation. NEOMED achieved financial and operational stability using zero-based budgeting practices, operational excellence training and Lean Six Sigma initiatives, created a new strategic plan to create transformational leaders, and made numerous infrastructure improvements totaling over \$46 million within the last five years. Highlights of those improvements include the relocation of The POD Bookstore, the Collegiate Military Purple Star Lounge, academic space improvements, new student study spaces, the Timken MEDIC Innovation Space, and the Bitonte College of Dentistry.

Dr. Langell talked about the focus on faculty and staff empowerment, support and recognition, strategic initiative funding opportunities, and successes within each of the four colleges. He highlighted the success of NEOMED's partnerships and new ventures including a major new affiliation agreement, and five-year joint strategic plan with University Hospitals, creating Executive Education programs, expansive research and leadership partnerships, and expansive clerkships in medicine, pharmacy, anesthesia and dental. The University has received strong financial support through funding and programs in collaboration with state and federal legislature, and NEOMED has seen a 74 percent growth in gross revenue from 2018-2025 and a four percent decrease in total debt with multiple increases in Bond Rating. NEOMED is financially strong with prestigious brand recognition and is ranked as one of the best medical schools in the country by U.S. News and World Report.

Finally, after highlighting major successes Dr. Langell presented the future of NEOMED and the 2030 Strategic Plan for creating transformational leaders. He went over the mission, vision and core values that include three pillars to focus on academics, discovery & engagement and operations and the goals for each pillar. Goals in the new strategic plan include academic growth and class expansion in all colleges to meet Ohio's workforce requirements, the launch of a College of Nursing, NEOMED Dental Clinic, expansion of NEOMED Executive Education, research growth, and campus expansion to include many more exciting amenities such as a fourth village tower, campus retail space, student club sports and entertainment options.

4. Executive Session

DISCUSS

Chair McNair thanked Dr. Langell for his report and called for a motion to go into executive session to discuss legal matters. Motion moved by Trustee Timken and seconded by Trustee Trueblood.

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 Considine to provide a summary of the Institutional Advancement Committee.

5. Report of the Institutional Advancement Committee

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

Committee Chair Considine confirmed the minutes of the March 4, 2025, meeting was approved, and no resolutions were brought forward before the committee. He introduced Mark Lerner; the new Foundation Board Chair and Sophie Sureau provided an update on progress related to FY25 goals. She shared Advancement's streamlined organizational chart, with two important positions left to fill, which will focus on managing alumni portfolios and engaging alumni relationships.

FY25 will finish strong with gifts and pledges totaling \$5.1M; the Blue Fund unrestricted dollars doubled thanks to donations from Grand Casino Night, Paul Bishop and Jim Dicke, II. Ms. Sureau reviewed fundraising campaigns, highlighting Giving Week with a record success raising over \$200,000 and discussed the new Blue Fund Allocation on Restricted Gifts with the goal of managing the NEOMED Foundation budget to reduce the dependence on University and Reserve support.

Chair McNair thanked Committee Chair Considine 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 minutes from the March 4, 2025 meeting were approved and the committee reviewed and approved resolutions earlier including academic personnel actions, nontenure-track faculty appointments, and nontenure-track faculty promotions. The committee discussed a College of Dentistry tenure track for Dr. Sorin Teich, effective July 1 and a College of Medicine tenure track for Dr. Amy Wilson-Delfosse, effective June 1.

Also addressed was the review and approval of the low enrollment and duplicate course and program evaluation report. The Board is required to review and evaluate if any recommendations

or changes need to be made. It was determined that no action needs to be taken at this time and the chancellor will be notified as required by ORC Section 3345.35.

The Board also recommended to approve Dean Emeritus to Dr. Frank Beck for the Bitonte College of Dentistry. Dr. Beck was an unwavering advocate in launching the Bitonte College of Dentistry in record time. All resolutions brought forward to the Committee for consideration were unanimously approved.

Dr. German shared an update on research and after the meeting a tour of the Bitonte College of Dentistry Simulation Lab and Clinic was provided.

Chair McNair thanked Committee Zelman for her report and asked Committee Chair Timken to share the Finance, Fiscal Policy, and Investment Committee report.

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

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

INFORM

Committee Chair Timken shared March 4, 2025, meeting minutes were approved. Representatives from Clearstead reviewed the University's investments as well as the Investment Policy and NEOMED's financial report is stable and good. Resolutions were brought forward for approval including hourly and administrative personnel. Ms. Taylor also provided information related to two capital expenditure projects including air handler replacement and roof replacement, both exceeding \$500,000. She discussed the FY26 student fees for approval and budget scenarios for planning purposes being considered in anticipation of the final state budget. Finally, Ms. Taylor shared recommended changes to the Operating and Endowment Funds Investment Policy Statement that was revised due to the passage of Senate Bill 6.

Chair McNair thanked Committee Chair Timken for his report and noted that all action items were reviewed and approved in their respective committees and a second is not required. The Consent Agenda includes Resolutions R2025-19 through R2025-31. 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 second by Trustee Trueblood. The Consent Agenda was approved.

8. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

9. New Business

Chair McNair noted several items under new business to discuss and asked Dr. Langell to provide background on Resolutions R2025-32-R2025-34.

9.1. Recommendation to Approve a Resolution for Starting a College of Nursing (R2025-32)

The College of Nursing Steering Committee and University administration recommend the establishment of a College of Nursing to increase opportunities for students from Ohio and throughout the nation to pursue and obtain a degree in Nursing which will contribute to the economic growth of the state and Northeast Ohio where health care education, research and service play a prominent role in contributing to the region's economic growth and prosperity. There is a well-documented, persistent shortage of registered nurses across Ohio and the United States that is exacerbated by an aging population, increased chronic disease burden, and retirement of the current nursing workforce. Motion moved by Trustee Timken and seconded by Trustee Considine. Motion approved unanimously.

9.2. Recommendation to Approve the Lease Agreement for space at the Midtown Collaboration Center (R2025-33)

NEOMED requires additional academic, research, and office space. Space has been identified that will meet this need at East 66th Street and Euclid Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio with the Cleveland Foundation conveniently located near the University's clinical partners in Cleveland. The five-year lease and total amount anticipated exceeds \$500,000 and requires Board approval. Motion moved by Trustee Chesnes and seconded by Trustee Timken. Motion approved unanimously.

9.3. Recommendation to Approve the Resolution for Voluntary Intergovernmental Transfer (R2025-34)

APPROVAL

A recommendation to approve the Voluntary Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT) on behalf of University Hospitals Health System, Inc. (UH) up to \$100M was approved. This partnership assists with growth opportunities for new clinical rotations, innovation, and research opportunities for students. Motion moved by Trustee Chesnes and seconded by Trustee Zelman. Motion approved unanimously.

9.4. Recommendation to Approve a Resolution of Appreciation to Omer S. Ashruf, M.D. (R2025-35)

Chair McNair recognized Dr. Ashruf, who ends his term as Student Trustee. Dr. Ashruf served as Student Trustee since June 2023, representing the voice and interests of the student body with integrity, professionalism, and compassion. Dr. Ashruf holds several leadership roles in the community and University. Throughout his tenure he earned recognition for his contributions and achievements. Dr. Ashruf was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society, selected as a

member of the Virtuous Healer Honor Society, and awarded the William H. Falor Research Award recognizing his outstanding work in research including 11 co-authored publications. Chair McNair asked for a motion to approve a resolution of appreciation to Omer S. Ashruf, M.D. Motion moved by Trustee Timken and seconded by Trustee McQueen. Motion unanimously approved.

10. Adjournment

ADJOURN

Chair McNair reminded Trustees the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 9, 2025. Chair McNair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Timken moved approval and Trustee Considine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

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