



# Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Northeast Ohio Medical University - Cook Hall

## Attendance

### Present:

**Trustee:** Darrell L. McNair, M.B.A., Chair, William H. Considine, M.H.S.A., Vice Chair, Paul Bishop, J.D., Sharlene Ramos Chesnes, Trinity A. Kronk, Karen Soehnlén McQueen, J.D., Guido Shero, 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

**NEOMED Personnel:** Julie M. Aultman, Ph.D., Tricia Babkoff, Marc Basson, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., Janet Coon, Rebecca German Ph.D., Nicole Kent-Strollo, Deborah Loyet, 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, Sorin T. Teich, D.M.D., M.B.A.

### 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 1:00 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 June 3, 2025, Meeting

##### APPROVAL

Chair McNair noted that all Trustees had received copies of the minutes from the full Board meeting on June 3, 2025. He asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections. There being none, Chair McNair called for a motion to approve the June 3, 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.*

Chair McNair welcomed Guido Shero, J.D., a second-year medical student in the College of Medicine and the University's newly appointed Student Trustee. Mr. Shero earned his bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University and his law degree from Cleveland State University. Following completion of his J.D., Mr. Shero served in the Marine Corps as an F-18 pilot. An injury during his service ultimately inspired him to pursue a career in medicine. Following the introduction, Maria Schimer administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Shero.

### **3. Executive Session**

DISCUSS

Chair McNair called for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters. Motion moved by Trustee Trueblood and seconded by Trustee Considine. Ms. Coon took a Roll Call Vote.

Chair McNair moved to reconvene the Board meeting and Trustee Trueblood 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.

### **4. Report of the Institutional Advancement Committee**

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

Committee Chair Considine confirmed the minutes of the June 3, 2025, meeting were approved and no resolutions were brought forward before the committee. Sophie Sureau, Vice President for Advancement and President of the NEOMED Foundation provided an update on Development, Advancement Services and Alumni Engagement. Ms. Sureau reported strong fundraising momentum, with total attainment peaking at \$13M in 2023 and continued growth projected through 2026. The Blue Fund and unrestricted giving have both more than doubled since 2021, already surpassing key goals. Looking ahead, FY26 priorities include raising \$8.5M, strengthening alumni engagement and giving, and improving efficiency in advancement operations. She also highlighted recent fundraising successes and milestone events, while noting alumni engagement remains an area of focus.

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

### **5. Report of the Academic and Scientific Affairs Committee**

*Susan Tave Zelman, Ph.D., Committee Chair*

Committee Chair Zelman reported that the minutes from the June 3, 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. Also addressed was the review and approval of the Intellectual Diversity Policy. The University adopted this policy prior to June 27, 2025 and the Board is required to review and approve the policy within 90 days of the effective date of legislation.

All resolutions (R2025-36-R2025-39) brought forward to the Committee for consideration were unanimously approved. Dr. Teich, the new Dean of the Bitonte College of Dentistry, shared an update on the College as they welcomed 52 students into the inaugural class. Dr. German provided an update on Research.

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

**6. Report of the Finance, Fiscal Policy and Investment Committee**

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

INFORM

Committee Chair Timken shared the June 3, 2025 committee meeting minutes were approved. Three resolutions were brought forward to the Committee for consideration and were also unanimously approved. The first involving Hourly and Administrative Personnel included 19 appointments, 13 changes and 19 separations. The second resolution was for approval of a modified FY26 budget and the third resolution was to approve capital expenditure for the Build Out of the 8,243 square feet of space in the MidTown Collaboration Center in Cleveland that NEOMED is leasing. Claire Xu from Clearstead presented the financial portfolio which shows the University in good standing with no recommendations for changes. Mary Taylor discussed financial updates related to finance, fiscal policy and investments.

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 R2025-36 through R2025-42. 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 Trueblood and seconded by Trustee Timken. Motion is approved unanimously.

**7. Report of the Nominating Committee**

*Sharlene Ramos-Chesnes, Committee Chair*

INFORM

Chair McNair asked Committee Chair Chesnes to provide the report of the Nominating Committee. Committee Chair Chesnes said the Committee discussed nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair of the NEOMED Board of Trustees.

The Committee discussed the need for continuity on the Board, continuation of the Board culture, and the goals and mission of the University. Two individuals indicated their interest and willingness to commit the time and effort to serve as Board Officers. Committee members agreed that it is in the best interest of the University that both the Board Chair and Vice Chair should serve in their positions for another one-year term, provided they are willing to do so, as they have done well leading the Board in the past year as officers.

Secretary Coon informed the Committee that Board Chair Darrell L. McNair expressed his interest and willingness to serve as Chair for another one-year term which would fulfill a two-year term commitment, if elected by the full board. Secretary Coon also informed the Committee that Vice-Chair William H. Considine expressed his interest and willingness to serve as Vice-Chair. She also shared that Karen Soehnlen McQueen was interested in being considered for a leadership role.

After discussion, the Nominating Committee recommended to the Board moving the nominations of Darrell L. McNair as Chair and William H. Considine as Vice Chair for one-year terms to conclude their two-year term commitments. Secretary Coon noted that other Trustees may be nominated from the floor or self-nominate if they desire to do so. There were no additional nominations from the floor.

Chair McNair thanked Committee Chair Chesnes for her report and turned the meeting over to President Langell for his report.

## **8. Report of the President**

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

INFORM

Dr. Langell gave a warm welcome to Guido Shero, J.D., NEOMED's new Student Trustee, sharing his confidence that Mr. Shero will be an outstanding voice for students. He was excited to spotlight several recent milestones on campus including three White Coat Ceremonies for the Colleges of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy, marking the largest incoming class in NEOMED's history. Another historic moment came with the Bitonte College of Dentistry Ribbon Cutting on August 22, where the University celebrated with the Bitonte Family, elected officials, and officially welcomed its very first dental student.

Reflecting on the nearly complete success of the 2025 Strategic Plan, which achieved 99 percent of its goals across six pillars, Dr. Langell shared the 2030 Strategic Plan Refresh and its vision comprising six key elements that highlight statewide collaboration, robust financial health, campus beautification and smart growth, commitment to discovery and innovation, leveraging data sciences to modernize and transform health and increasing brand visibility. Key initiatives underway include the new lease at the Midtown Collaboration Center in Cleveland, the UH-NEOMED Maternal and Child Health Collaborative and exciting partnerships with The Christ Hospital Health Network and Miami University.

Dr. Langell also congratulated this year's President's Excellence Award recipients: Jordan Cinderich and Joann Hayes (Continuous Improvement), Jesse Young, Ph.D., (Excellence in Teaching - Rootstown Based) and Dr. Thomas Mike (Excellence in Teaching - Clinical Faculty). He reminded everyone a reception will be held to celebrate the great work these winners are doing following the meeting in the MEDIC Space.

## 9. Old Business

DISCUSS

### 9.1. Recommendation to Approve a Resolution of Appreciation to President, John T. Langell, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., FACS (R2025-43)

APPROVAL

At the June 3 Board meeting, Chair McNair shared that the Board would like to approve a resolution to formally recognize Dr. Langell's leadership as president following a successful completion of the 2025 Strategic Plan. Chair McNair shared Dr. Langell's successes as he guided the University with steady leadership through financial and global challenges, ensuring stability and student success. In just a few years, he oversaw the creation of the Bitonte College of Dentistry, secured accreditation, and launched new programs such as the Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant and Certified Mental Health Assistant, expanding academic opportunities and meeting workforce needs. Dr. Langell strengthened partnerships with hospitals and clinical affiliates, completed the 2025 Strategic Plan, and with the 2030 Strategic Plan, positions the University for sustainable growth, innovation, and long-term excellence.

Chair McNair asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Motion moved by Trustee Trueblood and seconded by Trustee Timken. Motion is approved unanimously.

## 10. New Business

DISCUSS

### 10.1. Voting for Annual Leadership per bylaws

APPROVAL

Maria Schimer administered the Oath of Office to Chair McNair and Vice Chair Considine. Chair McNair also expressed appreciation to Janet Coon, Tricia Babkoff and Heather McColloch for their dedicated behind-the-scenes efforts in preparing for the Board of Trustees meetings.

### 10.2. Recommendation to Approve a Resolution of Appreciation to Sharlene Ramos-Chesnes (R2025-44)

APPROVAL

Every year a Trustee rotates off the Board after a nine-year term; today a Resolution of Appreciation was presented for approval to Trustee Sharlene Ramos-Chesnes. Ms. Chesnes, NEOMED's longest-serving Trustee with nearly twelve years of dedicated service, has made a lasting impact through her leadership as CEO, entrepreneur, and trusted University leader. She chaired key committees, contributed to every standing committee, and played a vital role in shaping NEOMED's governance and strategic direction. A champion for inclusivity in business and

higher education, her vision and commitment have strengthened the University, advanced Ohio's healthcare workforce, and left a historic legacy of transformative service.

Chair McNair asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Motion moved by Trustee Trueblood and seconded by Trustee Timken. Motion is approved unanimously.

#### **11. Adjournment**

Chair McNair reminded Trustees that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 2, 2025 and asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion moved by Trustee Timken and seconded by Trustee Trueblood. The meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m. Motion is approved unanimously.

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