



# Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Northeast Ohio Medical University  
Mar 7, 2024 at 1:00 PM EST

## Attendance

**Trustees:** *E. Douglas Beach, Ph.D., Chair, Darrell L. McNair, M.B.A., Vice Chair, Omer Ashruf, Sharlene Ramos Chesnes, William H. Considine, M.H.S.A., Karen Soehnlen McQueen, J.D., Olivia Safady, 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 Aultman, Ph.D., Tricia Babkoff, Marc Basson, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., M. Frank Beck, D.D.S., Janet Coon, Forrest Faison III, M.D., Sc.D.(hon), FAAP, Jean Fox, D.D.S., Patrick J. Gallegos, Rebecca Z. German, Ph.D., Jeanne Hoban, Lacey A. Madison, M.B.A., M.Ed., LSSBB, Heather McColloch, Maria R. Schimer, J.D., M.P.H., Mary Taylor, M. Tax., CPA, Katherine Tromp, Pharm.D., David Vitatoe*

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

*E. Douglas Beach, Chair*

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

### Request for Recusal

REQUEST FOR RECUSAL

Chair Beach called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM. Secretary Coon called the roll and noted that a quorum was present. Chair Beach 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 November 30, 2023 Meeting

APPROVAL

Chair Beach noted that all Trustees had received copies of the minutes from the full Board meeting on November 30, 2023. He asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections. There being none, Chair Beach called for a motion to approve the November 30, 2023 meeting minutes.

Motion moved by Trustee Timken and seconded by Trustee Zelman.

### 2. Oath of Office

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

Chair Beach welcomed newly appointed Trustee, Karen Soehnlen McQueen, J.D. Chair Beach asked Attorney Schimer to administer the Oath.

#### 2.1. New Trustee

The Oath of Office to new Trustee Karen Soehnlen McQueen was administered by Attorney Schimer.

### **3. Executive Session**

DISCUSS

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

Chair Beach moved to reconvene the Board meeting. He confirmed no action was taken during Executive Session.

Chair Beach said all committees met in the morning, approved their respective resolutions, and moved to include them in the Consent Agenda. This includes Resolutions 2024-01 through 2024-19. Chair Beach asked Committee Chair McNair to provide a summary of the Institutional Advancement Committee meeting.

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

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

#### **4.1. FY24 Progress on Goals**

Committee Chair McNair confirmed the minutes of the November 30, 2023, meeting was approved and there were no resolutions for review. David Vitatoe, Senior Director of Alumni Relations, provided a presentation on Development, Advancement Services, and Alumni Engagement. He shared the success of NEOMED Connect since its launch in January and talked about exciting upcoming events including Giving Day.

Chair Beach thanked Committee Chair McNair for his report and asked Committee Chair Zelman to provide an update on the Academic and Scientific Affairs Committee.

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

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

Committee Chair Zelman thanked Dr. Langell for sending all trustees a copy of the book, *"Whatever It Is, I Am Against It," Resistance To Change In Higher Education* by Brian Rosenberg, and encouraged everyone to read it.

She said the minutes from the November 30, 2023, meeting was approved, and the Committee reviewed and approved resolutions including the Colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy, and Graduate Studies Class of 2024 graduates. Recommendations for the Award of Degree, Doctor of Science Honoris Causa to Mr. Paul R. Bishop, J.D., and Mr. Ward J. "Jack" Timken, both well-deserving candidates, were brought forth as well as the recommendations to approve Professor Emeritus to Angelo DeLucia, Ph.D. and Thomas M. File, Jr., M.D. The committee also awarded three faculty members with the Distinguished University Professor designation including Dr. Michael Forbes, Dr. Joseph Zarconi, and Dr. Yanqiao Zhang.

Dr. Faison reviewed additional resolutions including academic personnel actions, nontenure-track faculty appointments, and nontenure-track faculty promotions. The committee discussed College of Pharmacy nontenure-track promotions for Dr. Kunal Amin, Dr. Magdi Awad, and Dr. Stephanie Lehmier. All resolutions (R2024-01 through R2024-14) were reviewed by the Committee and were unanimously approved. Dr. Frank Beck provided an update on the College of Dentistry and Dr. Rebecca German shared highlights on Research and Sponsored Programs.

Chair Beach thanked Dr. Zelman and asked Committee Chair Timken to provide a summary of the Finance, Fiscal Policy, and Investment Committee.

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

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

Committee Chair Timken said the November 30, 2023, minutes were approved. Grant Guyuron from Clearstead was present with an update on the University's portfolio, which is recovering well with no recommended changes. Several resolutions were discussed and approved including Hourly Personnel, Administrative Personnel, FY25 Tuition and Fees, and two Capital Renovation Projects exceeding \$500,000.

Chair Beach 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 R2024-01 through R2024-10 and R2024-12 through R2024-19. Chair Beach asked if any items required further discussion. There being none, the Consent Agenda was adopted.

Chair Beach asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion moved by Trustee Zelman and seconded by Trustee McNair. The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.

Next was the approval of the Resolution of Honorary Degree for Ward "Jack" Timken. Chair Beach moved approval of Resolution (R2024-11) and the motion was seconded by Trustee Chesnes.

Chair Beach turned the meeting over to Dr. Langell for the President's Report.

## **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 spoke about the exciting upcoming University events. The Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants White Coat Ceremony is February 23; White Coat ceremonies for M1 and P1 students will occur in July and August. He said these ceremonies are incredible events as students are inducted into clinical rounds with white coats and officially welcomed into their clinical professions.

March 15 is Match Day, a wonderful and fun event to celebrate students' success. The University has witnessed great match results within the College of Medicine (COM), which is an indicator of how well the University performs and a key metric is early match. Ophthalmology is a competitive field and Dr. Langell recognized the five M4 students who were matched into this specialty, as well as four students with Military matches; both are amazing accomplishments.

NEOMED's annual Biomedical Innovation Competition is scheduled for May 1 from 4-7 PM in the NEW Center. The competition is comprised of teams that work with clinician mentors to understand an unmet medical need, develop new technology or process ideas, and move them through the FDA elements. This is the third year for this competition and NEOMED is pleased to have the new partnership with Bounce Innovation Hub's Kinetic to support and promote the event.

The University Hospitals-NEOMED Affiliation has taken off incredibly well. Within the first year, NEOMED has been awarded \$5 million by UH to grow programming and over \$23 million in funding projects with this partnership. One example is the Vitals program where UH is the sponsor, providing financial resources for great talent. This collaboration continues to thrive and the University looks forward to a strong, long-term partnership. NEOMED is also working with Manatt on developing a five-year strategic plan for the University to grow within the joint UH-NEOMED Affiliation. This collaboration will offer more mentors for students and exciting opportunities.

Dr. Langell briefly highlighted the success of NEOMED Connect, a powerful tool for students to grow research opportunities, gain insight, and pursue ways to provide care. He also touched on the launch of Executive Education, fully funded by UH, which will set the University apart and provide growth opportunities.

The first of many UH-NEOMED Faculty and Student Scholars Receptions will take place following the Board meeting. Dr. Daniel Simon and Dr. Langell will present the awards to the scholars who also receive \$10,000 to use for additional resources or academic programming. Congratulations to the recipients.

The Bitonte College of Dentistry is now preparing for the final hurdle, the Commission on Dental Accreditation site visit. CODA is the culmination of a great deal of work and thousands of documents put together to create a new public dental college.

In conclusion, Dr. Langell highlighted other campus events including the Liebelt Memorial Service for Robert A. Liebelt, the first dean of the COM, the annual Employee and Faculty Recognition and Award Ceremony, and commencement, on Saturday, May 4. Dr. Dan Simon is this year's commencement speaker; Friday evening NEOMED will celebrate with a commencement eve dinner for trustees, and distinguished university professors and staff.

Dr. Langell invited Lacey Madison to provide the Strategic Plan update.

Ms. Madison reported the Strategic Plan is at 72 percent progress overall and is ahead of the goal. Executive Education has launched and the University is moving into the space of professional development in collaboration with University Hospitals. The NEOMED Executive Education program offers high-quality, professional development programs that prepare health professionals to lead teams, optimize systems, and improve health care. The portfolio focuses on healthcare systems, operations, and academic medicine, exceptional learner experience, highly qualified instructors, and a hybrid learning model.

Ms. Madison said the NEOMED Lean Six Sigma enterprise was expanded to healthcare and designed with the UH Lean team. The LSS Yellow and Green Belts focus on quality improvement and data analysis to increase operational efficiency, improve patient satisfaction and outcomes, and control process variation in the organization. Yellow Belt was launched in January, Green Belt in March, and the Black Belt program shortly.

FAME Education focuses on medical and graduate education and residency program leadership. The education track equips healthcare professionals with the skills needed to become effective educators.

FAME Research highlights research design, statistics, biostatistics, and data analysis. The research track is designed for clinicians and health profession educators who wish to improve their skills as clinical researchers and scholars.

The Health and Well-being Coaching Certificate Program is preparing UH employees for an anticipated new billable service line and is accredited by the National Board for Health and Wellness Coaching (NBHWC).

Finally, Faculty Innovation, Research, and Entrepreneurship (FIRE) focuses on resources and mentorship needed to allow a novice inventor to go from concept to commercialization using the DesignBox process. This is a complex process of turning an idea into an FDA-cleared and commercially available technology.

**8. Old Business**

DISCUSS

**9. New Business**

DISCUSS

**10. Adjournment**

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Beach reminded trustees that the next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 20, 2024. He also encouraged trustees to attend the UH-NEOMED Faculty and Student Scholars' presentation reception in the Watanakunakorn Atrium beginning at 4 p.m.

Chair Beach called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. No one opposed. Motion moved by Trustee Timken and seconded by Trustee McNair. The meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

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