



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Northeast Ohio Medical University
October 10, 2024 at 1:15 PM EST

Attendance

Trustees: *E. Douglas Beach, Ph.D., Chair, Darrell L. McNair, M.B.A., Vice Chair, Paul Bishop, William H. Considine, M.H.S.A., Robert J. Klonek, Karen Soehnen 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*

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, Lindsey Loftus; 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.*

Absent: *Omer Ashruf, Sharlene Ramos Chesnes*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

E. Douglas Beach, Ph.D., Chair

Request for Recusal

Request for Recusal

Chair Beach called the meeting to order at 1:09 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 June 20, 2024, Meeting

APPROVAL

Chair Beach noted that all Trustees had received copies of the minutes from the full Board meeting on June 20, 2024. He asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections. There being none, Chair Beach called for a motion to approve the June 20, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion moved by Trustee McNair and seconded by Trustee Timken.

2. Oath of Office

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

3. Executive Session

DISCUSS

Chair Beach called for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters. Motion moved by Trustee McNair and seconded by Trustee Timken. Ms. Coon called the roll and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Chair Beach moved to reconvene the Board meeting. Chair Beach confirmed that during Executive Session, no action was taken. Motion moved by Trustee McNair and seconded by Trustee Considine. The motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Chair Beach stated that all committees met previously, approved their respective resolutions, and moved to include them in a Consent Agenda. This includes Resolutions 2024-29 through 2024-40. 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

INFORM

Committee Chair McNair confirmed the June 20, 2024 meeting minutes were approved and no resolutions were brought forth for review; he thanked Trustee Trueblood for chairing the committee meeting earlier in his absence. Committee Chair McNair said Advancement goals have fallen short due to personnel issues but is confident with the arrival of Ms. Sureau, the University and Foundation will get back on track. Ms. Sureau then introduced herself and provided a short recap of Advancement's FY25 goals and upcoming events. She highlighted gifts and pledges for the current year and growth targets. The team is focused on making incremental increases each year in the Blue Fund and overall cash and pledges to secure \$10 million annually by FY27. Committee Chair McNair also reminded trustees of the Casino Night on November 1 as one of the most important University events and encouraged all to commit to some level of sponsorship. 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

INFORM

Committee Chair Zelman reported that the committee approved the minutes from the May 30, 2024, meeting. Dr. Faison brought forward several resolutions for Board approval including academic personnel actions, tenure, and non-tenure track faculty appointments. Recommendations to approve Professor Emeritus, Department of Internal Medicine to Dr. William Gardner and Dr. Joseph Zarconi were also brought forth for approval. Dr. Beck shared an update regarding the University's Bitonte College of Dentistry and the construction of the dental lab. Finally, Dr. Faison provided updates for Research and Sponsored Programs as well as increased enrollment for the College of Graduate Studies.

Chair Beach thanked Committee Chair Zelman for her report 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

INFORM

Committee Chair Timken confirmed the minutes from the May 30, 2024, meeting were approved during the Committee meeting. Several resolutions were discussed including hourly and administrative personnel and capital expenditures to refresh the Student Quiet Study Space. Ms. Taylor presented language on the intent of the University to locally administer capital projects using state appropriations less than \$4 million and shared information related to the sponsorship agreement with the Cleveland Browns for brand recognition.

Claire Xu and Mike Shebak from Clearstead shared an update on the University's portfolio which showed a slight downturn earlier in the year but remains positive overall. They provided a cash flow review and recommended the University maintain its current cash position given the outlook of the market and cash needs. Finally, Ms. Taylor noted that there were changes within the Key Performance Indicators Report in the Board book, but no updates related to finance, fiscal policy, and investments.

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 R2024-29 through R2024-40. 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 Timken and seconded by Trustee McNair. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

7. Report of the Nominating Committee

Chair E. Douglas Beach, Ph.D., Philip L. Trueblood, Susan Tave Zelman, Ph.D., John T. Langell, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H. M.B.A., FACS, Ex Officio

7.1. Report of the August 1, 2024 Nominating Committee Meeting

INFORM

Committee Chair Beach shared the report of the Nominating Committee, who communicated via e-mail on August 1, 2024, to discuss nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair of the NEOMED Board of Trustees. Board Secretary Janet Coon was also included in communications.

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 Vice Chair Darrell L. McNair expressed his interest and willingness to serve as the next Board Chair and Trustee William H. Considine expressed his interest and willingness to serve as Vice Chair. There were no additional nominations from the floor.

8. Election of Officers

APPROVAL

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Committee Chair Beach moved to nominate Darrell L. McNair as Chair and William H. Considine as Vice Chair. There were no other nominations. Motion moved by Chair Beach and seconded by Trustee McQueen. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

8.1. Oath of Office to Chair

OATH

Attorney Schimer administered the oath of office to Chair Darrell L. McNair.

8.2. Oath of Office to Vice Chair

OATH

Attorney Schimer administered the oath of office to Vice Chair William H. Considine.

9. 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 said great things are happening at NEOMED and he is pleased to share the progress. Students are back to school and the University reports record enrollment at 1,048 students, which is up eight percent since 2020. The College of Medicine enrolled its largest class with 192 first year students and is attracting top talent with an average MCAT score of 515. The Village Apartments is at 99 percent capacity and discussions are underway to open a fourth tower.

For the second consecutive year, NEOMED is ranked among the Best Grad Schools by U.S. News and World Report as 23rd in the nation in Most Diverse Medical Schools. Dr. Langell said only one school in the state, Ohio State University, ranked slightly higher than NEOMED. This stellar ranking is an important reflection of the great work being done around diversity and the population of students is reflective of the community they serve.

Dr. Langell also shared exciting news that all programs of Executive Education have launched and University Hospitals are heavily utilizing these programs to empower their workforce. The Bitonte College of Dentistry received final approval from the Commission on Dental Accreditation in August; construction on the dental clinic is in progress as well as admissions preparations and hiring faculty and staff. Following today's board meeting, there will be a ceremony to celebrate the groundbreaking on this fourth college at NEOMED.

In other exciting news, Dr. Langell welcomed two new additions to the University. Dr. Saira Ismail, M.D., as the Medical Director of the NEOMED Free Clinic and Sophie Sureau, Vice President of Advancement. He also spoke of the Timken Foundation Medical Design and Innovation Center (MEDIC), which recently opened. The state-of-the-art facility, made possible by the Timken Family Foundation, is a space for students to collaborate, and promote innovation in medical technology through programs such as Bench to Bedside.

On November 4 NEOMED will celebrate Military Appreciation Day by hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly renovated Purple Star Veterans Lounge. The University is recognized as a Collegiate Purple Star Award Institution for providing high level support for students with military backgrounds. This is a beautiful space and during the ceremony, NEOMED is excited to announce a new partnership with the U.S. Airforce, West Point and the Navel Academy to guarantee spots in medical school for veterans.

Dr. Langell talked about NEOMED's sponsorship with the Cleveland Browns to increase name recognition both regionally and nationally, increase brand profile in Ohio and build awareness of how NEOMED serves the Greater Cleveland community. Dr. Langell noted this is something different and is valuable as it aligns well with University Hospitals and their partnership with the franchise.

Dr. Langell recognized and thanked outstanding NEOMED faculty, staff and students. He praised the NEOMED Police Department and their outstanding efforts to maintain a safe and peaceful campus environment during a recent incident in the community. The team was ready and prepared to patrol and lock down campus until the threat was cleared. He also congratulated recipients of the President's Awards: Craig Theissen, 2023 Staff Excellence in Continuous Improvement, Scott Rutan, 2024 Staff Excellence in Continuous Improvement, Feng Dong, M.D., Ph.D., 2024 Excellence in Teaching (Rootstown Faculty) and Cheryl Johnson, M.D., FACOG, 2024 Excellence in Teaching (Clinical Faculty). Congratulations was also given to Michaela Stamper (M4), recipient of an AMA Foundation 'Physicians of Tomorrow Scholarship,' and Hannah Haynie, manager of the NEOMED Free Clinic, who was named Crain's Business 20 in their 20's.

To end his report, Dr. Langell, thanked and recognized Chair Beach for his significant efforts and distinguished service on behalf of the University during his nine years of service as a Trustee.

Dr. Langell then asked Lacey Madison, Vice President for Strategy and Transformation, to provide the University Strategic Plan update. Ms. Madison and her team have done an amazing job and the plan is at 85 percent completion across six pillars and 42 strategic initiatives with a refresh plan on the way.

Ms. Madison said the team led a Voice of Customer (VOC) survey at the University Picnic in August and results indicated 93 percent of students feel NEOMED delivers on its mission. Students indicate that NEOMED excels at a sense of community, focus on diversity and inclusion, and curriculum and academic quality. Areas for expansion include research and innovation, study spaces and facilities, and support services for diversity and inclusion. Areas for improvement include more dining options, curriculum and academic structure, community and extracurricular activities, engagement, and communication.

The refresh plan is a more streamlined approach and includes three pillars: Academics, Research, and Operations. The 10-12 strategic initiatives align with University targets and will integrate focus areas of quality, exceptional experience, growth, operational excellence, and brand equity. Ms. Madison said this team has changed the culture at NEOMED; there is a sense of community and support, which was lacking five years ago.

10. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

11. New Business

DISCUSS

11.1. Recommendation to Approve a Resolution to Appoint Robert J. Klonk as Advisory Trustee (R2024-41)

APPROVAL

Chair McNair asked for approval of the Resolution to appoint Robert J. Klonk as an Advisory Trustee. Mr. Klonk has demonstrated exceptional dedication and service to NEOMED through his involvement and contributions. Mr. Klonk's professional expertise, strategic insights, leadership, and strong community relationships have continued to significantly benefit the NEOMED community. The Board of Trustees acknowledges the value of continued association with Mr. Klonk 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.

11.2. Recommendation to Approve a Resolution of Appreciation to E. Douglas Beach, Ph.D. (R2024-42)

APPROVAL

Chair Beach's term is concluding. Chair McNair asked for approval of the Resolution of Appreciation for E. Douglas Beach, Ph.D. Dr. Beach has provided exemplary leadership, insight, and dedication, contributing significantly to the governance and strategic direction of NEOMED. Dr. Beach served as Chair and Vice Chair of the NEOMED Board of Trustees; Chair of the NEOMED Trusteeship Committee; Chair of the Academic and Scientific Affairs Committee; and as a member of the Academic and Scientific Affairs; Institutional Advancement; Finance, Fiscal Policy and Investment; Trusteeship and Executive Committees; he provided advice and support for financial stability, campus expansion, faculty workload policy, the addition of academic programs in the College of Graduate Studies and the Bitonte College of Dentistry, all of which will strengthen the healthcare workforce in Ohio.

Dr. Beach is the Chief Executive Officer of the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging and throughout his career, his focus has been advocating for elders at the federal, state, and local levels. Dr. Beach combines expertise, business insight, and deep respect for older adults and individuals with disabilities, offering comprehensive leadership and broad guidance in navigating future opportunities and addressing anticipated challenges. Over the past decade, Dr. Beach has revitalized an underperforming agency and transformed it into the largest minority employer among Area Agencies on Aging in Ohio.

The Board of Trustees of the Northeast Ohio Medical University hereby extends its expression of gratitude, friendship, and respect to E. Douglas Beach, Ph.D. for his significant leadership, achievements, contributions, and commitment to the growth and success of Northeast Ohio Medical University, and very best wishes for continued success, personal happiness, and good health. Motion moved by Trustee Trueblood and seconded by Trustee Timken.

12. Adjournment

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair McNair reminded trustees that the next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 5, 2024. Chair McNair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Trueblood moved the approval. Trustee Timken seconded the motion. No one opposed. The motion was carried unanimously by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

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