NORTHEAST OHIO MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

SUMMARY

The Northeast Ohio Medical University automates its approval process to create new graduate programs with Kuali Build to reduce time to approval by an estimated 100 days.

PROBLEM

Northeast Ohio Medical University's (NEOMED) strategic plan included improving graduate offerings; however, the process to create a new graduate program was riddled with roadblocks.

NEOMED's graduate program creation process was lengthy; from proposal to final approval, the process took approximately 300 days. It entailed walking paper copies across campus and many meetings to discuss approvals and rewrites. Due to the manual nature of the process, any downtime, such as a stakeholder getting sick or forgetting to send an email, added up quickly, causing significant delays.

NEOMED needed a better solution to facilitate the creation of new graduate programs.

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SOLUTION

Kuali Build, a no-code, cloud-native forms and approvals platform, was the solution NEOMED needed to improve the graduate program creation process.

Kuali Build facilitates faster and more efficient approvals for NEOMED, allowing the institution to respond quickly to opportunities for new or improved graduate programs.

"As a small institution, we are trying to be more responsive to the needs in the marketplace by offering programs that students want and bringing the programs to market in a reasonable time frame. Kuali Build will help with that," said Phil Jenkinson, Program Manager in the Office of Graduate Education, NEOMED

"Kuali Build came to our attention as a potential solution to our problem because of our use of Kuali's Sponsored Programs suite for proposal and award management. I believe our whole project team was incredibly pleased with how we, with Phil's leadership and direction, were able to translate a very complex set of activities for graduate program development and approval into a streamlined process in Build," said Amanda Sidoti, Director and eRA Manager, Research and Sponsored Programs.

RESULTS

NEOMED administrators anticipate Kuali Build will help them **shave 100 days off of their 300-day approval process**.

Before using Kuali Build, getting approval to create a new graduate program was extremely difficult. Administrators led the approval process, likely due to the required meeting coordination, but lacked the institutional knowledge and role to manage approvals from high-level stakeholders such as deans and provosts.

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BUILD

With Kuali Build, program managers use an automated role-based approval workflow. The linear workflow makes it far easier to keep track of where an approval is, and includes all the necessary features such as branches and conditional steps.

Additionally, Kuali Build's automated email notifications, with configurable text fields, help the entire process to move much faster.

> "You don't have to wait for someone to remember to send the approval to the next person. There is no downtime in the process."
>
> **PHIL JENKINSON**
> PROGRAM MANAGER IN THE OFFICE OF GRADUATE EDUCATION, NEOMED

By enabling new grad program approvals in one-third of the time, administrators and program managers look forward to helping the institution be more responsive, creating many more relevant grad programs, and ultimately increasing enrollment and the university's reputation.

Sidoti, Jenkinson, and their colleagues look forward to utilizing Kuali Build to streamline additional paper-based processes in coming months.

"I can see many applications for this tool including to replace several document-based forms that would benefit from a smart electronic-form information collection process and automated workflow such as Build provides. We would love to migrate away from the in-person or less-efficient electronic approval processes that are so frequently a limitation of paper-based processes," said Amanda Sidoti, Director and eRA Manager, Research and Sponsored Programs.

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