

General Medical Faculty Meeting
Monday, July 31st, 2023
5:00 p.m.
Main Auditorium of the Hutchinson Building
1430 Tulane Avenue
And via ZOOM

I. Welcoming and Opening Remarks – *Nakeisha Pierre, M.D., GMF Chair*

Meeting called to order at 5:01pm.

Dr. Pierre welcomed everyone, proudly as Tulane's first African American Female General Medical Faculty Chair. She is thankful for leadership and support from Dean Hamm and President Fitts, and thankful to leadership by predecessor Dr. Jacob Bitoun, who embodied commitment and resilience.

Dr. Bitoun was welcomed to stage, who thanked the officers and administration, voiced that it was great getting to know everyone and work together in a year of transition, and is looking ahead to move forward as a community. He then turned it over to Dr. Pierre and her team, looking forward to her leadership.

II. Approval of minutes from General Faculty Meeting: May 10, 2023 – *Kristin Bateman, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer of the General Medical Faculty*

Dr. Bateman asked for approval of minutes from May 10, 2023. Motion and second for approval. Minutes approved.

III. Presentation of the Winners of the General Medical Faculty Election – *Nakeisha Pierre, M.D., GMF Chair*

Dr. Pierre presented the GMF election winners, and then thanked the nominating committee.

IV. Dean's Report – *L. Lee Hamm, M.D., Senior Vice President and Dean*

Dean Hamm welcomed by Dr. Pierre.

Dean Hamm voiced that GMF and its associated committees are extremely important to the medical school. Having engaged faculty and strong nominations, both of which we have been consistent in doing, are key in developing our faculty and moving forward as an institution. He acknowledged the significant amount of credit due to Dr. Krousel-Wood.

He then provided updates based on Tulane's missions:

- Research – Dr. Delafontaine to provide updates.
- Education – Dr. Gladden, Dr. Ledoux and Dr. Chakraborti to provide updates. All going well.
- Clinical Care:
 - Transition to EJ and partnership with LCMC – going well. More hurdles than we'd like. Tremendous construction at EJ, including a building that may serve for research and education. Architectural plans for inpatient and outpatient spaces. Physician integration in progress – starting in August. 1st of 2 meeting retreats (7/29, 8/12) for clinical leaders to go through details – where things stand, where they are going, and what are the concerns.
 - Planning for Tulane Medical Center – ER to stay open indefinitely, majority of clinics to be maintained downtown (smaller footprint, as services split time between EJ and downtown); urology to maintain major presence downtown (+ EJ + Touro). Plans to build nursing program, expand sim center, and expand standardized patient program in our downtown facility.
 - Downtown renovations: 7th floor renovations in Hutchinson – offices in department of medicine to move to 7th & 8th floors in Murphy. Ortho 4th floor of Deming Pavilion. Demolition slated to start in January 2024.
- Leadership:
 - Dr. Rizwan Azlam – interim chair of ENT
 - Dr. Stefan Grant - interim director of cancer center while serving as chief of Hematology and Oncology – announced to executive faculty 1 week ago

Dean Hamm opened up for questions. There were no questions.

V. Research and Scholarly Activities - *Patrice Delafontaine, M.D., Executive Dean*

Dean Delafontaine introduced by Dr. Pierre.

Funding:

- University as whole year-to-date as of 7/15/23 >\$180 million awards (11% increase compared to last year), with School of Medicine with most awards (>\$77million year-to-date) – 25% increase compared to 1 year ago, substantial increase.
- Federal awards are biggest component of total awards (23% increase).
- Expenditures track the awards (nearly \$80 million) = metric AAU looks at (federal research expenditures) – tracked more closely than in previous years, which is a good thing this year

- Reduction in grant submissions – had huge surge of submissions related to COVID, first time in '23 seeing reduction in submissions, but no decrease in amounts requested because our investigators are submitting larger grants.
- All of this is good news for the school. Will continue to track.

Research space:

- Ongoing work with construction to develop more space for research (and other programs) – Hutchinson 7th floor (Jan 2024), 5th floor (sooner), TMC 3rd and 4th floor space for research (before end of year), JBJ 1st floor renovation for MRI (research and clinical), JBJ 2nd floor, Tidewater 17th floor, Charity estimated completion in Spring 2026 (biggest amount of new research space for school – 55-60,000 square feet)

Dr. Delafontaine opened for questions.

- Dr. Kolls:
 - Recommend graphing grants above \$500k to track number.
 - Just learned Office of Proposal Development provides no support for F31, 32. **Need point person in that office for institutional grants.**

VI. Administrative Updates:

1. Office of Intellectual Property Management – *Matt Koenig, Executive Director*

Dr. Pierre welcomed Matt Koenig. He thanked Dr. Pierre, Dr. Hamm, and Dr. Delafontaine. He provided an overview of the office's roles - intake of inventions, patent protection, licensing → office now focused on licensing, commercialization, 3D innovation institute. His bosses are Dr. Giovanni Piedimonte and Kim Gramm. The office is currently working on adding new people – particularly individual staff dedicated to different functions of the office (innovation, support, established system of records). They are intaking inventions with pace, and hoping to see totally online system in fall 2023. The office has an open door policy – they value input to further improve the office's processes and want to make processes easier to help everyone be successful. Please reach out if he hasn't reached out to you.

Question from GMF faculty – There has been a concern regarding staffing. Mr. Koenig emphasized that they are building infrastructure to improve our staff and their staff.

2. Office of Faculty Affairs – *Marie Krousel-Wood, M.D., MSPH Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs*

Dr. Pierre introduced Dr. Krousel-Wood.

Upcoming activities:

- 8/15 – self evaluations to chair from annual faculty due; update Faculty 180
- 9/15 – chairs submit evaluations to OFA via Box
- 10/12 – faculty orientation and social event
- 10/16-17 – grant writing seminars/workshops – > 30 people registered so far

The Office of Faculty Affairs has been help building a better and bigger School of Medicine by building our faculty. Over the past 5 years, every track has been increasing. Previously there were~ 400 faculty, now >600 faculty since Dr. Krousel-Wood joined.

- Clinical track (64%) is largest; education (2%), research (11%), instructional (1%), tenure tracks (11%)

She also welcomed new faculty to Tulane School of Medicine.

Dr. Krousel-Wood opened up for questions. There were no questions.

3. Office of Academic Affairs – *Chayan Chakraborti, M.D., Associate Dean for Education and Academic Affairs*

Dr. Chakraborti was introduced by Dr. Pierre.

New first-year students start Friday, with classes starting Monday. White coat ceremony being held on Sunday. Second-year classes started today. Third-year students are in the second month of their second clinical rotation of the year. Fourth-year students are putting together residency applications to submit application 9/6. Nudge to faculty to please complete student Letters of Recommendation in timely manner, with goal to upload to ERAS system by mid-September.

USMLE performance – 1st time examinees for 2022 (total 220) – pass rate 87% - down slightly. National pass rate is 93% (down too). Reasons why: COVID happened – test takers started med school career in 2020-21 – did entire 1st two years of med school virtually. 2022 – USMLE increased minimum passing score (~3 points).

Step 2 pass rate (take 4th year) – school pass rate 98%, national pass rate 99%. Right on target.

Dr. Chakraborti opened for questions.

- Dr. Pierre – since we have so many new faculty and want to support our students with strong letter of recommendation, what are resources on how to write good LORs? Dr. Chakraborti pointed out that LORs are discipline specific. Most specialties have parent organization (professional societies) that provide guidelines for their fields.

4. Office of Admissions & Student Affairs – *Elma LeDoux, M.D., Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs*

Dr. LeDoux was welcomed by Dr. Pierre.

Tulane School of Medicine accepted a diverse and talented class of students. There were nearly 16,000 applicants for 190 seats. Tulane looks for students engaged with community and committed to community service, who happen to also have good grades and tests. We have rolling admission – interviewed ~600 applicants.

Characteristics of Class of 2027:

- 116 female, 73 male, 1 other.
- Average age 24 (19-53)
- Average MCAT 510
- Average GPA 3.64
- From 33 states (LA 45, CA 19, FL 18, TX 15, NY 9, NC 7, IL 7), 13 international students from 7 other countries (Canada 6, Vietnam 2, China, Guatemala, Korea, Myanmar, Nigeria 1)
- 22 URM
- 10 are 1st generation students. 17 SOM grads in family, 5 with siblings currently attending
- 92 college represented (58 from Tulane). 62 have advanced degrees. 75% are science majors – top bio, neuroscience, biochemistry
- 49 Americorps, 1 peace corps, 4 military service
- 9 Eagle scouts/gold award recipients

First-year student events:

- Saturday – parent and student orientation
- Sunday – white coat ceremony

Tulane has demonstrated a clear commitment to diversity.

Dr. LeDoux opened for questions. There were no questions.

5. Office of Graduate Medical Education – *Paul Gladden, M.D., Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education*

Dr. Gladden was introduced by Dr. Pierre.

The majority of new residents this year are women. 158 new residents recently started. 70% URM.

New Program Directors:

- Pediatrics
- Preventive Medicine

- Geriatric Medicine – Dr. Natalie Christian
- Endocrinology – Dr. Dragana Lovre
- Gastroenterology – Dr. Sarah Glover
- Vascular Neurology – Dr. Justin Salerian

Tulane GME remains on continued accreditation with warning, which is an improvement from probation. 4 programs through special reviews, 5 with others.

Significant conference attendance by residents and fellows.

Welcome to the new TRFC group.

GME's goal is for continued accreditation and getting new home set in LCMC.

Dr. Gladden opened to questions. There were no questions.

6. Office of Multicultural Affairs – *Bennetta C. Horne, Ph.D., Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*

Dr. Horne was welcomed by Dr. Pierre.

OMA moving right along in terms of efforts. Mission to ensure community at Tulane reflects those we service – students, residents, faculty, staff. They are working with faculty affairs, student affairs and admissions, and GME. The incoming class is very diverse – 22% URM. OMA is continuing to work on and develop pathway programs – med student for a day (35 premed URM's participated), mentoring in medicine program, coalition of 100 black women in city – with goal to reach pipeline down to middle school – the earlier we engage, the better chance we have to continue and enter pipeline. Faculty – always welcome to interview applicants – the more they see the expertise here at Tulane, the better.

OMA suffered tremendous loss with sudden passing of Jorge Valentin-Diaz– he was a talent and light, and he worked on a lot of programs that Dr. Horne hopes to continue.

Dr. Horne opened for questions. No questions were asked.

7. Matas Library – *Keith Pickett, MLIS, Library Director*

Mr. Pickett was introduced by Dr. Pierre.

Updates from the library:

- Library completing Matas 101 – FIM course.
- New dean of libraries – Lindsay Cronk (previously at University of Rochester) - first day tomorrow
- First research support librarian starting 8/21- Yue Ming

- Save the date 9/11 10-1pm annual open house – please come by and check out newly refreshed facility.

Mr. Picket opened for questions. There were no questions.

VII. New Business and Discussion

Jay Kolls – pointed out that this is the third year that the SOM has been with Blue Cross Blue Shield, but first year with Well Right for primary screenings. Wellright provides up to \$1000 if complete their surveys, screening tests, etc. He is encouraging everyone to use – compensation left on the table if not registered and using.

Dr. Pierre – planning faculty presentation on Zoom in August for program resources.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by Dr. Pierre at 5:55pm.