

Tulane Resident and Fellow Congress
Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2022, 6pm

I. Call to Order

- a. See attendance on final page of minutes

II. Old business

• **Bylaws Update, Discussion, and Approval**

- a. **Discussion of quorum: 1/3 for holding TRFC Board meetings, 2/3 for TRFC Board voting.**
- b. Executive committee members reaching out to individual representatives to encourage participation in meetings.
- c. **By-laws vote will be sent electronically to all representatives.**
- d. TRFC GMEC representation should include at least TRFC President and Co-Presidents. Additional members may be added as available from TRFC representatives. GME would like representation of surgical and non-surgical specialties.
- e. ACGME would like us to meet at minimum annually with entire resident and fellow body, which is already written into by-laws as occurring in May each year. We may also have more frequent meetings if needed.
- f. Possibility of adding attendance policy to by-laws discussed. Proposal made to add language that if no attendance by TRFC representative within 6 months, program will be reached out to find additional representation.
- g. Suggestion made for informal approach of executive committee members reaching out individually to representatives who have not attended meetings. Concerns raised that this would be a tedious strategy on an already strained resident schedule as a standalone strategy to encourage attendance.
- h. Motion to add language with TRFC attendance expectations stating representatives must attend at least one meeting per quarter and if attendance is not met, TRFC will reach out to programs to seek further representation from that department. Motion seconded and approved.
- i. Concern raised about quorum language requiring 1/3 of TRFC members (all residents and fellows) for quorum to conduct annual meeting as that may not be achievable with resident schedules. Moves to strike section VI. F. i. Motion seconded and approved.

• **Budget Update (Treasurer Blake Winston)**

- a. Budget Committee met 12/8/21.
- b. Committee discussed need for more transparency of individual program funding resources/availability for residents which would better inform distribution of funds from TRFC budget. Current communication on this topic has been that individuals must go through individual program leadership about accessing program funding.

- c. Resident salaries go up every year, but not in proportion to inflation. TRFC budget does not increase as resident salaries increase annually and remains at the same amount despite resident contribution to these funds.
 - d. Question raised whether treasurer has access to the budget. TRFC treasurer does not have access to funds via TRFC bank account and has yet to receive clear amount for TRFC budget although estimated to be around \$10, 000.
 - e. Question raised about whether general \$10, 000 budget rolls over to TRFC for the following year or if the funds disappear. Answer not yet provided by GME.
 - f. Proposal made to poll resident body of how residents and fellows would like to see TRFC budget spent given COVID limiting social gatherings.
 - g. Representative proposes bringing concern to GME about board exam reimbursement, current understanding is that there is a university policy that residents cannot be reimbursed for board exams until they sit for the exam despite paying out of pocket for those exams months ahead of time. TRFC GMEC representatives will bring this to GMEC to investigate earlier reimbursement for board exams and current limitations to earlier reimbursement.
 - h. Plan to bring up multiple financial concerns at next GME meeting, specifically clarification on TRFC budget and TRFC Treasurer's access to budget information and TRFC funds.
- **VP's Update: LCMC B-SAFE and LCMC update from Mary Jenkins**
 - a. Dr. Robin McGoey (robin.mcgoey@lcmchealth.org) welcomes residents to bring concerns at LCMC sites.
 - b. Further discussion of B-SAFE culture being used in a malignant way. Plan to continue meetings and plan education programs for clinical staff on appropriate use of B-SAFE for patient safety events.
- **Subcommittee recruitment reminders:**
 - a. GME seeking sub-committee representatives who are passionate about EDI, Wellness, Professionalism to participate in sub-committees. This is not limited to TRFC representatives, all residents welcome to participate.
 - EDI (GMEC contact Wendell Cole, wcole@tulane.edu)
 - Wellness (GMEC contact Mandy Weidenhaft, mcrause@tulane.edu)
 - Professionalism (GMEC contact David Yu)
- **Update of EDI grand rounds with Bennetta Horne**
 - a. Continuing to meet with Bennetta Horne and work on planning EDI Grand Rounds.
- **Website status update**
 - a. **Website published!** <https://medicine.tulane.edu/graduate-medical-education/resident-and-fellow-congress-trfc>
 - b. Minutes and by-laws available on website.
 - c. Suggestion made to include QR code for kudos and reporting on TRFC website and in resident lounges.
 - d. Suggestion of QR code to TRFC website for residents and fellows to find their representative to reach out and raise concerns.

III. New Business

- **President-elect process**
 - **Tentative Election Plans:**
 - Time to accept or deny President-Elect nominations: January 13th-January 25th @ 5 pm
 - President-Elect Voting: January 27th-February 4th
 - Nominations for 2022-2023 TRFC Representatives: April-June 2022
 - TRFC Annual Meeting (All Residents & Fellows): May 2022
 - Elections for 2022-2023 TRFC Representatives: June 2022
- **ACGME Visit Debrief**
 - Site visit completed. Discussion with GME on process and potential response from ACGME as early as February.
- **Annual General Meeting (May) planning**
 - Site visit completed. Discussion with GME on process and potential response from ACGME.
- **Mental Health Access Concerns for Residents & Fellows**
 - Concern raised about resident and fellow access to mental health resources. Current understanding is that Tulane SOM has contract with one psychiatrist whose contract is not full-time and patient panel is not dedicated only to Tulane residents and fellows. Concern has been raised that this resource is not currently taking new patients and request has been made to further investigate this with GMEC. Potential solution presented to hire full-time staff psychiatrist and therapist who only serve Tulane SOM residents, fellows, and possibly faculty.

IV. Open floor for New Business

- EDI sub-committee representative requests suggestions for projects or events for EDI committee to work on. Please reach out to EDI Sub-committee members with suggestions or concerns.

Equity Diversity and Inclusion Sub-committee (2021-2022)	
Jemimah Chen	jchen39@tulane.edu
Elora Apantaku	eapantaku@tulane.edu
Ricky Salinas	rsalinas@tulane.edu
GMEC contact Wendell Cole	wcole@tulane.edu

V. Adjourn

VI. Attendance (43 members):

1. Andy Pham (TRFC President)
2. Mary Jenkins (TRFC Co- VP)
3. Megan Lerner (TRFC Co- VP)
4. Leslie Miller (TRFC Secretary)
5. Blake Winston (TRFC Treasurer)
6. Chris Anderson
7. Alison Key
8. Dominique Cross
9. Edgar Acuna
10. Elora Apantaku

11. Michael Ghio
12. Ricky Salinas
13. Oyinlola Oshinowo
14. Austin Hansen
15. Brett Phillips
16. Cathy Luo
17. Jemimah Chen
18. Sahithi Kotham
19. Mei Yang
20. Julia Acceta
21. Nin Hein