

- **What concerns should be brought to the TRFC?** Anything and everything! We are here to be a resident resource. TRFC usually can tackle systemic resident issues that can be elevated to the level of the GMEC (ie. salaries, access to statisticians, reliability of reporting system, etc.) We can also help direct you to the right people at Tulane to help you navigate the system.
- **TRFC has a website!** So if you were wondering: *What is the TRFC? Who is on the TRFC? What was the last meeting about?* You can see our mission, members, and meeting minutes on the website. We are transparent and post what is discussed in the meetings for you all to see. <https://medicine.tulane.edu/graduate-medical-education/resident-and-fellow-congress-trfc>
- **TRFC President, and VPs were meeting weekly and now every 2 weeks with the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC).** At these meetings we have been able to raise several **resident concerns** in the past several months including resident salaries, stipends, intern pay, pushing for policies regarding EDI, Tulane's probationary status, access to statisticians, professionalism/reporting, TRFC budget, residency budgets, GMEC subcommittees, resident wellness, retirement funds, access to counseling. Additionally, we have repeatedly stated that residents are not interested in "performative" initiatives and have continued to echo demands for committees with policy and "teeth."
- **Improving communication** between the TRFC representatives and resident body:
  - You can always see the most up-to-date **meeting minutes** on our **website** (see above)
  - TRFC plans to post "**QR codes**" in resident lounges for the reporting system as well as for the Tulane TRFC website
  - At our last meeting, we discussed starting "**Coffee Talks with TRFC**" once a month in resident lounges with food
  - Upcoming **annual meeting in May**
  - **Please tell us the best way to communicate with you**      **FEEDBACK WELCOME!**
- **TRFC Bylaws** approved by TRFC officers and pending approval by the GMEC.
- **Congratulations to Leslie Miller** who is the rising **President-elect of TRFC!** She is currently our secretary and doing a fabulous job. She was nominated as a current member within the TRFC executive committee and representative. **TRFC elections** for next year's reps will be announced in the spring.

- **TRFC annual budget** is \$10,000, \$5,000 of which is resident contributed money. The resident portion of the contributed money rolls over annually so we currently have **\$20,000** at our disposal. As a TRFC, we ideally want the money to go towards resources/events that all residents could benefit from. **Let us know how you want us to spend this money!**
- As you are probably aware there is a **new resident lounge at Tulane**. Maybe this is a space where we could spend some money? Let us know what you want!
- There are **new GMEC subcommittees** that will need resident participation. It's a great way for all residents to get involved!
  - EDI (GMEC contact Wendell Cole)
  - Wellness (GMEC contact Mandy Weidenhaft)
  - Professionalism (GMEC contact David Yu)
- **The GMEC subcommittee of Wellness** has chosen some wellness officers from residencies. More to come!
- **Residency Budgets:** The residency budgets are determined at the discretion of the Department Chairs. The first step is to ask the PDs and if there isn't clarity to move up to the Department Chair to ask for transparency regarding funding. Each residency TRFC representative is going to be reaching out to PDs/Department Chairs to see if this provides clarity. If not, we will return to the GMEC raising concerns.
- **Resident retirement funds:** If residents would like to contribute to retirement savings other than a Roth IRA during residency, Tulane offers an option for full-time employees called a 403(b). A **403(b)** is an investment-based retirement program in which retirement savings are deducted from the paycheck before the paycheck is taxed, thus reducing the amount of tax you pay on your initial wages. i. An employee can open a 403(b) **at any point during the year**, not just during the open enrollment periods for other employment benefits **Contact: Glenda Williams, Benefits Specialist, [gwilliams3@tulane.edu](mailto:gwilliams3@tulane.edu), Office: 504-247-1703**
- **Resident salaries/compensation:** GMEC is currently reviewing resident salaries and benefits to make recommendations for the year beginning July 1, 2022.