

GMF Meeting

21<sup>st</sup> October, 2015

5:00 PM Wednesday

Guest: **President Michael A. Fitts**

Dean Dr. Hamm introduced the guest, President Michael A. Fitts.

President addressed the GMF faculty in attendance.

- He assures that the medical school is important to Tulane University and it is in the forefront of his thoughts. What people are looking for in a great university, he thinks, is the connection between research, teaching, and impact on the world. He believes that Tulane University School of medicine is the epitome of this combination of teaching, research, and clinical care.
- Tulane University is unique in that it has School of Medicine, School Public Health, Primate Center, and School of Science and Engineering together.
- He understands that health care nationally is going through lot of changes. New Orleans is an unstable medical environment as well. He notes that the strategic plan of the medical school is focused on the ways in which we can be leaders in clinical practice, research areas, and the lifelong learning. Relationship with HCA has been evolving. Although the relationship has been difficult initially, it has improved overtime.
- President talked about where Tulane University and School of Medicine are heading, where higher education in general is going. He does not think that tuition and research dollars are going increase rapidly. Tulane University is neither a small liberal arteries college nor a university with 16000 student enrollment. As an institution we have the best of both worlds. Tulane University is an institution has broad menu of traditional arts and sciences and professional schools. We also have the ability to interact between the schools with synergies between different faculties.
- He mentioned about the three taskforces appointed by him evaluating undergraduate programs, graduates programs, and campus master plan. Two more task forces looking at the budgeting system of the university. All five of these task forces are intended to really focus the university on educationally in term of research where we can be at the top rank, and then create a structure of physical environment and financial environments to support the goals.
- At the undergraduate level, Tulane is unique among major universities in that it offers broad menu of arts and sciences and professional education where students don't precommit when they come in. This offers unparalleled opportunity to connect between fields and majors. Undergraduate task force has given this a high praise and this means that there will continued support for inter disciplinary courses.
- At the graduate level, the focus is much more on research and how we can be leaders in research and education. Each school have their own strategic plan and those plans are extraordinarily important. What the task force is looking at is the ways in which to leverage the synergy between the schools and areas in which we can build on the success. The task force looked at three different areas. First is the global education because of the strength of Tulane presence in South America, Asia, and Africa. The idea is to build on this to create dominant presence in those areas. The second area is environment, energy, water sustainability, a field that crosses different schools and we have the ability to address this. Third area looked at was Health Bioinnovation. With various health schools at Tulane, the synergy could be quite large.
- Capital Campaign. We already raised 500 millions. One of the initiatives is to establish presidential professorships with the goal of recruiting faculties with connection across the fields.
- Campus Master Plan: A physical plan is set in motion process to best support the programs across the schools in the university. The downtown campus is disjointed and the plan is to move some of the activities to downtown.
- Budget. A task force looking at the budgeting systems in line with the practices at most major universities. One idea is to move the responsibility of managing the budget to individual schools. It is a strategy most private universities have pursued in the recent past.
- Balancing the Budget is the focus of the fifth task force. University has been experiencing cash flow problems to the tune of 15-20 millions. This is a serious problem, we cannot take deficits of that size. An outside consulting group has been brought in to look at the ways to balance the budget. They have been working for approximately 6 months. They have come up with

ten initiatives. These include self-insuring the university, summer programs etc. One initiative is 'voluntary separation' which is offered to staff employees of the university who served the university for a long time, pay out system.

#### Question and Answers:

Barbara Beckman (Vice Dean Admissions): How you are going to assess the financial well-being of the medical school?

Response from President: He assures that medical school is not taxed. In terms of any subsidies that could be given to medical school, he does not think that the university is in a position to give any subsidies. The medical school is expected to rely on clinical enterprise, research funding, student tuitions, and philanthropy for the financial needs.

Gaby Navar (Chair of Physiology). Sharing courses across university, how is this achieved?

Response from President: First, it is important to identify what courses need to be offered to uptown students in the medical schools. We need to create incentives for faculty to teach courses across the schools and for students to take courses across the schools/disciplines.

Vivian Fonseca (Chair of Endocrinology). Need for reducing paperwork so that more time can spent doing clinical work.

Response from President: In terms of government paper work, we are looking at ways to reduce it. In terms of Tulane, it is really an issue of administrative feasibility. Lot of times if it is the government regulations, there is no way to avoid it.

#### Updates:

##### **Dr. David Franklin, Chair GMF**

Request volunteers to fill Standing Committees

##### **Associate Dean Kahn and Associate Dean Beckman:**

10000 applicants to SOM.

New program MD/MBA 4 year program with focus on Health Care

Integrated Undergraduate Physician Scientist program is being discussed.

Integrated 6-year program is currently running.

Need volunteers to interview, reviews are requested to be turned in within couple of days.

##### **Vice Dean Academic Affairs Kevin Krane**

Robert Englander will be giving a presentation on competency, mile stones and EPAs.

Clinical education evaluation is being tracked by the academic affairs.

Described the curriculum for each year of medical school.

##### **Tonette Krousel Wood, Associate Dean/Associate Provost**

##### **Faculty Affairs:**

- Successful faculty orientation was done and will be offered again in fall and spring. Just completed communications skills program at basic and advanced levels.
- Clinical Leadership Training was offered.
- P&H sessions were offered and will be provided to faculty again soon.]
- University Committees: Volunteers are encouraged

- Health Sciences Day announcement will be provided by Dr. Levy and it will be in early April.
- University wide faculty leadership training will be offered and the announcements will be forthcoming.
- MD/MPH program: 160 students enrolled in the program and are close to having 1000 graduates. One of the largest programs in the country. Offering support for the students to performs research.
- Faculty Handbook is being updated and it will be another year of work before it is completed.
- Faculty Leadership Institute: More information will be coming soon.

**Senator Sam Landry** (one of the six representing the med school)

- Senate Constitution was discussed and it will be revised.
- Faculty Handbook: Roughly monthly meeting. Soliciting feedback. His view is to strengthen the role of the faculty.