

Minutes of the GMF Meeting

Monday, April 25, 2016

Meeting started at 12 PM

(1). Dr. David Franklin, Chairman of GMF welcomed the attendees. Later, he introduced Dr. Hamm, the Dean of School of Medicine.

(2). **Dr. Lee Hamm, M.D.**, Senior Vice President and Dean, School of Medicine; James R. Doty Distinguished Professor and Chairman; provided updates for the faculty and took few questions from the faculty members.

1. Medical School Admissions: School of Medicine is expecting 184 medical students for the upcoming academic year but the number can go up to 190 or more.

2. Education Mission: The school will stop sending 3rd year medical students to Baton Rouge this year. There are variety of reasons for this. Recently, the number of students opting to go to Baton Rouge has been dropping with only 6 students elected to go to Baton Rouge last year. Instead, there is an ongoing discussion to create a primary care track early on before they to the 3rd year.

3. Research Updates: As of April 15, it has been a great year for research funding and we are at a 5 year high. Dean Hamm commended the faculty members for the successes in receiving NIH funding.

4. Clinical Operations Updates: New medical group CEO for the practice plan started. Hired new chair for Anesthesiology (Dr. Haines) who is still not on site but communicating periodically with faculty and staff. He is supposed to start on 1st June. Active search is on-going for chair of Radiology.

Not so good news to report on the Tulane hospital finances with the first 3 months of the calendar year showing disappointing revenues. Meeting with the CEO and the chairs of the clinical departments identified issues and discussed few strategies that can be initiated now to increase the revenues.

First, when there is consistently high levels of no shows in the clinics we automatically overbook that many patients to increase patient volume in the clinics. This will ensure that we have full clinic and it also may result in some days when everyone show up there will be busy days in the clinic.

Second, Referral out has also been noticed. It was decided that if we have service/expertise available within the institution, we need to make sure we are utilizing our services before referring the patient to other institutions. Many acquisitions such as 3 tesla MRI were also made to improve our services.

Third, there were some issues with efficient handling of transfers from other hospitals. It has been found that if calls were coming into a service for some reason the patients have been transferred to Ochsner or other hospitals. We are trying to create a policy now so that we go ahead and accept the patients first. Then, behind the scenes we work it out with good deal of cooperation among all the departments. A small committee has been instituted to oversee this.

5. Overall, educational, clinical, and research areas have been improving gradually. But there is a need to improve quickly and efforts are underway to accelerate these improvements by combining the forces. For example, neurosurgery, neurology, and psychiatry are combining their efforts to create an institute. The goal is to harness the opportunities in neuroscience area to accelerate the gains made in terms of revenues. The name of the institute is not confirmed but tentative names suggested include 'Tulane Institute of Neurosciences'. Active discussions are underway with the newly inaugurated 'Brain Institute' to explore ways to cooperate and work together.

6. University Wide Updates

Searches: University wide searches include replacements for administrators who retired including Chief Financial Officer, executive VP of University Relations and Development, Provost, and others.

Web-based purchasing. University is exploring ways to make web-based purchasing available for procurement. For travel also, there is going to be new web-based system for everyone to use it.

Dean Hamm responses to questions:

- Drs. Navar, Druy, and Mostany voiced the confusion among the SOM faculty members about the role/creation of Neuroscience Center when inauguration of 'Brain Institute' is planned for the fall, 2016. He requested some clarification as to whether the center proposed will serve patients' needs alone and is a clinical service. Dean Hamm explained that although the Neuroscience Institute/Center will have a combination of clinical and research areas, the impetus is not research but to ensure that clinical operations are better utilized. Regarding the name of the new institute/center, Dr. Hamm mentioned that they are still looking at several choices for the names but one under consideration is 'Tulane Medical Neurosciences'. Furthermore, he has no problem with what Brain Institute does and he does not think there is any problem having two institutes or centers. He felt that there no scope for any confusion and there is no reasons why the faculty members be associated with both institutes.

Minutes of Meeting (February 22, 2016). Motion to approve was done by Dr. Barbara Beckman and seconded by Dr. Emad Kandil (Vice-Chair GMF) and later approved by all attending members.

GMF Committee Member Elections. Dr. Emad Kandil provided updates on the elections of new members for filling the vacancies in various committees and subcommittees of GMF. He encouraged nomination/recruitments of members, the deadline for which is Friday April 29th. Voting will be opened from Monday, May 2nd and the ballot will be available for voting for 2 weeks. He also introduced the members in the current ballot competing for each vacancy.

Update from 'Tonette' Krousel-Woods, Associate Dean / Associate Provost for Health Sciences.

- Provost search underway and Interviews scheduled for May. Dr. Bernstein's term will end on June 30th. Dr. Nick Altiero will step down from his position as the Dean of SSE and take over as the interim provost position. Last few months, he has been active in helping in the smooth transitioning.
- Faculty Development Seminars scheduled for May 5-6th. We have recruited excellent speakers including Drs. Kevin Grigsby, Walter Baile, and Douglas Robertson. Those who has registered will get book materials. The faculty are encouraged to register for the sessions.
- Faculty reappointment letter will be mailed in July.
- Tulane MD/MPH is the largest program in the country. So far, 40 graduating with MD/MPH and one student graduating from MD/PhD program.

Update from Dr. Barbara Beckman, Associate Dean of Admissions.

- Deposits are due from the applicants who were accepted in to Tulane SOM by Monday. So far, we received 185 deposits. More than 10000 applications have been received. One in four medical school applicants in the country applied to Tulane SOM. 550 applicants were interviewed. Orientation for the students is August 1st. The accepted students are 50/50 male to female ratio. Diversity in terms of geographic, ethnicity, race so far is good.
- The interviews for the new applicants will start in middle of September.
- HELIX program is not being activated. There are variety of reasons behind the decision including the increased teaching load for the faculty.

Dr. Gaby Navar, Chairman of Physiology

- Announced the awards of RO1 funding from NIH for Drs. Derbenev, Woods, and Sato.
 - Dr. Navar brought up the issue of recruiting BMS graduate students with interest in physiology and pharmacology
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