

## **Minutes of the Tulane School of Medicine General Medical Faculty Meeting**

***October 8, 2014***

Chair of the General Medical Faculty, Dr. Chayan Chakraborti called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm. After welcoming the faculty to the first meeting of the year under his leadership, he introduced Michael Fitts, President of Tulane University.

President Fitts began his remarks stressing his appreciation for the importance of the medical school and of an academic medical center to the University. His father and uncle were both professors of surgery, one at the University of Pennsylvania and one at the Medical University of South Carolina. The tripartite missions of higher education (research, education and social justice) are exemplified by academic medicine.

While it is early in his tenure as President, he has identified the following goals and priorities:

Enhance collaboration across departments, programs, schools, and campuses within the University. This better positions Tulane for research funding which is increasingly going to interdisciplinary teams, and furthers excellence in education.

Position the medical school with the best clinical partnerships possible to last over the next 30 years and to succeed in the changing health care environment. Dr. Hamm is a creative and strategic leader in this effort.

He is impressed with the medical school's strategic plan he has seen so far: the focus on enhancing strengths, growing translational medicine, collaborating across the Schools of Medicine, Public Health, Primate Center, Engineering and others as appropriate.

The priorities for the University are to increase interdisciplinary collaboration, deepen the already excellent and unique undergraduate experience, extend the international reach of the university (already national leader in Latin American studies), and a major fund raising campaign. The goal is for Tulane to be the University that does more with more, not more with less.

President Fitts took questions.

The role of Athletics: while not a current priority of his, he sees them as valuable to the university in unifying the campus, engaging alumni, and enhancing networking and fundraising.

The role of faculty development: President Fitts sees this as establishing for faculty that Tulane is the best place to have a long and successful career. Once recruited, provide support for research and teaching, and for collegial collaboration, and if offered other opportunities elsewhere, turn them down.

Threats posed by alternative forms of education (such as on line learning): this is not a current threat to Tulane's core business (the college experience including community and social engagement), although it may impact introductory courses, and certain traditional areas (the business school was used as an example). It can be useful for things such as the "flipped classroom" where core material is put on line, and class time is used for active learning. When he was at the University of Pennsylvania, the law school was a host site for the online company Coursera (which hosts "MOC's", massive open on line courses).

Opportunities for collaboration between the Uptown and Downtown campuses: that is being actively discussed and encouraged.

Emerging priorities he sees for the medical school: so far he has only identified the framework: build on strengths and identify areas that will distinguish Tulane.

What can the medical school do to improve the "academic product": it has been a challenging time for the medical school with the for profit clinical partner and the not for profit school. He is working with the medical school leadership to put together the right partnership for the future.

Downsides of interdisciplinary programs can include loss of identity and cohesiveness (expressed by faculty member who asked the question: President Fitts is not looking to end departments or schools, which are a very important part of the structure and the workings of the University but rather to encourage cooperation by removing barriers, identifying resources where it makes sense, such as to enhance research or education.

There were no further questions. Dr. Chakraborti thanked Dr. Fitts.

Dr. Michael Bernstein, Provost was present and will be returning for the December meeting to update the General Medical Faculty on Academic priorities.

Dr. Hamm made several announcements:

Dr. Nicolas Verne, a gastroenterologist at the University of Texas Galveston will be assuming the position of Chair of the Department of Medicine effective November 1, 2014.

Dr. Asif Anwar will be the interim chief of the section of cardiology and the Heart and Vascular Institute.

Dr. Mary Killackey will be assuming the role of administrative co director of transplant programs.

GMF Business:

Dr. Tonette Krousel-Wood explained the P and T committee proposal, approved by the Faculty Senate to

Add a non-tenure education track

Drop the title modifiers for faculty in the School of Medicine only on the non-tenure track

It requires 120 faculty to vote, which will be done electronically, beginning in a week (an announcement with the link to vote will be sent out)

There was a question regarding the language describing the research track, which as currently circulated does not include details of educational or service contributions. Dr. Krousel-Wood will take the question and concern back to the committee for discussion.

When asked about the possibility of a tenure track for education, Dr. Krousel-Wood stated that the current tenure track process is open to anyone who meets criteria, whether through research, education or clinical activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy J. Lazarus, M.D.

Secretary, General Medical Faculty