I. Welcome – Laurianne Wild, M.D., Chair of the General Medical Faculty

II. Introductions: Please see the roll for those present.

III. Updates from the Dean – L. Lee Hamm, M.D., Senior Vice President and Dean

Last year was great.

Education:
- Graduation was wonderful. Asked for more faculty attendance.
- Next year’s class is completely full, earlier than usual. More applications each year, up to 12,000 for an unknown reason with minimal people on the wait list.
- LCME prep: Lead by Dr. Kevin Krane. Important to have good communication to the Dean’s office
- Match went well with very few unmatched students.

Research:
- Funding is down 10%. The most significant concern is the number of RO1’s rolling off this year.
- The University wants more expansion of research in every direction.
- There are many people submitting grants now.

Clinical:
- Continuing for now with Tulane, UMC and the VA.
- There is a pending agreement with East Jefferson Hospital with 50/50 odds of completion. Stop the rumor mill cause we don’t know.

Financially:
We are much more transparent than the past, but also more challenging than in the past. We live on the edge with investing all extra money into improvements. With HCA, there have been significant cuts from primary care, specifically $1.2 million dollars less than expected in certain areas. There is less flexibility in the budget than in past years.

IV. Key Challenges and Opportunities in the School of Medicine

- Questions from the Faculty Advisory Committee
  i. Q: The undergraduate student enrollment is up, but we are supposedly financially down. Why? Is there tuition on the table? A: We can start research courses for credit for undergrads. This would allow us to collect some of the tuition money. We have to teach undergrads to collect their tuition. We do have some faculty to teach courses uptown. We can charge and collect for this. Additionally, we need more engagement for research for medical students (as per their survey).
  ii. Q: What is the preferred breakdown for international vs. US PhD students? A: faculty were asked informally. There are a variety of opinions form take the best candidate no matter origins to weighted scales or caps.
  iii. Q: Is there a creation of a central calendar for the SOM? A: It is in the works. The onus will be on individual departments to keep it updated. A variety of software applications have been tested. Will be available July 1.
  iv. Q: Are there strategies to reduce SOM waste? A: Director of Housekeeping has made an effort to change all chemicals to be sustainable except floor cleaners. even paper products. There has been
push back in the past about not changing the trash often enough. There will have to be a pilot project and education to other faculty and staff about the new policy. We are hopeful that our recycling is actually being recycled.

v. Q: Are there concerns about the SOM Infrastructure Use and Maintenance? A: The SOM buildings are old. Updates are on the university agenda. The new banners are nice. There has been deferred maintenance plan for uptown (things that need to be fixed). This needs to be reported online to get into the que. We must let them know things are broken. * We should have an updated facilities list of helpful numbers including safety. Considered an app for LCME to improve the survey.

vi. Q: What’s going on with the old hotel behind the SOM and other nearby eyesore and safety issues? A: It has been reported again to the city. S. Liberty St. They keep pressure washing it. The city owns that street and it floods frequently. There should be crosswalks and pedestrian signals.

vii. Q: What is the status on the gym and other wellness measures? A: Gym planned for spring of 2019. The plans are “done”. It is to be in the old Walgreen’s space.

viii. Q: We requested more transparency. We need a wellness point person for those with issues beyond departmental chairs, and something short of a formal grievance committee or process. A: The Professionalism Committee and Ombudsman is working on this. *SOM needs an onsite person; the primate center has one once a week. * Dean Hamm will discuss this with HR.

ix. Q: Can the parking garage roof be converted into green space? A: Risk management said no. *We need some green space.

V. Next Steps
VI. Adjournment

The next meeting is TBD in the Dean’s Conference Room (15th floor of Murphy)