

I. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Meeting was declared open by **Aimee Aysenne, M.D.**, Chair of the GMF at 4:01 pm

II. Updates from the Dean

- a. **Dean Hamm** provided general updates from the SOM.
- b. Education: We're continuing to receive many applications. Existing students would like more faculty communication. There are multiple stressors on-going, with much uncertainty, in addition to personal issues/struggles (e.g., childcare) and illness, major surgeries, and death of family members that are impacting both students and faculty. Overall, we are doing well and maintaining our mission.
 - i. Uptown campus is experiencing a mild COVID19 outbreak. Additional testing has been implemented (2x/week for undergraduates). We believe that we are past the peak.
 - ii. The uptick in cases occurred shortly after Halloween, where students may have been more relaxed with some of the hygiene protocols for mitigating the spread of virus.
- c. Research: Research is going very well. We've recently recruited additional investigators who are bringing grants. Bioinformatics group has been brought to the SOM. We are renovating research space on 4th and 5th floor of Hutchinson Building. We are looking into expanding more research space in the Hutchinson Building.
- d. Clinical: Volumes are ~90% of prior years. We are growing programs, adapting telemedicine, and have recruited an oncology surgeon from Ochsner. We are trying to recruit where we can.

III. Updates from Faculty Affairs

- a. **Dr. Krousel-Woods**, Senior Associate Dean, provided updates from Faculty Affairs.
- b. We have 95% achievement of faculty evaluations.
- c. As we move forward in developing our faculty achievements through Faculty 180. This is important for our reporting to different accreditation agencies. Right now, we have no other means for collecting the achievements of our faculty.
- d. We are continuing our pathways to promotion through promoting our different programs and providing meetings.

IV. Faculty Feedback

- a. School of Medicine air conditioning (Dr. Sam Landry)
 - i. Additional -80C freezers have been added that are creating additional issues for existing freezers. Facility Services cleaned vents and ductwork, which has significantly improved the temperature in the room.
- b. Dr. Elizabeth Norton asked about the continued use of the symptom tracker.
 - i. No faculty find this tool particularly useful, but it may be useful for other individuals.
 - ii. Graduate and medical students are now tested twice monthly.
 - iii. The Pathology Department is doing a remarkable job with the rapid testing.
- c. Dr. Zachary Pursell asked about language in non-TT faculty letters that state the faculty may be terminated without cause but must give 90 days notification.
 - i. Dr. Krousel-Woods clarified that this policy has been in place for approximately 5 years. It will be included in the revision of the Faculty Handbook. This policy has seldom been acted on and also provides the faculty a means by which they may leave the university prior to the end of the contract, provided a 90-day notification is given.

- d. Dr. Cooper Woods discussed a student in his lab who had been in close proximity of an individual who had tested positive for the virus. She was told to call the Wellness Center but was confused about what to do. Dr. Woods felt it was best to have her self-quarantine.
- e. Dr. Aimee Aysenne provided updates of events since the last GMF meeting.
 - i. We are working to make the recorded GMF meetings available to those who are unable to watch the meeting live. Dr. Krousel-Woods informed the Dean and committee that they are working with IT to make this available through Box, as this mechanism does not allow for any downloads or alterations of materials.
 - ii. Some wording on the faculty by-laws may need to be reworked.
 - iii. Asked Dean Hamm about the availability of outside space. Dean Hamm requested Aimee send a reminder email to him for him to follow-up on.
- f. Dr. Aimee Aysenne asked about the current policy for PPE use when contacting non-CoVID patients. The students are no longer wearing face shields.
 - i. Dean Hamm stated there was/is no stated policy for the use of PPE at the SOM.
 - ii. Dr. Krousel-Woods clarified that the face shields are not as protective as the surgical masks and have been removed as a means for sufficient protection without including a surgical mask.
- g. Dr. Erin Boh asked about the availability of PPE, should we experience a surge in COVID19 cases. The doctors need to ask for PPE from the nurses, who appear to be hoarding.
 - i. (Dean Hamm) The hospital has increased and built up a supply of PPE. PPE need to be made available for the physicians use.
- h. Dr. Aysenne asked regarding the status of people taking the flu vaccine
 - i. (Dean Hamm) No policy is in place at Tulane that requires people to take the flu vaccine. Some efforts are being made to make the COVID19 vaccine mandatory, when available.
 - ii. (Dr. Boh) It would be beneficial to have the flu vaccine available through the clinics and not just Primary Care. This is less effective, as patients can't always get into Primary Care in a reasonable amount of time.
 - 1. Dean Hamm requested a follow-up email to him for addressing this.
- i. Dean Hamm reported that the current COVID19 vaccine trial is open for volunteers.
 - i. Drs. Boh and Landry reported the sign-up for the trial is unclear with regard to what to do next. It may only be collecting information at this time.

V. Next Steps

- a. Next quarterly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10th at 5 pm.

VI. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.