

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

- a. Meeting was declared open by **Aimee Aysenne, M.D.**, Chair of the GMF at 2:03pm
- b. Members of the Faculty Advisory and General Medical Faculty introduced themselves

**II. Updates from the Dean**

- a. **Dean Hamm** discussed the historical perspective for having a combined Faculty Advisory Committee and General Medical Faculty meeting. The FAC meets at least quarterly with the Dean. The addition of the GMF is to enhance intercommunication between the FAC and Senate. Requests for questions in advance of the meeting is helpful in preparing for the meeting.
- b. Education: A new class has just started. There are no large group lectures; most are small or on-line to address the concerns of COVID-19. Interest in Tulane SOM of perspective students remains high, including medical, Masters, and PhD students.
- c. Research: We've had an exceptional year. There have been additional/new funding acquired. Several new hires and investments into new research recruits have also been made.
- d. Clinical: ~60% of our revenue come from direct and indirect clinical activities. The hospital and clinical operations are also significant for teaching and research activities. The current hospital volume is ~85% of pre-COVID numbers. Initiatives are being made to expand the clinical operations and finances and find opportunities within the current climate of the COVID-19 pandemic, including marketing, increasing clinic availability, recruitment, and expansion of telemedicine.
- e. Additional concerns, including the pandemic, political discourse, and social unrest are extensive sources of stress that is most likely impacting us all and may be compounded by other stresses that we are under on a 'normal' basis. Hopefully we can be cognizant of this and mutually supportive.
- f. A new Chair of Medicine has been recruited, who will join us in January 2021. A new Ophthalmology Chair may also be coming. We're currently involved in recruiting in new leadership positions and we've recruited some very gifted physicians.
- g. Tulane University is doing well with regard to school finances. Everyone is making some sacrifices. No baseline raises or raises of most types have been given. Departments reduced 50% of their travel and entertainment budgets, which has been relatively easy since travel and entertaining are impacted by the current pandemic. Another 5% of budgeted monies from the "Other" category (non-salaried, non-grant budget), which covers less critical needs, was also made. Everyone is working very hard and in good spirits, considering the situation in which we find ourselves.

**III. Updates from Faculty Affairs**

- a. **Wendy Stark** provided updates for Dr. Krousel-Woods.
- b. Faculty Evaluations are in process. Self-evaluations were due 8/15/2020; Departments have until 9/15/2020 to meet with faculty and provide feedback.
- c. New faculty orientation is 9/9/2020 on-line. Some hybrid events are also planned.
- d. There have been more than 25 in-person group meetings have taken place about Faculty 180 and are on-going.

**IV. Faculty Feedback**

- a. Update on space uses/non-competes (Dr. Aimee Aysenne)
  - i. Changes with non-compete clause have been made. Dean Hamm is still looking into this but currently understands that a non-compete clause has been included in new offer letters. These are not in continuing contracts. These were not included in offers but were seen in two recent offer letters. Dean Hamm is still investigating this concern. This may be related to specific specialties and are

done to protect Tulane. Dr. Landry added to the discussion by describing that the issue came up in a Faculty Handbook meeting, as there are indications in the book that allow working at other institutes as long as it is <20% of the effort. Dean Hamm clarified that this does not apply to clinicians, who must belong to TUMG, where all professional income must go through TUMG. If a clinician provides a service for another hospital, the billing needs to go through TUMG. Dr. Boh requested a point of clarification of whether academic centers could have non-competes for someone who leaves Tulane. Dean Hamm explained that he believes that this is allowed but will seek out additional clarification.

- ii. A need for outdoor space is needed and more urgent in the current situation of needing appropriate social distancing. Dean Hamm will look into where things are with this but believe this has moved forward. Dr. Aysenne suggested that some picnic tables or similar are also needed.
- b. CME Funding (Dr. Nakeisha Pierre)
  - i. Dean Hamm anticipates that there may be changes in travel and entertainment funds available, however, there should still be funds available. Chairs can speak with Dean Hamm if there are questions or concerns.
- c. COVID-19 Testing Reporting (Drs. Zongbing You and Zachary Pursell)
  - i. Because of privacy issues, it is unlikely that specific information regarding who tests positive and their building location. There have been a few positive cases within the SOM faculty and residents, who acquired the virus by community spread. If we continue to follow the well-described precautions, we are likely able to protect ourselves and others. Following these precautions, our clinicians and staff who are treating/caring for COVID-19 patients have remained non-infected.
  - ii. ~0.4% of tests have returned positive and includes faculty and students. These individuals are isolated and monitored. Frequent testing will continue. It is planned that the undergraduate students will be tested weekly.
  - iii. Test turn-around time is 24-36 hours. Tulane data are turned over to the state system and will be included in the Louisiana state reporting/updates.
  - iv. Dr. Pursel voiced his appreciation that the undergraduate students will be tested weekly, as this will likely help us stay ahead of any potential local outbreak.
  - v. Faculty/staff will still need to undergo monthly SARS-CoV-2 testing.
- d. Ophthalmology Specialty CoPay (Dr. Sam Landry)
  - i. \$50 ophthalmology copay may be waived for Tulane employees, but this remains unclear.

## **V. Next Steps**

- a. Scott Channell will resend meeting invitations so that everyone can get the upcoming meetings on their schedules in time for members to adjust clinic or other obligations. Most meetings are planned for 4pm or 5pm.
- b. Next quarterly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.
- c. The next GMF meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 5pm and will feature an address from President Fitts.

## **VI. Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 2:53pm.