

**5/7/2020**

## **Faculty Advisory and Senate Meeting**

### **Dean Hamm's report:**

Dean Hamm summarized recent events at the medical school including important steps taken to deal with the Covid-19 epidemic. These included the following:

Special attention was taken to ensure that the system at the hospital and medical school will not be overwhelmed as happened in New York or Italy.

The 3 hospitals, where Tulane is involved, expanded their capacities of ICU (by 2 to 3 times). Results were good (no overwhelming) and doctors are adapting well to the new situation.

Work schedule and assignments of medical students have been modified (withdrawn from exposure to Covid patients). PPEs are available.

Research: somehow scaled back. Some research work, particularly in Infectious diseases, was accelerated. Effort is ongoing to coordinate pulmonary and ID work and research.

As happened everywhere, at the beginning of the spread of the virus infections, adapting was somehow challenging. Around April, things started to improve. Effort is now focused on how to resume clinical work and normal activities.

Aim is to go back towards a normal work schedule slowly. Target is May 18.

Other universities implemented furloughs, cancellation of programs etc. Tulane has so far succeeded in avoiding this.

The new class of medical students will start in August.

There is a university-wide hiring freeze and increase in salaries. Some positions at the medical school may be exempt depending on need.

Hiring a Chair of Medicine; still active. Dr. Hamm contacted lead candidate recently. Hope is to finalize hiring shortly.

**Dr. Aysenne** announced that the coming General Faculty Meeting is on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. She also indicated that there are some vacancies on the election ballot especially for Basic Sciences faculty.

### **Dr Krousel-Wood report on Faculty Affairs:**

Several faculty members are now tenured.

Although elected members to the P&H committee need to be tenured, some appointed members do not need to be tenured.

Orientation and training sessions for “Faculty180” are being scheduled.

Nominations for positions on committees are ongoing.

### **Questions:**

**Dr. Landry:** asked about the possibility of resurgence of viral infection?

**Dr. Hamm** explained that the clinical activity of Covid-19 will stay with us for a while. Rate and extent of infection spread is variable and not exactly known. Several scenarios are proposed and being studied.

**Dr. Katakam** asked about clinical trials at Tulane.

**Dr Hamm** indicated that many trials are going on including 2 trial on anti-viral traetments, studies on convalescent plasma treatment and another study on hydroxychloroquine among others.

**Dr. Cooper** asked about adjustment steps taken on coming back when the school opens.

**Dr. Hamm** pointed out some of the changes that are being implemented including masks in public areas, 2 people in elevators, assigning stairs for upstairs or downstairs traffic, limiting restrooms for one occupant at a time and several other steps that are understudy and will be explained further by the administration.

**Dr. Landry** asked about child care options.

**Dr. Hamm** explained that several options are being evaluated including providing allowances (such as work from home) for people with child care issues. There are also initiatives by some medical students (e.g. parents helping with child care).

**Dr. Landry** asked about clinical treatments of undergraduates in case of covid-19 infection.

**Dr. Hamm** explained that younger adults do not usually have severe Covid infections and Tulane students, when sent to Tulane clinics, are carefully evaluated and treated.