

General Medical Faculty Meeting
Minutes

Monday November 25, 2019

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks – *Thomas Cooper Woods, Ph.D., Chair of the General Medical Faculty*
2. Minutes from General Faculty Meeting, July 16, 2019 – Approved.
Thomas Cooper Woods, Ph.D., Chair of the General Medical Faculty
3. Address- Michael A. Fitts, J.D., President of Tulane University
General comments: Medical School is central to the university. Research from the SOM is essential. There is more collaboration now with other schools than in the past. The SOM remains a central place for cutting edge clinical care. There is more support to move the research forward for the AAU profile specifically targeting “AAU Hires”. There is more research in the SOM than anywhere else and more money for research than other schools. The university provides grants to SOM and support. The presidential professors are to move the university forward with a goal of 10 total.

Downtown campus updates: how to develop the campus with a streetscape? There are currently 17 downtown buildings but it is not cohesive. There are ongoing negotiations for the 400K sq ft in the Charity Hospital building and other serious discussions are ongoing. This is where the growth will occur in the future. The new fitness center will open next year and the new police station is open. There has been increased security in both the uptown and downtown campuses with measured decreased crime on both campuses.

There is as much momentum at Tulane as any school in the US. Applications have increased significantly with 13% of applicants accepted. Tulane is the most diverse, most national, and most international that we have ever been. No other schools have seen so much change in recent years. Early decision applicants are up 31% since last year with half of next year’s class accepting based on early decision.

Development: We are rich in many things but not financially. Investing in the past 8 years financially, and especially in the past 5 years, have been the best ever. This year is up over last year with an 18% increase in the number of donors from last year. Always looking to move the needle. We are doing better than we were but are always improving.

Initiatives: New Commons including the dining facilities. Soon will

knock down old dining facilities and will build a new quad. This will bring the juniors back to campus.

NY Times correspondent asked “Why do you have an honors program as the whole school is honors? And we are otherwise on par with Ivy League Schools.” The will be looking to build the new building and will move lab space to the Downtown Campus and Bioinnovative Center. Last year we looked at the spaces and realized we have not recognized a diverse group of outstanding alumni. We are working on naming and building dedications. The first African American Tulane graduates were honored with the dorm naming ceremony. The goal will be more in the next 2 years. We continue to invest in the academic mission of the university. The quality of the undergraduates has never been stronger. We will continue to build.

Questions:

Q: Any thoughts to improve the food options on weekends for researchers who may be working?

Fitts: This requires building a campus downtown including food, food options, and places to meet and gather. We also need more people living in the area, not just working or studying here.

Q: Follow-up on collaboration between schools, both uptown and downtown.

Fitts: There has not been enough support for collaborative grants. There is a \$1 million grant support program which is to allow for easier collaboration between different schools. We want more undergrads on the Downtown Campus. Presidential Chairs and more professors are appointed to multiple schools. We need to continue to work on ease of transportation including traffic and parking.

Comments: There are undergrads in some labs downtown now including 1 lab that supports 6 students per summer semester with \$5,000 stipend. All of the undergrads are good and fast learners. We need a complete list serve for all of those undergrads who want to do research. We should consider an uptown research fair.

Q: We are not highly collaborative within the SOM by departments with research projects.

Fitts: Based on current trends, small liberal arts schools are at risk while larger universities are more siloed. We are more collaborative than other universities but also think we could be better. University grants are created for collaboration but are not really large enough for medical research. We have less funding for the collaboration on the uptown campus and primate center. We do have better collaboration with educational programs.

Q: Can you comment on the self-insurance for Tulane employees for healthcare?

Fitts: Tulane is the largest employer in NOLA. This change happened about 2-3 years ago. This allows us to create incentives for wellness and providing care. Creating wellness incentives and financial incentives creates a win-win. This saves the university \$3 million per year.

Q: What are the best things happening in the university?

Fitts: We are working on biases and professionalism in the community. This is an ethical and moral stance and makes work better. We are a family.

Q: The elephant in the room is our clinical partnership with HCA which is the rate limiting step for becoming a premier clinical institution.

Fitts: We do need to grow. Both clinically and with the quality of care and research enterprise. This is a high priority.

Q: The uptick on bias may be due to the increased reporting and not an actual increase in bias.

Fitts: We all need to be aware and sensitive of the diversity of the faculty, staff, and student body to improve the cause.

Q: Encouragement for faculty to continue their own education in other schools. This includes MBA, Public Health which helps with cross-pollination between schools.

Fitts: Residents and Faculty can grow from continued education with multiple programs in executive education ongoing for faculty and staff.

Q: Where is Tulane going globally?

Fitts: There are a variety of schools with PHTM which is very global as is the business school. There are 4X the number of international students than in the past. We have not created campus globally. Some universities, which have tried this, have struggled. Exercising quality control of a school is a challenge. The one area that might actually work is with clinical collaboration internationally including with China.

Q: Is there a possibility of a shuttle bus for patients?

Fitts: I haven't looked into this but the SOM and hospital should discuss.

Q: Where does the possible green space downtown stand?

Fitts: We need streetscape and working towards that goal.

Comment: We can use the 7th floor of the parking garage as an interm.

4. Dean's Report – *L. Lee Hamm, M.D., Senior Vice President and Dean: deferred*
5. Presentation of Candidates for the GMF Special Election for Committee on Equal Opportunity and Anti-Discrimination Grievances Against Faculty- *Aimee Aysenne, M.D., Vice-Chair of the General Medical Faculty*. Election ongoing.
6. Administrative Updates:
 - a. Office of Academic Affairs- *Kevin Krane, M.D., Vice Dean for Academic Affairs*
 - We are working towards curriculum renewal.
 - Integrate content
 - Promote lifelong learning
 - Develop clinical and professional behaviors, skills and attitudes.
 - Professional identity formation
 - Provide meaningful community engagement
 - b. Office of Faculty Affairs- *Marie Krousel-Wood, M.D. MSPH Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs*
 - *Update on new faculty hired since July 1st* : There have been many and have been shown on the screen.
 - *Faculty 180*
 - *Sexual Harassment Training Reminder*
 - c. Office of Admissions and Student Affairs- *Marc Kahn, M.D., MBA, Senior Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs*
 - *Career/Match Advising*: Every department is working with students to help with more appropriate rank list to help the match rate of our students.
 - d. Office of Research- *Giovanni Piedmonte, M.D.*
 - Only in the position for 2.5 months. Working on more federal funding and has cross the \$250 million threshold. This is the first time we are above the pre-Katrina level. We have more federal funding than any other university in the state. In 2019 we have received more money with less applications that means we have larger grants with more collaboration than in the past. But still not enough. We are a national and international institution and should be aiming for matching our peers, not just in the state. We are in the AAU- most selective research university. We are the 3rd smallest of the 65 schools in total. The goal is to make applications easier to submit. The grant submission will move to complete electronic system including processing and electronic lab notebooks.
 - We are working: on model sharing on campus, research database for students, biostatistical analysis software, and grant writers on campus. People are asking for smaller modular grants when we need to be asking for more.

- Analysis of piece by piece of every part of the a grant and working on making the application easier including minimizing the time for the application.
- President Fitts has made research a fundamental mission of the university. Really reaching for the stars.
- Q: What happens with the publication and submission from predatory journalist and open source journals? A: We still need peer review. We cannot allow open access only because of the cost. The VP of research will be at a meeting in D.C. next week where this will be discussed.
- Q: How do we mentor junior faculty with rejected publications and with predatory editors? A: Contentions with matching researchers mentors and mentees.

7. New Business and Discussion: none

8. Adjournment