

- I. Meeting was declared open by **Aimee Aysenne, M.D.**, Chair of the GMF at 5:05pm.
- II. **Approval of minutes** (Dr. Tracy Fischer, Secretary-Treasurer of the GMF). Minutes of the May 28, 2020 meeting were approved.
- III. **Presentation of the Winners of the General Medical Faculty Election** (Dr. Aimee Aysenne). Dr. Aysenne thanked the Nominating Committee for their work in nominating individuals for the GMF and School committees and introduced each of the winners of the GMF election.
- IV. **Dean's Report** Dr. Lee Hamm, Dean of the School of Medicine, discussed the challenges of the current situation of CoVID-19 in addition to the pressures of everyday challenges, both common and uncommon.
 - Tulane University faculty and staff are doing remarkably well. Most individuals have remained at work full-time or are working full-time at home.
 - An alarming increase in the numbers of CoVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are currently seen in surrounding states and parishes. Some hospitals are reporting at or near capacity. New Orleans has not been hit with this ferocity, but this remains to be seen.
 - Students, faculty, and staff have demonstrated remarkable strength in character during this challenging time. We are currently experiencing a pandemic, economic consequences of the pandemic, unrest trying to achieve racial justice, and it is hurricane season. It is a complex time, but we are doing well in each of our missions.
 - Research is doing very well and continues to expand. We have ongoing recruitment for new chairs and researchers. Some recruits have not yet arrived but are working on Tulane's behalf.
 - Educational changes are ongoing and doing very well. Tulane remains very popular.
 - The hospital volumes of non-CoVID-19 illnesses are recovering. Clinics are ~85-90% of prior volumes. The OR volumes, a key financial indicator, are close to where they were pre-CoVID-19. New programs are underway.
 - Additional resources are being put into the Office of Multicultural Affairs. A new working group, called the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coalition, is being formed and will be led by Bennetta Horn.
 - The Professionalism initiative begun 2-3 years ago is going well. It is raising awareness of professionalism. Some reporting systems are being utilized and the Professionalism Steering Committee are adding new initiatives.
 - The clinical income provides ~60% of the Medical School revenue. The Medical School finances have taken a multi-million dollar hit due to decreased clinical visits because of CoVID-19. We do have a budget for the upcoming school year. The university also took a loss due to return of monies to students who had to leave the dorms due to CoVID-19 and incremental expenses. Salary freezes and hiring and budget restrictions have helped offset the financial impact on the school. The university is doing reasonably well but is relatively tuition dependent. It is important that our students are able to return to campus and function in a normal way.
 - Dr. Hamm concluded by thanking everyone for their hard work and good cheer, describing it as an inspiration to him and all of the school leadership.
- V. **Administrative Updates**
 - a. **Faculty Affairs** Dr. Marie Krousel-Woods, Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, thanked Dr. Hamm for his comments and leadership and expressed her appreciation for the faculty and staff for their work during this challenging time.
 - Faculty self-evaluations are due August 15, 2020. Get forms and guidance from your Chair or supervisor.
 - Update Faculty 180 database. Contact Wendy Stark wstark@tulane.edu for Faculty 180 questions.
 - Meet with your Chair, Division Chief, Center Director or supervisor before September 15, 2020. Reach out to them if they have not contacted you.

- New faculty orientation is September 9, 2020. Most sessions will be virtual but will try to incorporate in-person, if able.
 - Grant writing seminars are shifted to a virtual format. Details will be forthcoming.
 - Tulane faculty are growing strong. Increase of 5.5% in every track. This continued growth is important for the success of Tulane University.
 - Congratulated senior faculty rank.
 - Welcomed new faculty that entered in June and July.
- b. **Academic Affairs** Dr. Kevin Krane, Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, gave an update on medical education in the current era of CoVID-19.
- Safety is the primary goal for all. Efforts are made to minimize risk to the best possible level. Students and their families must be comfortable with our environment. Faculty, residents, and staff must be on-board and model safe behavior.
 - Students need direct clinical encounters to meet institutional educational competencies. This was disrupted in March but have resumed.
 - Years 1 and 2
 - Thanked all of the course directors for completely reorganizing the curriculum.
 - The anatomy course will be distributed through the systems-based modules throughout the year.
 - Cadavers are presented in prosected manner. Students will wear face masks, shields, and social distance. This is one of the greatest challenges for medical schools.
 - All large group sessions will be done on-line. Faculty need to reduce the time of their typical lectures and may need additional training to find new ways to engage students. Dr. Guen Rae, Assistant Dean for Basic Science Education, has been working with faculty to change how we teach.
 - In-person teaching sessions are limited to 10 and will be spaced to allow for social distancing.
 - All exams will be administered remotely, except for students who are unable to take exams at home. Space will be made available for these students to take their exams at Tulane and will be proctored.
 - Online education materials are now available to all faculty through Osmosis. Osmosis has videos and teaching materials that can be assigned to students before the lecture as a way to engage.
 - Physical space, PPE, technology, faculty development, and disadvantaged students are other important university concerns that are being addressed.
 - Clinical settings must follow all CoVID-19 policies. SARS-CoV-2 testing is required for all. Known or suspected SARS-CoV-2 positive patients will NOT be seen by students.
 - Protocols are in place if a student tests positive for SARS-CoV-2.
 - Reduced team sizes and distancing will proceed during rounds. Learner:patient ratio is reduced. New policies are ongoing. Expect frequent changes, as guidelines and science change.
- c. **Admissions and Student Affairs** Dr. Elma LeDoux, Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs gave an overview of the entering class.
- 190 in-coming students; no drops
 - From 98 colleges and universities and 34 states (most represented states are LA, CA, and FL)
 - Average GPA = 3.51
 - Average MCAT = 509
 - 10 international students
 - 24 African American students, increasing diversity at Tulane
 - All students will be tested for CoVID-19. Results will be provided the following day.
 - The 4th year students will not have 'away' rotations. Interviews will be done virtually, even for local applicants, so they will not have an advantage over those who are further away.

- On-line journal clubs from almost every specialty are helping students get face time with residents.
- d. **Graduate Medical Education** Dr. Jeffrey Wiese, Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education, acknowledge the work of the residents and fellows during the current CoVID-19 crisis.
- Tulane has 130 new Residents and Fellows. Thank you to the individuals who have helped make this happen.
 - Two people were SARS-CoV-2 positive, but without CoVID-19 symptoms. They underwent the 10-day quarantine, as outlined by the CDC, and have returned to work.
 - Residents and Fellows will be tested monthly.
 - Interviews will be performed virtually. Work at the institutional level is ongoing to help supplant what would have been done on interview day. Zoom interviews may allow for an increase in the number of programs individuals apply to.
 - Currently working on Code Gray and identifying individuals for the Code Gray team.
 - Strategic priorities will be announced at the end of July for the academic year but will include a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force. This has already been formed and will synergize with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coalition. The task force is being led by Dr. Paul Gladden and Rhonda Coignet and is focused on the Resident and Fellow program.
 - A second strategic priority will be to augment faculty development in the clinical space.
- e. **Research** Dr. Patrice Delafontaine, Executive Dean, reported substantial growth in research dollars.
- Research dollars are +54% at SOM, +53% at TNPRC.
 - The number of proposals and awards have grown. Dollar amounts applied for has also increased.
 - SOM carries ~40% of the university's total research portfolio; the School of Public Health and Primate Center carry~24% each.
 - New initiatives have begun to facilitate implementation and conduct of clinical trials.
 - Currently, we have 401 clinical trials are open or pending; 161 are recruiting; 39 are at the stage of data analysis. Many trials are CoVID-19-related.
 - Deployment of SignalPath software will soon be available and will assist clinical trials management throughout the life of the clinical trial. Allows investigators to create dashboards to assess specific things the investigator is interested in.
 - i2b2 is currently available. It is a research tool for investigators to build cohorts for studies. Allows de-identified cohort analysis on diagnoses, procedures, medications, demographics, and vitals, etc. It is a very flexible tool used by many universities involved in CTSA grants and large clinical data warehouses. Contact Chance Sweat 988-8448 csweat@tulane.edu for training and more information.
 - A CoVID-19 clinical trial unit is being developed that has the necessary infrastructure in place to provide the needed precautions for patients and staff. It will have a negative pressure room. Most patients will be negative for SARS-CoV-2. The unit should be up and running within the next 10 days.
- f. **Graduate Medical Education** Dr. Diane Blake (addition to agenda) gave a brief summary of the graduate program.
- We have 81 PhD students in the program. 60 students are currently in the interdisciplinary PhD program and 21 new students will be joining us in the fall.
 - Total Master's students (1-year program) is ~152 this year.
 - CoVID-19 testing is arranged for all new BMS students. Students must test negative to begin classes. Plans for quarantining any students that test positive, as well as retesting 5% of the class each month, have been made.
 - Classes are scheduled in Hutchinson to provide social distancing. Please inform the Office of Graduate Medical Education if students are loitering around, to keep the students and faculty safe.
 - A hybrid curriculum (on-line and in-class lectures) is planned but we must remain flexible, should the situation require us to teach completely on-line.

- g. Dr. Bob Garry (addition to agenda) deferred for time.
- h. **Clinical Services** Dr. Gabriella Pridjian, Associate Dean of Clinical Services, reported that clinical services are increasing, gradually but steadily.
 - Non-CoVID-19 patients are now being seen. Many are very ill because they avoided coming into the hospital for fear of contracting the virus and developing CoVID-19.
 - Out-patient clinical visits are increasing, however, televisits remain ongoing.
 - Attitude of “do not say no” is important for increasing out-patient visits. Efforts should be made to see new patients within 48 hours to get back to pre-CoVID-19 levels.

VI. **New Business and Discussion** No new business was discussed.

VII. **Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 6:07pm.