

- I. Meeting was declared open by **Aimee Aysenne, M.D.**, Chair of the GMF at 4:01.
- II. **Approval of minutes** (Dr. Tracy Fischer, Secretary-Treasurer of the GMF). Minutes of the October 21, 2020 meeting were approved.
- III. **Dean's Report** Dr. Lee Hamm, Dean of the School of Medicine, thanked the faculty for all they've done throughout these trying times.
 - Town Hall will be presented February 25th, which will provide information on the state of the university.
 - March 9, 2021, probably at noon, there will be a memorial/recognition even of the first COVID-19 case in New Orleans.
 - The community has been greatly affected with personal losses and suffering.
 - Many in the SOM have done a lot to help and should be proud of their efforts
 - Tulane is continuing to grow and improve, despite the challenges.
 - COVID-19 cases and deaths are declining but it is still too early to relax. The vaccinations do not give us license to return to pre-COVID-19, though. We had a surge in cases on the Uptown campus, largely due to behavior that was not responsible. This uptick decreased when we returned to more restrictive behaviors.
 - Recovery of Clinical services has continued despite a number of challenges, including hospital staffing and COVID-19 restrictions. We have a marketing effort that will roll out in the next few weeks. The introduction of teledoc, televisits that will be enhanced in the next weeks.
 - Remarkable efforts have been undertaken to interview for residency positions. We have high hopes for the residency matches.
 - We are working on budgets, which will likely include small increases for faculty and staff and limited travel. We are still seeing many COVID-19-related expenses, which prevents us from returning to pre-COVID-19 spending.
- II. **Announcement** Dr. Aimee Aysenne, Chair of the GMF
 - We are recruiting for members of the faculty who may be interested in serving on our committees. This is important for our governance but also helps in tenure pursuits. Please look out for an email from Dr. Norton.
- IV. **Administrative Updates**
 - a. **Office of Faculty Affairs** Dr. Marie Krousel-Woods, Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, welcomed new faculty.
 - Criteria for faculty promotions and tenure are on our website. Please visit this site and contact us if you have questions or need additional information.
 - Faculty 180 still needs to be completed by several faculty. Please reach out to our department and Wendy Stark if you have any questions or need assistance.
 - b. **Executive Dean** Dr. Patrice Delafontaine, Executive Dean, covered the vaccine efforts at the university
 - January 11th, 2021 the Tulane COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic opened in the JBJ Building.
 - Administered 2864 vaccines as of February 9, 2021.
 - The state is following the CDC guidelines to a large extent. We are in Phase 1b, tier 1 now and can vaccinate people 65 years or older, beginning Monday.
 - Phase 1b, tier 2 should be open soon, which includes K-12 and daycare personnel. The state may include institutions of higher education. We cannot vaccinate everyone in the University at this time and hope we can include this in the tier 2 group.
 - It may be another 2 weeks before we can move to tier 2.
 - Tulane Allied Health faculty, staff, students and employees 65 years or older. We are also allowed to vaccinate contract workers (food service, custodial, facilities, etc.). All employees 65 years of age and older can also be vaccinated. Call 311, option 3 to register and select

Tulane as your vaccination site. This is open to the General Public. Any of your patients 65 or older can be vaccinated at the JBJ building.

- TUHC Clinic 504-988-1001
- Please do not send out link on Dr. Delafontaine's slide, as this is not for everyone's use.
- There are several COVID-19 variants that have emerged that are concerning. The UK variant, B.1.1.7 is the most concerning because of its prevalence in the US. We also have cases of the South Africa B.1.351 and the Brazil P.1 variants.
- Getting vaccinated does not eliminate the need to continue the other safety measure (i.e., social distancing and appropriate mask wearing).
- SOM had ~69M awards in 2020. ~80% are federal awards with the remaining from Associations and Foundations and a small amount of state funding
- The SOM, TNPRC, and university increased funding due to increase productivity and faculty recruitment. Our research did not completely stop, and we were able to ramp up research relatively quickly.
- The Primate Center has increased significantly due to responsiveness to the pandemic.
- Overall, there is an increase in proposal submission across all schools and the Primate Center.
- Clinical trials are continuing to grow, including non-COVID-19-related trials. About 28 active studies are ongoing and recruiting at this time. We expect this will continue to grow. More details will be provided at the Town Hall.
- Q: Can the vaccine slide be made available? Yes, we can do this.
- Q: Can the over 65-year-old caregiver be able to receive the vaccine? They will with the start of Phase 1b, tier 1, which will begin on Monday, in accordance with the CDC guidelines.

V. **Provost Address** Dr. Robin Forman, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost of Tulane University.

- Everyone at Tulane have stepped up in extraordinary ways. The stakes were high for Tulane. It was an important moment for Tulane, and we met the challenge.
- We never stopped our research. We never lost our sense of forward movement and continued to be productive, publish, and write research proposals.
- FY20 was an extraordinary year with federal funding up ~50%. We are getting more awards, higher dollar awards, and high-profile research.
- We are competitive with strong research universities in the country. Our funding dollars are down a bit from last year, but we are closing the gap.
- We set a record for proposals out in the fall.
- We have new initiatives to assist with getting grants and supporting research to give the faculty the tools they need to manage their research. We are purchasing a Grant Lifecycle Management software to assist faculty.
- Our paper citations are improved. 2019 citations were in line with our AAU peers. We are publishing in higher impact journals. If you have an idea of how we can better support the research, please let me know. We are working to improve support for our researchers.
- We will pay the costs of publishing for high impact journals with open access. We started this program in March.
- We have hired a number of individuals to help you prepare a literature review and/or a meta-analysis study. These types of Review articles are often highly cited.
- The Provost's Office can help bring individuals that will move our AAU research. Please bring individuals to Dr. Forman's attentions.
- We are running out of space, largely due to our AAU hires. The Charity Hospital is expanding space for researchers. This is part of a larger project to create a "real" downtown campus with a fitness center, new food opportunities, and creating a streetscape with a university feel. The city is very interested in revitalizing this area and the whole neighborhood will be experiencing a Renaissance. Housing, daycare, and retail will be added. We want this to be a vibrant community. Job #1 is setting aside research space.

- Please get vaccinated. There are too many cases among the SOM, and we need everyone to be safe so please take advantage of

VI. **Follow-Up Questions**

- Q: How can we contact the writer for editing review papers? A: You can contact me directly and I will connect you with Samantha O’Connell.
- Q: I hope the new post award software is managed by post award accounting personnel and not scientists. Scientists should focus on science and fiscal personnel; should focus on accounting. A: This is partly true. The investigators need some responsibility with managing their grants. We are working to improve our teams and infrastructure to support the researchers.
- Q: As to the recruitment of AAU faculty, is there an ultimate goal or reaching point by which our recruitment will stop? A: No. The goal is to continue to recruit great researchers and support our commitment to be a great leading research university. We have improved since 2016 significantly when the AAU told us that we were “on the bubble” and have turned things around. We’d like to continue with our great results and will continue to recruit high-profile faculty and improve our research portfolio.
- Q: Can Provost take some action for those under-used space at JBJ (belonging to uptown schools) so we can utilize them for urgent need? A: This is a difficult thing to address. It was designed to bring Uptown and Downtown researchers together to do collaborative projects. Some space/offices may not be used full time but are being used and we cannot remove people that are productively utilizing the space. We need to explore ways to use the space more efficiently.
- Q: I hope that there will be some consideration for our clinical alumni to be able to participate in the renaissance of Charity--many have already expressed that interest. A: We are also interested in this, but we don’t know how this might happen. It is being discussed. There will be shared educational space. The idea is that the first two floors will be open to the public and dedicated to educational purposes. There will be card-access only space for laboratories. We may include a museum. There may be some small clinic space.

VII. **Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 5:18pm.