Chairman Smith called the regular meeting of the Board of Regents to order at 8 a.m.

President Givens gave a PowerPoint presentation on the following items: Harris-Stowe State University had submitted its “Stimulus Wish List” of $31 Million to the Missouri Department of Higher Education. He further reported that the wish list included $10.6 million to renovate the Vashon Community Center into a multipurpose facility that will house a jazz institute, an art gallery and a professional development program for homeland security; $3.2 million to overhaul five laboratory spaces; $2.8 million to pay off the debt of a heating, air and lighting overhaul; $660,000 one-time funding and $500,000 annually for the maintenance of the 100-year-old main campus building; $425,000 one-time funding and $200,000 annually for information technology infrastructure upgrades; $321,000 for tuck-pointing of exterior brick walls of Vashon Community Center; $240,000 for the renovation and expansion of Business School library.

President Givens reported that plans and preparations have been underway for the University’s 2009 Commencement Convocation. He shared the important roles and award recipients for the Commencement Convocation Ceremony, which included Honorary Doctorate recipients, Dr. Mark S. Wrighton and Dr. Lincoln I. Diuguid. He noted that members of the Board of Regents would receive program responsibilities in the very near future.

President Givens reported that Representative Chris Kelly from Columbia, Missouri, decided to run a legislative bill for Missouri Institutions of Higher Education for close to $7 million in capital improvements. He stated that CBHE gave Representative Kelly “old” figures from state colleges and universities, which included only $3,781,491 for the Vashon Center renovation at Harris-Stowe in the former Vashon Community Center, because such a program does not exist in Metropolitan St. Louis, and is critical for the area. President Givens further stated that during his visit to Washington D.C., he will discuss the certified program with Congressman Clay, along with Congressman Bennie Thompson, Chair of the U.S. Committee on Homeland Security and members of his staff.

Regent Rollins asked if the requested amount will include operating funds for the program. President Givens stated that the $13 million requested funds will include development and operational support for the program.
Athletics News

Mr. Gooden reported that the HSSU Athletic Department completed two winter sport programs—men’s and women’s basketball. He stated that season for both teams was most competitive and that the men finished seventh in the American Midwest Conference, with the women finishing fifth. He noted that both teams were in the conference tournament but were not successful in the first round. He added that next year’s recruitment efforts will show promise of a season with considerable improvement. Mr. Gooden then reported on the spring men’s baseball and women’s softball teams who have conducted a full exhibition season and will start conference play this week. He stated that the men’s new baseball media guide had been distributed earlier in the meeting and that the booklet was supported by donations secured by the players along with advertising for the baseball field. Mr. Gooden concluded his report with the announcement of the annual HSSU Golf Tournament scheduled for April 17, at the Forest Park Golf Course and the annual Athletic Award Banquet which will be held on April 23, at the Emerson Performance Center. He noted that students, parents, friends, faculty and staff would be in attendance and that a formal invitation would be forthcoming to members of the Board of Regents.

Dr. McClure introduced Lisa Granadillo, Coordinator and Senior Programmer at HSSU, who “walked through” the University’s faculty portals with members of the Board via PowerPoint. Mrs. Granadillo pointed out the main features of the online portals which included attendance, tracking, grade entries and faculty course control. She added that students have the ability to register online and drop and add courses within the registration period, along with the ability to view their billing and housing information. She showed that the portal designs have areas for documents and forms, for example enrollment verification, transcript requests and GPA projection.

Dr. Smith reported on the upcoming Vice President’s Honors Program and Reception. He stated that the most-anticipated program would be held on March 25, 2009, at 4 p.m. in the Emerson building for students who achieved between 3.5 and 4.0 and for students who had academic honorable mentions of between 3.0 and 3.49. He further reported that Regent Rollins had agreed to serve again this year as the keynote speaker. He then noted that everyone was invited to attend to help family and friends “cheer on” students.

Business and Financial Affairs

Mrs. Gully shared income statements and cumulative revenues relating to the budget for fiscal year 2008-2009. She reported that the Financial Report was reviewed and discussed in detail with the Board Finance Committee on March 20. She reported that budgeted revenues realized to date were at 80.44 percent for February 2008 and expenditures were at 71.95 percent through February 2008. Gillespie Hall continues to remain at full capacity and is operating at a surplus.

Mrs. Gully gave an update on the Early Childhood Development and Parenting Education Center while Ms. Tilghman distributed copies of the monthly report prepared by the Kwame Building Group for the month of February 2009. She reported that the carpenters and glaziers continued working on the exterior to shield the interior from the weather while plumbers, electricians and others pushed to stay ahead of the drywall work. She then reported that the north wing is 990 percent covered in drywall and that the workers were progressing to the south wing. She added that the roofers continued installing the roof system. Mrs. Gully noted that it was her hope to conduct a walk through for members of the Board at its next meeting.

Dr. Zakery reported that Harris-Stowe is expanding its role and effectiveness in addressing economic revitalization needs and community development, principally for low and moderate income persons in the 18th Ward and surrounding areas in St. Louis. She stated that a HUD Grant community meeting had recently been held, and that activities of the HUD grant include special economic development activities and partnering with the HSSU Busch School of Business Administration and Citizens for Community Improvement Center owned by Rev. Hardin, and coordinated by Jeff Hardin, HSSU Alumnus. Dr. Zakery then reported that community economic development model provides counseling in developing business plans; creating new products; developing markets; setting up accounting procedures; licensing; marketing and more. She noted that the center will operate as a part of the Bob Virgil Center at the Busch School of Business, and that participant support will include the City of St. Louis Comptroller’s Office, the St. Louis Development Administration, the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Employment Connection, Washington University, Southwest National Bank and Better Family Life.

Dr. Zakery reported that to date, the total of federal and state taxes filed were at 560 compared to 388 in 2008. She stated that totals were expected to exceed 1,200 by April 15.

Dr. Zakery reported that the Busch School of Business Administration Graduation Reception and Speaker Series would be held on April 21, from 2 – 4 p.m. She stated that the guest speaker would be Mr. Arnold Donald, member of the Harris-Stowe State University African-American Business Leadership Council.

Dr. Zakery provided an update on Busch School of Business Administration faculty and student scholarly activities. She reported that Dr. Joe Teng would attend the annual e-commerce conference in Hawaii; Dr. Peter Ogar would judge a 60-paper competition at the American Marketing Association Annual Conference and that Mr. Barcus Jackson’s paper was accepted for presentation at the e-commerce conference. She then reported on student scholarly activities including the five students who attended the Thurgood Marshall Conference on March 15-18 in New Orleans, and the six students who would attend the American Marketing Association Annual Conference on March 30 in Louisiana with Dr. Ogar as the chaperone.
Ms. McCall reported that she and members of her staff promoted the ACT Preparations Workshop hosted by Ms. Boone and the Enrollment Management Team. She stated that students are hearing about the Prep Workshops on the radio stations. She then reported that her office produced the Commencement 2009 activity calendar cards to be placed into informational packets for graduates. She also reported that her office “jumped on board” early this year to promote Summer Sessions at Harris-Stowe. She stated that promotions were currently airing and were proving to be quite successful. She noted that she is personally proud of the results and outcomes of the various programs and activities being promoted for the University.

Ms. McCall reminded everyone that Dr. Zakery had reported earlier about the students who had attended the Thurgood Marshall Conference. Ms. McCall stated that there were also development sessions for staff, and that she, Ms. Boone and Mrs. Gully also attended the conference. She further stated that Harris-Stowe State University is considered as somewhat of a “superstar” at the conference because the institution is one of the most advanced HBCUs in the nation, as evidenced in Dr. McClure’s report on the technology portals. Ms. McCall then stated that she was honored to talk about Harris-Stowe’s brand at the Thurgood Marshall Conferences, and that she and Ms. Boone sit on the planning committee for the national conference every year, and that while it is hard work, it is very productive.

Ms. McCall shared broadcast media clips which included the Teacher Job Fair and the recent Career Fair held on Harris-Stowe’s campus. She noted in response to Regent Rollins’ earlier question, that the Teacher teach job fair was sponsored by the Career, Planning and Placement Department, and was widely promoted by her office.

Dr. O’Brien reported that the annual Teacher Education Interview Day was held on March 10, 2009. She stated that 28 school districts conducted 360 interviews and that school districts included the metropolitan St. Louis area, Memphis, Tennessee, Madison, Wisconsin, Springfield, Illinois and Aurora, Illinois.

Dr. O’Brien added to her reports that 12 teams competed in the annual Hornet Invitational, a pre-national championship tournament of the Honda All-Star Challenge. She stated that Alabama A&M won the contest defeating Mississippi Valley State and that Harris-Stowe lost in the quarterfinals to Jackson State. She noted that this was the last pre-NCT before the national competition to be held on March 26-30.
Academic Support Services is sponsoring finals workshops for interested students. If you know of anyone who might need assistance in the areas of math and science, please send them to the Office of Retention for Mathematics and Science, Ron Banks, Director. Encourage them to visit Room 307 of the HGA building. They can also call (314) 340-3643.

**Picture of the Month:** Under the direction of Erma Brooks, art instructor at HSSU, art students held an art show, which included original works from our very own students. Above, are a few pieces that were on display for the event. We have some of the most artistically talented students in the area right here on our campus!