Chairman’s Report

Chairman Smith reported that the Harris-Stowe State University Board of Regents end-of-the-year meeting was held on December 19, 2008, in honor of Regent Emeritus Queen D. Fowler.

President’s Report

Dr. Givens reported that he had the opportunity to attend the inauguration celebration for President Barack Obama, as did Chairman Smith, Rochelle Tilghman, and an array of Missouri leaders. He stated that while there, KMOX Radio contacted him for an interview, and that his remarks were in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and President Obama’s inauguration.

President Givens reported that newly elected Governor Jay Nixon requested to come to Harris-Stowe’s campus to make an announcement regarding higher education in Missouri. He stated that Governor Nixon made an excellent presentation, and that he (Dr. Givens), UMSL Chancellor Thomas George, and Harris-Stowe students, accompanied Governor Nixon on stage during his presentation. President Givens further stated that the presentation was an excellent one, and noted that Governor Nixon will request of the Missouri Legislature, that no higher education budget cuts, and no increase of tuition and fees at higher education institutions for 2009-2010. He then distributed photos taken during the Governor’s visit.

Mrs. Gully noted that prior to the winter break, institutions of higher education were requested to submit 15 percent, 20 percent and 25 percent budget cut impact statements. She further noted that Governor Nixon’s proposal would greatly benefit Harris-Stowe.

President Givens reported that he and Charles Gooden attended the Inauguration for Governor Jay Nixon on January 12. He called for the distribution of copies of the printed program.

President Givens reported that there was a strong Board of Regents attendance at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. State-wide Celebration Kickoff for Missouri, and that he was most grateful. He further reported that Dr. Michael Eric Dyson served as an outstanding keynote speaker and that Dr. Dyson, along with members of the Harris-Stowe Board of Regents, members of the Commission and key legislators, received the distinguished Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. chairman’s medalion. He added that members of the University’s logistics committee for the celebration received medals at the follow-up meeting. He then called for the distribution of photos taken at the program.

President Givens reported that a number of higher education meetings had been held regarding challenges facing for FY 2009-2010. He asked Mrs. Gully to comment.

Mrs. Gully noted that she had mentioned the impact statements earlier, and that she is hopeful that based on the Governor’s visit to Harris-Stowe and discussions held with legislators, anticipated revenues for higher education in Missouri will remain untouched. She further noted that if there are no cuts, Harris-Stowe State University can meet the challenge.

President Givens noted that he is encouraged by the fact that higher education institutions have been working as a unit in facing these challenges.

President Givens reminded everyone that shortly after Governor Nixon was appointed, he rescinded all appointments made by former Governor Blunt after the legislature session adjorned. He stated that appointments that had not been confirmed by the Senate by May 2008, including Harris-Stowe appointees Attorney Steven Roberts, Ms. Debra Hollingsworth and Student Representative Leonard Johnson, were all affected by the issue and have re-submitted their applications.

President Givens reported that it has become a tradition for Harris-Stowe to try and recognize those who give great service. He stated that the Annual Faculty Emeritus Retirement Luncheon and Years of Service Awards Program was held on December 5, 2008, at the Missouri Athletic Club in honor of Donald Heckel, Judith Repke, Marian Shapiro, Terry Werner and Armetta Whitmore, along with Harris-Stowe employees who had reached 20, 25 and 30 years of service.
Dr. Smith gave a PowerPoint presentation on the following topics:

Classroom upgrades with new furniture and latest technology as a result of the College Reduction Act Grant, which enabled Harris-Stowe to upgrade all classrooms at the institution. He reminded everyone that Dr. McClure spearheaded the project along with Heather Bostic, Scott Hartwig, the Maintenance, and CIO departments. Dr. Smith noted that the classroom upgrades are designed to increase student engagement, bolster the morale of faculty and create a stronger environment for teaching and learning. He then expressed appreciation for everyone involved.

Dr. Smith reported that the Spring 2009 Faculty/Professional Staff Institute was held January 7-9, 2009. He stated that the Institute was most successful and that Dr. Tim Gallimore, Assistant Commissioner of Higher Education, served as the keynote speaker. Dr. Gallimore shared, with candor, the various directions of higher education in Missouri. He added that a variety of interesting panel discussions were held including You Can Make a Difference (a student panel), and Best Practices in the Classroom (a faculty panel). Dr. Smith remarked that overall, it was a wonderful institute.

Dr. Smith reported that the Harris-Stowe State University Concert Chorale held its annual Sounds of the Season Holiday Concert on November 23 which featured various guest artists from across the metro area and members of the HSSU faculty and staff. He stated that the music program at Harris-Stowe is increasing in excellence.

Mrs. Gully shared income statements and cumulative revenues for fiscal year 2008-2009. At the Finance Committee meeting held on January 22, it was reported that the Financial Report was reviewed and discussed in detail with the Board Finance Committee. Mrs. Gully reported that the Board received a financial report and income statements for fiscal year 2008-2009. She reported that budgeted revenues realized to date were at 54.87% for November 2008 and 65.34% for December 2008. Expenditures were at 72% through December 31, 2008, and 55.33% through November 30, 2008. Mrs. Gully thanked Enrollment Management and the Accounting Department for ensuring 100 percent occupancy at Gillespie Residence Hall with full clearances of students. She stated that revenues for Gillespie Hall were at eight percent above budget.

Mrs. Gully gave an update on the Early Childhood Development and Parenting Education Center. She stated that during the month of December, all of the major trades were at work and the major equipment items were received. She further reported that the second floor slab was cast, the exterior wall construction continued and the metal roof deck installation began. The Campus Expansion project is progressing smoothly.
Ms. McCall reported that her office has been promoting Harris-Stowe State University and supporting recruitment efforts. She encouraged everyone to look at the HSSU Web site, which features various programs and events at the University. She stated that she and her assistant had been working on an Early Childhood Brochure, promoting the BSBA IT project and College Goal Sunday, which would assist students statewide with information on financial assistance.

Ms. McCall reported that the 2009 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. State Celebration Kick-off Program had a record number of attendees. She stated that this year, her team was able to promote Anheuser-Busch as the program’s main honoree, and included newspaper, radio and television ads. She further stated that some television stations donated coverage time, and that the program received strong coverage from the St. Louis Post Dispatch and the St. Louis American.

Ms. McCall reported on the following student publicity opportunities: Khalisha Savage, the very bright ROTC student was featured on KMOV because of her recent promotion to the highest rank in the Air Force ROTC Cadet Commander Reserve. Ms. McCall noted that a number of television and radio media responded to the news release. Students in Dr. Brian Elsesser’s History Class presented documentaries on HSSU’s campus and received great coverage. Ms. McCall noted that each semester, Dr. Elsesser’s class writes and produces a documentary. She stated that a number of public access channels responded to the news release.

Ms. McCall gave kudos to Attorney Robin Shaw and Ericka Jackson for developing the program/viewing of the presidential inauguration. She stated that the HSSU event was featured on various news programs where students were interviewed. Ms. McCall shared media coverage from the event. Ms. McCall also showed media coverage on Governor Nixon’s visit to Harris-Stowe State University. She stated that Fox 2 visited classrooms and interviewed students and President Givens.

Regent Hoessle commended Dr. Givens and his staff for keeping the long-standing tradition of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Statewide Celebration at Harris-Stowe State University.

Dr. O’Brien reported that the spring 2009 New-Student Orientation was held on January 10, 2009. Welcome remarks were made by Mr. Gooden for President Givens and Fallon Dupard, SGA President. She further reported that students were provided a continental breakfast, Dr. Vicki Bernard presented ice-breakers and students were given a virtual tour of the campus via video. She added that presentations were made by a variety of HSSU directors and chairs.

Dr. O’Brien reported that four students attended the Governor’s Leadership Conference on January 6-8, 2009. She stated that Sammetrius Hopkins, Kevin Evans, Jordan Bosman and Marcus Burns attended the discussion groups, visited the Central Missouri Correctional Center, dined at the Governor’s Mansion attended speeches made by Catherine Hanaway and newly elected governor Jay Nixon at the Governor’s Prayer Breakfast.

The Departments of Student Activities and Urban Specializations sponsored an inauguration party in celebration of President Barack Obama on January 20, 2009. There were big screen viewings at three venues including the Main Auditorium, the Busch School of Business and the Gillespie Student Center. She stated that discussion about the significance of the event was provided by Professors Robin Shaw, Kimberly Curtis and Dr. Charlene Jones.

EVENT FACT: Did you know that our inauguration party that was held on January 20th was captured by April Simpson and FOX 2 News, who came on campus to interview our students and get their feelings on such a historic event? Be on the look out for more HSSU news in the community, as we’re doing big things!
Harris-Stowe State University was recently named, again, to the *U.S. News and World Report* to the best Midwest Colleges (tier 2) list, amongst all historically black colleges and universities. I’m sure you all remember that two years ago, we received the designation, but we were in tier 4. But, that’s not all...we were also named in the list amongst Midwest universities as well (and this has nothing to do with us being and HBCU). This designation was in tier 4. It’s an honor to simply be named, and to be named in two categories, so we should all feel extremely proud!

*Picture of the Month:* Look at our talent! Ervin Williams and Ryan Cunningham, both Harris-Stowe students who are also HSSU Players. The two recently starred in *The Meeting*, a play about Dr. King and Malcolm X. Williams played Martin and Cunningham was cast as Malcolm. Before the play even opened, it generated so much press from publications like the *Post-Dispatch* and the *St. Louis American*. Cunningham actually cut off his dreadlocks to play Malcolm.