Board Highlights

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Student Reg.'s Report

Regent Johnson reported that the Student Government Association has planned to host an issue forum entitled “Got Swag.” He stated that the forum would focus on the importance of students learning how to have a business style of dress, while maintaining their own personal style. He then reported that student organizations are assisting the University with community service programs including a clothing drive and a non-perishable food drive for Feed the City. He stated that the Collegiate 100 is also conducting its annual toy drive. Regent Johnson then followed up on his report at the last meeting regarding the Urban Specializations research program. He stated that Urban Specializations Chair Dr. Royster met with colleagues to get their opinions and advice on students assisting instructors with research methods.

President Givens then reported that each year, Harris-Stowe participates in the annual United Way campaign. He stated that this year, the University’s goal was $13,000, and that more than $17,000 had been raised. He commended Dr. O’Brien for her leadership and support.

President Givens reported that the Higher Learning Commission, formerly the North Central Accrediting Agency, held its annual conference in St. Louis at the Chase Park Plaza. He reminded Board members that Harris-Stowe State University is up for reaccreditation in 2011, and that he felt it important for him, along with Dr. McClure, to attend with other college and university presidents and chief academic officers. Dr. McClure reported that the purpose of the Conference was to have the opportunity to meet with members of the Higher Learning Commission, along with representatives from surrounding institutions. She stated that the Commission wanted to know how they could assist with upcoming accreditations. She reminded everyone that she and Dr. Smith had led discussions at the 2007 Faculty Institute on preparing for the upcoming accreditation in 2011 and information on updated criteria. She added that communications have continued with Karen Solomon, Harris-Stowe’s North Central mentor, who continues to provide valuable assistance.

President Givens stated that the last visit was held in 2002, and that Harris-Stowe was given 10 years until the next North Central reaccreditation, because there were no findings. He then reported that of the three major accreditations Harris-Stowe has undergone, including NCATE, North Central, DESE and two Business School accreditations, there were no findings, and that this success should be credited to the University’s faculty and staff. President Givens noted that Dr. Albert Walker, former vice president for Academic Affairs at Harris-Stowe, is now president for the University’s faculty and staff. President Givens stated that the Commission wanted to know how they could assist with upcoming accreditations. She reminded everyone that she and Dr. Smith had led discussions at the 2007 Faculty Institute on preparing for the upcoming accreditation in 2011 and information on updated criteria. She added that communications have continued with Karen Solomon, Harris-Stowe’s North Central mentor, who continues to provide valuable assistance.

President Givens shared St. Louis Post Dispatch photos taken during the services and a letter of appreciation received from Fire Chief Jenkerson, with members of the Board of Regents. President Givens reported that the annual Feed the City event, sponsored by MAJIC 104.9 and Harris-Stowe State University, would be held on November 22, 2008. He asked Ms. Jordan to comment. Ms. Jordan stated that the event would include a traditional, hot, thanksgiving dinner, health screening, toy giveaway, clothing and canned food giveaway. She added that live entertainment would be provided throughout the program by MAJIC 104.9. President Givens reported that Regent Roberts, his wife and children have assisted with Feed the City for the past 10 years, and would be on hand at the upcoming program as well. He invited other members of the Board to attend or participate if they wished.

President Givens reported that over the past few years, a silent fundraiser has been underway at HSSU. The next major fundraiser would kickoff in January 2009.
Dr. Smith reported that one of several educators honored in the St. Louis metropolitan area at the Emerson Teacher of the Year Program, was Dr. Jack Burke, Professor of Sociology at HSSU. Dr. Burke has served Harris-Stowe for 38 years as a tenured professor, sponsor of the campus chapter of Alpha Chi Honor Society, former department chair of Urban Specializations and interim executive assistant to the Chief Academic Officer. Dr. Burke would be honored as Educator of the Year by Governor-elect Nixon in 2009.

Dr. Smith provided an update on faculty achievements at Harris-Stowe, including that of Mr. Greg Carr, instructor in Arts and Sciences, whose abstract entitled “Three Fridays in August: An Overview of Fences,” was accepted by the National Association of African-American Studies in Scarborough, Maine. He noted that Mr. Carr would present at the Association’s annual conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in February 2009. Dr. Smith then reported that Dr. Larry Acker and Dr. John David Kerr have had their paper, tentatively entitled “Families, Memories and the Black Entrepreneur,” accepted by the Committee on Family Research for presentation at a seminar to be held in June 2009, hosted by the Oslo University College and Center for Studies of the Holocaust and Religious Minorities. This paper is part of ongoing research by the two faculty members focusing on the black entrepreneur and differences between the black entrepreneur and entrepreneurs who are white, Asian or Hispanic.

Dr. Smith then announced the upcoming HSSU Players’ stage production of the Toni Morrison play, *The Bluest Eye*. He then announced the upcoming holiday concert by the Concert Chorale.

Dr. Kemp gave a PowerPoint presentation on an update on preparation for the upcoming NCATE Continuing Accreditation Review. He is pleased with the level of productivity and attention to detail by faculty and staff committees. The presentation also included an update on required Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) reports that had been submitted. He stated that faculty have been on task, and have produced, within the past nine months, program reports for state approval. Contents of the reports were given a final proof-reading, and approximately 300 exhibit documents had been edited and proofed as well. It is important to ensure that each document is web-based and letter perfect. Dr. Kemp then reported that NCATE consultant to Harris-Stowe State University, Dr. Marilyn Feldmann, is scheduled to review institutional reports during December 2008, to provide feedback and guidance on how to best improve the reports.

Dr. Zakery reported that the BSBA Center for Entrepreneurship will be named after Dr. Robert (Bob) Virgil, who was instrumental in charting the Busch School of Business Administration, and envisioned the development of the center, which will provide counseling services in developing business plans, creating new products, developing marketing strategies and setting up accounting procedures, just to name a few. The center will focus on business education seminars on starting a new business, business planning, management, marketing and finance, both on site and at other locations.

Regent Roberts reported that the Ernst and Young Accounting Firm Worldwide Entrepreneurship Program, along with other nominated businesses. He stated that the Kauffman Foundation is the worldwide sponsor of the event, and stated that Harris-Stowe State University should get Kauffman involved with the Busch School of Business Administration. He encouraged the administration to invite Kauffman to Harris-Stowe’s campus for a visit.

Plans are underway for the Enterprise Rent-A-Car Speaker Series at the Busch School of Business. Topics will include business etiquette, dress and techniques in the workplace, including business attire, cell phone, voice mail and email etiquette. The series would also include business basics, the Enterprise Story, which describes their business model and top box theory of customer satisfaction. This is a great presentation for a business management or consumer behavior class, or to any business student organization. The series would also include but not limited to: environmental platform presentations, mission vision, job search techniques 101, interviewing strategies for successful interviewing, resume writing and time management. Such a series would also be held with other major corporations.

BSBA is working on a plan for a partnership with the Wal-Mart Corporation. There are 16 Super Wal-Marts in metropolitan St. Louis. A representative from the corporation will work closely with the BSBA and will sit on the BSBA Advisory Council.
Communications, Marketing & Alumni Affairs

Ms. McCall distributed board highlights which included photos from the successful Wolff Jazz Institute Brunch and Jazz Concert. Ms. McCall then gave a brief overview of Harris-Stowe advertisements for the month of November 2008. She stated that ad promotions in local theaters and magazines began in September and included The Bluest Eye, an HSSU Players production, and Sounds of the Season, a holiday concert which would be performed by the HSSU Concert Chorale, and promoted on various jazz and classical radio stations. She then reported that spring 2009 registration promotions included print, radio and television ads, and branding advertising in the St. Louis Business Journal Annual Directory. Ms. McCall then reported that Harris-Stowe had participated in community outreach advertising in the St. Louis American, and ads to support teams and programs. She added that events have all been promoted internally and externally. She then added that she has been working on a feature ad and photos for the capital funding monthly magazine.

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Student Affairs

Dr. O’Brien reported that the HSSU Student Government Association was involved in two major service projects during the month of November 2008. She stated that the SGA non-perishable food drive and the clothing drive was being held, and that donations could be placed in boxes located at the Gillespie Student Center, Career Planning and Placement, the Busch School of Business and the Henry Givens, Jr. Administration (HGA) Building. She further stated that proceeds would be donated to the HSSU/Majic 104.9 Feed the City community service project. Dr. O’Brien then reported that the Collegiate 100 student organization would conduct a toy drive from December 1 through December 12, 2008. She stated that collection bins would be located in the lower level of the HGA, the Gillespie Student Center and the Busch School of Business. She noted that toys would be distributed over the winter break to needy children. She then provided contact information for recommending a needy child.

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Feed the City 2008. Members of the Student Government Association stand behind a table covered with canned goods that the organization donated to needy families.
Have you mentored a student today? Perhaps you stopped a student in the hallway and asked how their classes were going. Or, maybe you wished them well on an upcoming test...Maybe you congratulated a student-athlete on last night’s good game. Whatever your preference, with such a small university population, it should be on everyone’s priority list to interact with our students. Our small class sizes and one-on-one attention are two things that set Harris-Stowe apart from other institutions. When our students feel valued, we get a much greater satisfaction for the real reason that we are ALL here….to cater to the needs of our students, while encouraging them to reach for the stars!

**Picture of the Month:** Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, the keynote speaker for the 23rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King State Celebration Kick-off Program, had the capacity-filled crowd at the edge of their seats during his entire speech. He was animated, riveting and humorous. This year was one of the most memorable MLK events to date! Lots of fun!