Board Highlights

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 6
JANUARY 2010

Chairman's Report

In the absence of Chairman Smith, Regent Gillespie called the regular meeting of the Board of Regents to order at 8:10 a.m.

A moment of silence was held for the late Dr. George H. Hyram, HSSU Executive Vice President Emeritus for Administration.

Discussions were held regarding the possibility of holding a Board of Regents Retreat early in 2010. Regent Rollins reminded everyone that an outstanding retreat was held last year. He recommended that the next Annual Board Retreat be held in 2010 for members to step away from the regular monthly business and take a look at the strategic initiatives of the University. He further stated that at the 2009 Retreat, Dr. Bernard Watson was instrumental in providing leadership for the Five-Year Strategic Plan, along with the late Dr. George Hyram. President Givens announced that Dr. Watson would be returning to Harris-Stowe in February 2010.

Regent Gillespie then called for a report from Mr. Derek Collins, student representative to the Board.

Mr. Collins stated that he was most grateful for the experiences that he has been afforded as a student of Harris-Stowe State University. He reported that the Student Government Association (SGA) held a can food drive for needy families in the community, which concluded on November 23rd. He then reported that the SGA partnered with the Office of Student Activities in welcoming a guest speaker to hold discussions on homelessness youth. He added that the next SGA meeting would be held on November 25th to discuss holiday activities and plans for a World AIDS Day Event on December 1st. Mr. Collins then reported that the HSSU Players will present Bram Stoker’s Dracula on November 19th - 21st at the Emerson Performance Theater. Mr. Collins concluded his reports with a brief follow-up on the Thurgood Marshall Leadership Institute. He stated that the 9th Annual Thurgood Marshall Leadership Institute, Recruitment Conference and Career Fair were held during the weekend of October 23-26 in New York City. He stated that the conference provided leadership and career training to more than 600 students, along with providing them the opportunity to interact and interview with several Fortune 1000 companies. He then distributed copies of his presentation to members of the Board.

President’s Report

President Givens reported that wonderful services and celebrations of life were held for Dr. George Hyram, Vice President Emeritus of Administration on November 4, and November 6, 2009. He reminded everyone that Dr. Hyram was 89 years old at his passing, and had been preceded in death by many of his family members. He stated that Dr. Hyram considered Harris-Stowe State University as his family and gave dedicated service for almost 30 years. He noted that articles regarding Dr. Hyram’s passing were printed in the St. Louis American and in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. President Givens added that he had been contacted by the St. Louis American to print the remarks he made at Dr. Hyram’s funeral service. Copies of programs from services held for Dr. Hyram can be found under Tab 4 of the November 2009 Board Booklet.

President Givens reported on the recent Council on Public Higher Education conference call held on November 11, regarding the fiscal year 2010-2011 Missouri state budgets. He stated that Governor Nixon will begin to make reductions in next year’s budget, including a possible $50 million cut for higher education. He asked Mrs. Gully to comment. Mrs. Gully reminded everyone of last year’s agreement between Governor and Missouri Higher Education, to hold tuition flat. She shared details regarding the FY 2010-2011 budgets and that the Governor’s Office is encouraging institutions to share with Boards a proposed agreement not to increase tuition, if higher education State budget cuts do not exceed 7 percent for FY 2011. She noted that a 7 percent cut would mean $730,000 for Harris-Stowe.

President Givens added that these are very serious times and that higher education in Missouri, and nationwide, is facing a real budget crisis. He further added that Mrs. Gully has watched Harris-Stowe’s budget closely and that it is the hope of the Administration to avoid layoffs. He noted that he would keep the Board posted.

President Givens reported that each year, the Regional Commerce and Growth Association (RCGA) announces 50 major top awards for organizations that are doing good work for the metropolitan St. Louis area. He stated that he was most pleased to announce that Harris-Stowe has been selected as one of the Greater St. Louis 2009 Top 50 and that program would be held on November 18, 2009.

President Givens reminded everyone that Dr. George H. Hyram was somewhat of an “institution” in his own right throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area. He stated that Dr. Hyram was a tireless public servant who committed the last 30 years of his life to the expansion, growth and development of Harris-Stowe State University. He added that as a lasting tribute to his memory and dedicated service, the Harris-Stowe State University administration submitted a proclamation to members of the Board to name the Dr. George H. Hyram Seminar Room in the University’s AT&T Library/Technology Resource Center.
Dr. Smith stated that it was an honor to present Dr. Lawrence Acker, assistant professor of Health Care Management as a candidate for promotion in rank with tenure. He further stated that granting faculty promotion and tenure is a very serious process at Harris-Stowe and that faculty members go to great lengths to develop their portfolios for promotion and tenure. There are several individuals within the Harris-Stowe community who labor over the portfolios to ensure that each candidate has successfully met the necessary requirements to go before the tenure committee. Dr. Smith then shared, in detail, the process that led up to Dr. Acker’s recommendation. He noted that in order to be recommended to the Vice President for Academic Affairs by the Promotion and Tenure Committee, the candidate must achieve an average of 3.5 on a five-point scale from the various evaluation groups. He stated that he was pleased to share that Dr. Acker far exceeded the average by achieving an average of 4.17.

Dr. LaTisha Smith reported on Harris-Stowe’s upcoming mock NCATE Visit to be held on November 22-24, 2009. She reminded everyone that the mock visit would be held to make sure that Harris-Stowe is fully ready for the actual visit in March 2010. She asked Dr. Linda Kleemann, director of NCATE/DESE Accreditation and Unit Assessments Department of Teacher Education, to provide an update.

Dr. Kleemann reported that everything is on track and on schedule for the mock NCATE Visit at Harris-Stowe. She stated that the mock evaluators would arrive on November 22 to begin their work looking over documents of evidence that Harris-Stowe is preparing teachers according to NCATE and statewide standards. She gave an overview of the mock visit schedule and further stated that the team is coming in to assist Harris-Stowe with the process for the final visit scheduled for March 2010. Dr. Kleemann then reported that an open report would be given on November 24 and that the faculty and staff are hoping for good ideas and suggestions to help prepare for the actual visit. She added that the conceptual framework for the Department of Teacher Education has been revised, modified and condensed for key information, and they are also constantly working on Department of Secondary and Elementary (DESE) reports, because DESE certifies teachers. Dr. Kleemann stated that they hope to complete DESE reports before the winter break. She then noted, that overall, the institution is progressing along well with the accreditation process, and that she is confident that everything is being done appropriately as Harris-Stowe prepares teachers for a diverse society.

Dr. Zakery reported that the Delta Mu Delta International Honor Society in Business held its induction ceremony at the Emerson Performance Center on November 4. She stated that the induction program was well attended and was most successful. Dr. Zakery reported that HSSU’s Bob Virgil Center for Entrepreneurship, in collaboration with St. Louis Regional Entrepreneurship Educators will sponsor the Global Entrepreneurship Week speaker series and other events including the Race for Entrepreneurship on November 14. Health Care Management and Entrepreneurship on November 16; Entrepreneurs Under 30; Advertising, Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management; Ujamaa Day Expo and Meet the Bankers Day Speaker Series. Dr. Zakery announced that Dr. John David Kerr’s research paper, “Emerging Markets in Africa: Epic Shifts in Privatization and Land Use,” has been accepted for presentation and publication at E-Leader Sin-
Mrs. Gully reported that the Financial Report for October 2009 was reviewed and discussed, in detail, with the Board Finance Committee on November 13. She further reported that budgeted revenues realized to date were at 42.52% and expenditures were at 40.33% through October 30, 2009. She further reported that Gillespie Residence Hall remains at 100% capacity with total revenue at 61% and expenditures at 43%.

Regents Rollins and Hollingsworth commended Mrs. Gully and her staff for closely monitoring HSSU budgets, especially in these challenging financial times and expressed that the team is doing a great job!

Ms. McCall reported that her team “hit the pavement” with promoting free child care, as a result of the Early Childhood partnership with YWCA Head Start. She stated that ads are running on radio stations, and that basically, any current ads promoting Harris-Stowe will have an Early Childhood focus.

Ms. McCall reported that other ads and promotions at Harris-Stowe include a recent marketing campaign that will focus on tutoring, additional help needed and other resources available for students. She noted that Communications and Marketing is doing their part for budget oversight by using HSSU students for all ads and by utilizing photographers from in-house more often. Ms. McCall further noted that Harris-Stowe is fortunate to have on staff, outstanding in-house designers and personnel. Ms. McCall added that she and her assistant Nisa, both write all of the information regarding the University, and that the impressive audio/visual work comes from Walter MeElroy and Jeff Harris. She commented that her office often receives calls from area organizations and companies, asking how and where Harris-Stowe’s impressive ads are being done.
Donate to Haiti!

The deadline has been extended to show your support for the devastating earthquake that rocked Haiti a few weeks ago. Please make your generous donations out the American Red Cross-St. Louis Chapter, with Haiti Relief Effort noted on your check. All donations should be included in the envelope that was mailed to your home and delivered to the Office of the President by the end of the month. Thank you!

**Picture of the Month:** Before all the festivities began in the Main Auditorium of the Henry Givens Jr. Building, this is how the stage looks. Isn’t it gorgeous. Many thanks to Constance Gully and her staff, Kat Estes-Wilson and Barbara Morrow for making sure that the MLK decorations are in place! Thanks ladies. We appreciate you!