Chairman’s Report

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

A swearing-in ceremony for new members of the Board of Regents, Mrs. Thelma V. Cook, Ms. Courtney Enrollment Mgmt. Boone, Exec. Dir., Enrollment Mgmt., Ms. Lashanda R. Boone, Exec. Dir., Enrollment Mgmt., and Ms. Courtney McColl, Director of Communications, Marketing, was conducted by The Honorable Gloria C. Reno, Circuit Court Judge, Division 36, St. Louis County. Chairman Smith welcomed the new members to the Board.

Chairman reminded everyone that the summer recess of the Board of Regents usually occurs during the month of July. He stated that the final meeting of the academic year would be held in June.

Prior to his report, President Givens reported that this is a very important meeting for the institution, and that Harris-Stowe has survived somewhat well, considering the recent issues facing the economy. He stated that the Governor kept all institutions of higher education apprised of recent gubernatorial Board of Regents usual events.

Chairman reminded everyone that the Harris-Stowe State University is fortunate to have the recent gubernatorial Board of Regents usually occurs during the month of July. He stated that the final meeting of the academic year would be held in June.

President’s Report

President Givens reported that the Harris-Stowe State University 2008-2009 Commencement Convocation program held on May 12, was a marvelous event. He stated that Chancellor Mark Wrighton served as an outstanding keynote speaker and reminded everyone that a great variety of programs had been held including a dinner for awardees, the reception for graduates, the scholarship and awards ceremony and various honors programs and inductions.

President Givens reported that he had been contacted by Congressman William Lacy Clay Jr. regarding a Homeland Security Training Program at Harris-Stowe. He stated that HSSU staff began working on proposals and that Attorney Robin Shaw, Assistant Chair of Urban Specializations and Heather Bostic, Executive Director of Sponsored Programs, accompanied him to Washington, D.C., where they made four major presentations to congressional offices. President Givens noted that the team is now working on finalizing the proposal for the next federal funding session. He asked Attorney Shaw and Mrs. Bostic to comment.

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He asked each member to formally introduce themselves, which included Debra Hollingsworth, AT&T Vice President for External Affairs, Thelma Cook, Consultant and retiree from Anheuser-Busch and Derek Collins, Harris-Stowe senior Business major and intern at City Hall for the License Collector.

President Givens reported that the Harris-Stowe State University officially acquire the former Hubert Wheeler State School Building.

President Givens reported that Harris-Stowe State University will take over the leadership of the nationally renown Dr. Benjamin Carson Scholarship and Reading Program. He stated that in recent years, the program was housed by Saint Louis University, under the direction of Dr. George Rausch. He further stated that Dr. Rausch, who will be moving to Indiana University Medical School, recommended, with board approval, that the program be re-located to Harris-Stowe State University. He asked Mr. Gooden to make additional comments.

Mr. Gooden reported that Dr. Benjamin Carson, pediatric surgeon at John Hopkins Medical Institute, established the scholarship program in 1994 to form libraries in elementary schools and to identify students who are academic achievers. He added that Dr. Carson stated that children need mentors and guidance in striving for academic success. Mr. Gooden then reported that the scholarship also sets aside funds for young people from fourth grade through high school to assist them with attending college. He stated that program is in many cities throughout the United States and that Harris-Stowe is in the process of continuing meetings with Dr. Rausch.

legislation on behalf of the University. She then announced that the legislation passed for Harris-Stowe State University to officially acquire the former Hubert Wheeler State School Building.

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Harris-Stowe State University presents an original play, A Colored Funeral, on July 16 and 17, in the Emerson Performance Center’s Bank of America Theatre. Thursday’s performance begins at 8 p.m. General admission is $10, and student and senior citizen tickets cost just $5. On Friday, July 17, there will be a special dinner theater performance, and the meal includes smoked chicken with sauces, baked beans, slaw, rolls, beverages and various cheesecakes, catered by Pappy’s. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., and a limited number of dinner theater tickets will be sold for $18 each. For those wishing to attend just the show, which begins at 8 p.m., general admission tickets are available for Friday for $10, and student and senior citizen tickets are also available for $5 each. For reservations, please contact Director Carr at (314) 340-3667 or Theater Instructor Beverly Brennan at (314) 340-5975.

Dr. McClure provided the Board with an update on the National Science Foundation Grant. She stated that the grant provides resources for the Summer Academy for Math and Science; employment of Mr. Ron Banks, Director of Retention for Math and Science; tutors in math and science and the undergraduate research program. She added that the grant affords Harris-Stowe students the opportunity to conduct research in the disciplines of math and science with University faculty members. Dr. McClure then added that the Summer Academy for Math and Science acquaints new Harris-Stowe first-year students with the required academic rigor for successful achievement in their math and science courses.

Dr. McClure reported on a recent grant received and pending grants submitted by Harris-Stowe faculty and staff. She gave kudos to Scott Hartwig and James Fogt, Co-Coordinators of CIO at Harris-Stowe, on being awarded the Thurgood Marshall College Fund/Microsoft Technology Grant in the amount of $67,686. She added that there are several other pending grants including: the National Science Foundation Infusion Grant, the Education Research Grant, Department of Education Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Grant, U.S. Department of Education Child Care Access Means Parents in School Grant, the LUMINA Foundation Grant to improve student attainment and the NSF Academic Research Infrastructure Grant. She stated that Academic Affairs would keep the President and the Board informed of the progress of grant requests.

Dr. McClure reported that Dr. Sheeren Kadar, Assistant Professor of Teacher Education at Harris-Stowe, had been selected to receive the 2009 Heartspring Award for Innovation and Creativity in Special Education. She also reported that Dr. Reynaldo Anderson, Assistant Professor of Teacher Education, has been invited to present his research, “Black History.com: The Obama Presidency,” at the 2nd International Conference on Education, Economy and Society in Paris, France, in July 2010.

Dr. McClure reported that a town hall meeting and Q & A session was held on Harris-Stowe’s campus on April 30, 2009. She stated that the program, title “How Will the Stimulus Plan Benefit the City of St. Louis?” was well attended by the community and legislators.

Dr. Zakery reported that the Busch School of Business Administration Graduation Reception and Speaker Series were held on April 21. She stated that the guest speaker, Mr. Arnold Donald, member of the Harris-Stowe State University African-American Business Leadership Council, shared words of wisdom with Business graduates. She stated that the seminar went very well. Dr. Zakery shared photos from the event as part of her PowerPoint presentation.

Dr. O’Brien reported that on April 1-4, 2009, Dr. Vicki Bernard, Director of Counseling Services and Annette Curdt, Student Activities Program Specialist and New Student Orientation Coordinator at Harris-Stowe, attended the Meeting of the Minds Conference along with three students. She stated that the conference was sponsored by Partners in Prevention, a program designed to decrease at-risk drinking by students on Missouri campuses. She added that the conference was held for peer educators and professionals working on substance abuse prevention and mental health on college campuses. She noted that the three students who attended were Virgil Pearson, Ryan Cunningham and Claude Bennet.

Dr. O’Brien reported that Harris-Stowe’s Department of Career Services has partnered with the Des Lee Fellowship Program. She stated that the program prepares college juniors to foster community engagement, philanthropy and volunteerism, as well as learning to lead others in making meaningful changes in their communities. She further stated that the program consists of four main components including internship, leadership, stewardship and impact, and that as part of the experience, Des Lee Fellows are charged with the task of developing their own project to help meet the need of the greater St. Louis community. The following students from Harris-Stowe have been chosen as Des Lee Fellows and will be a part of an elite team of 16 students from Harris-Stowe State University, Washington University and Saint Louis University that will dedicate the next year to professional and leadership development, civic engagement and community service: Lucas Alves, who will intern with the Newberry Group Human Resource Department; Delisa Phillips, intern at the St. Louis American in journalism; Mary Davis, intern at Wachovia in community affairs and Nethra Gibson, intern at the Black Rep with the Summer Performing Arts Program.
Business & 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 May 21.

She further reported that budgeted revenues realized to date were at 90.41 percent and expenditures were at 81.74 percent through April 2009. She stated that about 80 students have reapplied to live in Gillespie Hall, and that overall the budget is at about 90 percent expenditures for the Residence Hall because of an estimated gas bill for the facility.

Mrs. Gully reported that the construction of the Early Childhood Development and Parenting Center is more than 82 percent complete, and that the drywall work is more than 80 percent complete, painting 35 percent, plumbing 90 percent, electrical 80 percent, and heating and air conditioning work is at 94 percent complete. She stated that the project is currently tracking in line with the overall budget, and that the facility is scheduled to be completely operational by July 3, 2009. She noted that Dr. Johnson is working with Ms. McCall on promotional programs to recruit children for the program.

Communications & Marketing

Ms. McCall distributed photo albums and a packet prepared by her staff on 2009 commencement convocation media coverage.

Ms. McCall reported that Harris-Stowe was ahead of the game regarding technology and what is being done on campuses nationwide. She displayed the Harris-Stowe State University Facebook page which had 60 friends the first week it was set up. She stated that there are currently 144 “fans” registered on the Harris-Stowe’s Facebook, and that the page includes photo albums, coverage on University events and the history of Harris-Stowe. She noted that it also provides University alums to keep in touch and to inform others about the institution.

Ms. McCall reported that as a part of the expanding technology being offered at HSSU, the new e-Brochure caters to the needs of technologically advanced students. She distributed printouts of the new e-Brochure which can be found on the pull down menus under prospective students on the University Web site. The e-brochure, which is customized by her office, with information for students, is set up so that the University can learn more about students so that they can be better served. She further noted that this project is headed up by her assistant, Nisa Korte.

Ms. McCall shared the media broadcast coverage by KSDK News, on HBCU grants funding and classroom updates, which featured Dr. Michelle McClure, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs. Ms. McCall noted that the coverage was great public relations for the University as it showed the updated classrooms that were funded by the grant money.

Ms. McCall distributed copies of a recent edition of the St. Louis Business Journal, which featured photos and a write up on the Early Childhood Center.

Ms. McCall gave “kudos” to her staff members, Nisa Korte and Krystol Trice, to Scott Hartwig, Brenda Talbot and other HSSU staff who make it possible for the outstanding publications and presentations produced by her office.
Picture of the Month: Dr. Givens greets graduates and their families at his annual President’s Reception for Graduates, held in the AT&T Library and Technology Center. Doesn’t he look cheerful, as do the students. They love shaking the President’s hand.