Chairman’s Report

Chairman Smith called the regular meeting of the Board of Regents to order at 8:30 a.m.

President’s Report

President Givens reported that he and members of his staff attended the 2009-2010 Missouri House and Senate Appropriations hearings on February 24. He stated that Michael T. Nietzel, President, Missouri State University and University of Missouri System President Gary Forsee made presentations to the Senate in behalf of all presidents and chancellors. He then stated that Harris-Stowe was first to present to the House, and that the only question asked was related to why more Illinois students are coming to Harris-Stowe; which, in his opinion, was a compliment. President Givens noted that Mrs. Gully and Ms. Tilghman put together an excellent presentation, which Mrs. Gully distributed to each member of the Board. He then noted that he felt very good about the presentation.

President Givens stated that he was unaware of Congressman Roy Blunt’s intention to announce his candidacy for the U.S. Senate on Harris-Stowe’s campus. He further stated that once he had been notified, he attended the press conference. He then stated that he made calls to invite other legislators to visit Harris-Stowe for any announcements.

President Givens asked Dr. Bernard Watson, HSSU national consultant, to comment on the economy and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Dr. Watson commented on enrollment level at HBCUs. He stated that African American enrollment in accelerated program courses is not where it should be. He then stated that HSSU can work with Saint Louis Public Schools to increase those numbers. Dr. Watson reported that another issue is that HBCUs are suffering financially and having to release faculty and require employees to serve part-time. He noted that HSSU does not have that problem because enrollment is increasing. He noted that time must be put forth to ensure that students are successful and graduating, which will bring in more resources. He added that we must continue to focus in on the uniqueness of Harris-Stowe State University and its affordability, accessibility and diversity.

President Givens reported that a tremendous meeting of the HSSU African American Business Leadership Council (AABLC) was held on February 18 with the largest turnout ever. He stated that forms were distributed to members asking them to volunteer for various opportunities to serve Harris-Stowe. He noted that there is close to $400,000 in the coffer. He added that AABLC members were given fact cards on the historic timeline of Harris-Stowe.

Commencement Events 2009
Please Mark Your Calendars:
Alpha Chi Induction Ceremony
Friday, April 3, 2009
11 a.m.; EPC
All faculty and professional staff are required to attend this event in full academic regalia.

Spring Musicale
Friday, April 3, 2009
6:30 p.m.; EPC
Come out and support Dr. England and the awesome voices of the HSSU Concert Chorale.
Dr. Smith shared, in detail, information on the background of the Harris-Stowe process for selecting and approving new academic programs; the background of the Missouri Department for Higher Education (MDHE) process; new degree programs proposed; and a tentative timeline. He reported that the proposal would be submitted in compliance with the University’s Five-Year Strategic Plan, and gave an overview of the proposals for the new degree programs at Harris-Stowe, which included B.S. Degree in Sociology; B.S. Degree in Political Science; B.S. Degree in Math; and a B.S. Degree in Biology with a minor in Urban Ecology. Upon approval by President Givens, Academic Affairs will present a recommendation to the Board of Regents, and that upon approval by the Board, a recommendation will be submitted to MDHE for approval. The University would launch the new majors in fall 2010. He noted that the degrees were chosen with a priority on the current resources available at Harris-Stowe. He then noted that adding these majors will not require additional faculty.

Dr. Smith reported that the HSSU Players presented an outstanding play titled *The Meeting*. The presentation was directed by Harris-Stowe State University Professor of Arts and Sciences Gregory Carr, and that the play centered on a fictitious meeting between Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, with the two main characters played by students Ervin Williams and Ryan Cunningham and Malcolm’s bodyguard portrayed by student Matthew Grandison. The impressive production was presented three nights with a weekend matinee and early Friday performance for local area high school students.

Dr. Zakery reported that she made a presentation at the first quarterly meeting held on February 18, 2009, of the African American Business Leadership Council (AABLC). She stated that David Price BSBA is taking a major step in its leadership development. She stated that David Price would be coming on board at the BSBA as a consultant to help design a leadership program. She further stated that the leadership development capability goal is to create high performance organizations by developing leaders that deliver exceptional results. The target population will be middle market experienced managers and professionals.

Mrs. Gully shared income statements and cumulative revenues relating to budget for fiscal year 2008-2009. She reported that the Financial Report was reviewed and discussed in detail with the Board Finance Committee on February 19. She stated that revenues are up in comparison to this time last year. She reported on budgeted revenues realized to date were at 76.38% for January 2008 and expenditures were at 72% through January 2008. Mrs. Gully also reported that Gillespie Hall was at full capacity for the Spring 2009 semester, that meal plans were going well, and that students have been enjoying dining hall.

Mrs. Gully reported that the Early Childhood Development and Parenting Education Center project is on time and on budget. She shared with members of the Board, a letter from the Missouri Office of the Administration, signed by Commissioner Kelvin Simons, which stated that while other statewide projects have been suspended or placed on review status because of MOHELA’s inability to make its regularly scheduled payments, HSSU’s ECDPEC would continue to be fully funded by the proceeds from the sale of the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority assets. Mrs. Gully then provided a complete update on the progress of the construction of the ECDPEC.
Ms. McCall reported that College Goal Sunday is an annual event nationwide where campus financial assistance offices take a day during the month of February (traditionally a Sunday) to help the community complete financial aid applications. She showed media coverage of College Goal Sunday at Harris-Stowe State University.

Ms. McCall called for distribution of the new and very attractive, Harris-Stowe State University recruitment brochures. She stated that she was very pleased to report that the brochures, which included a DVD of the University’s new recruitment video, were created “in house,” saving the Institution thousands of dollars. She thanked members of her staff along with Jeff Harris and Walter McElroy, who both played a key role in the success of the development of the brochure and DVD.

Ms. McCall then shared with members of the Board, the very impressive, new recruitment video that will be a part of the new recruitment brochures. She noted that the brochure and video were both “in line” with her department’s Five-Year Strategic Plan.

Ms. McCall reminded everyone that Dr. Watson had already spoken to the issues facing HBCUs in the nation, and that a reporter from *US News* contacted her to see how the economy was affecting Harris-Stowe State University. She stated that she asked Mrs. Constance Gully and Ms. LaShanda Boone to speak with the reporter, and that their comments were included in a recent *US New and World Report* article. She distributed copies of the article to members of the Board.

Dr. O’Brien reported that at least 25 different events were scheduled for Black History Month. She stated that some of the event highlights were keynote speaker, Kevin Powell, who presented *Black and Male in America* on February 17; Mrs. Tamiko Armstead of D’Azi Productions presented *Maneuvering Through Midterms Successfully* on February 23; the Civil Rights Pioneer Stamp Unveiling on February 24; and “A Taste of Soul” on February 26. She noted that the full Black History Month calendar could be found under Tab 7 of the February Board Booklet.

Dr. O’Brien reported that the Fifth Annual Black History Knowledge Bowl took place on February 13, at Harris-Stowe State University. She stated that five high schools and six teams participated including Saint Louis University High School, SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School, Chaminade, Cardinal Ritter Prep and Incarnate Word High School. She further stated that the event featured a round-robin competition followed by a single elimination tournament, and that Saint Louis University High School won the competition with SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School placing second.

2009 Honda Pre-NCT at Harris-Stowe recently.
Commencement Convocation Ceremony
Tuesday, May 12, 2009
Powell Symphony Hall
Keynote Speaker: Chancellor Mark Wrighton, Washington University

**Picture of the Month:** Our students seek employment! Wanda McNeil, Director of Career Services, and her staff, did a wonderful job in planning this year’s career fair, which was open to HSSU students as well as the general public. The turnout was awesome.