President’s Report

President Givens reported that the new president of AT&T Missouri, Mr. David Nichols, recently visited Harris-Stowe State University’s campus, along with his vice president, Debra Hollingsworth and Donna Wilkinson, Harris-Stowe consultant. He stated that Mr. Nichols promised to replace SBC signage on the Library and Technology Resource Center with AT&T. He added that Mr. Nichols looks forward to working with Harris-Stowe in keeping current technology at the institution.

President Givens reported that, as a part of the 2008 Homecoming activities, a jazz concert and brunch was held in honor of former Regent Don Wolff and his wife, Heide, on Sunday, October 5, 2008. He reminded Board members of the outstanding collection the Wolfs donated to Harris-Stowe to establish the institute. He then reported that Dr. Bernard Watson recently contributed 600 jazz albums to add to the jazz institute collections. He noted that more than 350 people attended, and that the concert included major artists from around the St. Louis area. He then shared photos with members of the Board.

President Givens called for the distribution of the Harris-Stowe State University 150th Year Commemorative President’s Report to the Community, with the assistance of Ms. Courtney Jordan. He added that the report is an outstanding document designed by Ms. Jordan and members of her staff.
Dr. Smith reported that through the leadership of Dr. Patricia Johnson, Director of the Early Childhood and Parenting Center and the University’s Grants Office, Harris-Stowe was recently awarded an ARCHES grant for $35,000. He stated that this grant will focus on early childhood education and will open the door for further grants awards at ARCHES. He then reported that through the leadership of Shana Sharp in the Grants Office and the Busch School of Business, Harris-Stowe was awarded a $12,500 grant from Commerce Bank to enhance technology at the Busch School of Business. Dr. Smith stated that because of ailing banks nationwide, Harris-Stowe is extremely gratified to receive this award. At the Academic Affairs retreat this summer, each academic department set the goal to receive a minimum of at least one grant for $10,000, and that Teacher Education and the Busch School of Business has already met this goal. He will keep the Board informed on other grant awards.

Dr. Smith reported that the National Science Foundation (NSF) Target Infusion Grant, National Science Foundation Educational Research Grant and the Missouri Department of Higher Education Teacher Quality Grant, would all be due in December 2008. He stated that there are three significant grants that the institution is vying for this academic year. The goal of the Target Infusion Grant, also an NSF grant, is to strengthen science curriculum, and that the funds would be used to develop a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology with minors in Pre-Medical and Urban Ecology at Harris-Stowe. He noted that a team of science faculty is working on the Target Infusion Grant, including Dr. Anbreen Bashir, a new faculty member in Biology. Dr. Smith added that the NSF Educational Research Grant would enable HSSU to strengthen it academic offerings particularly Math and Science. Dr. Smith then reported that the Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE) Teacher Quality Grant would allow HSSU to collaborate with Jennings High School in an effort to strengthen the science curriculum as well as help Harris-Stowe prepare more teachers in the area of science.

Dr. Smith announced that, in staying the course with Harris-Stowe’s Five-Year Strategic Plan, Academic Affairs is moving forward with the expansion of new degrees programs including a Political Science Degree (B.S.), Sociology Degree (B.S.), Biology Degree (B.S.) with minors in Pre-Medical, Forensic Science and Urban Ecology. The process would begin with the various departments in consultation with Academic Affairs, and upon completion by the faculty, the recommendation would be taken to Academic Affairs and then to Dr. Givens, followed by the Board, for its approval. Following Board approval, the institution would apply for approval from MDHE. The last step in the process, Harris-Stowe would begin completing the application from MDHE to ensure that all necessary information is in place to make informed decisions regarding the majors.

Dr. Kemp provided members of the Board with an update on the HSSU/UMSL’s Collaborative Master’s Program. The partnership began in fall 2006. He stated that the collaborative is progressing very well because, since the partnership began, UMSL has offered graduate courses taught by HSSU faculty at HSSU. Dr. Kemp gave a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the upcoming NCATE/DESE accreditations and the emerging themes of Teacher Education, including courses offered at HSSU. He spoke of program enrollment; and renewed efforts including enhanced recruitment efforts.

Dr. Zakery reported on the Black Executive Exchange Conference held at the BSBA on October 22 and 23. The conference went very well, and that more than 100 students were engaged in the sessions. Local and national executives participated, including but not limited to nine executives from Southwest Bank, who engaged with students regarding small business development.

BSBA is currently developing a collaborative with Michigan State University-East Lansing, on a master’s program in accounting. Upon graduating from HSSU, students will be admitted directly into the master’s program at Michigan, where they will receive room, board, tuition, etc. This program was developed at Michigan State to address the national accounting shortage.
Communications, Marketing & Alumni Affairs

Mrs. Jordan began her report by sharing with members of the Board, recent media coverage highlighting an interview with Attorney Robin Shaw, Criminal Justice professor at Harris-Stowe, and coverage of the Harris-Stowe State University 2008 Homecoming Parade.

Mrs. Jordan reported on the St. Louis Commerce Magazine’s feature article on the economic contributions of local colleges and universities in the St. Louis Metropolitan area. She distributed a copy of the magazine to each Board member, and pointed out the half-page commentary on economic contributions that Harris-Stowe provides to the St. Louis region.

Dr. O’Brien reported on Harris-Stowe State University’s participation in the Thurgood Marshall Student Leadership Recruitment Conference and Career Fair held in New York City on October 24-28, 2008. She stated that seven students attended from Harris-Stowe, and that four of those students were given on-site interviews from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Accenture, General Electric, Shell Oil, AIG and Phillip Morris. She then stated that the focus of the conference included the importance of critical thinking, leadership, education and job preparedness. Dr. O’Brien noted that the program advantages included mentoring, networking and career coaching.

As a result of attending the 2007 Thurgood Marshall Student Leadership Conference, Marneice Wise, Business Major at Harris-Stowe, was offered an internship during the summer 2008, at the Department of Energy in Washington, D.C.

Student Affairs

Mr. Johnson reported that the HSSU Student Government Association had recently finished a very successful Homecoming celebration including a dance, organization day, and hosts of one of the presidential debates followed by an open-floor forum. He stated that the forum focused on the importance of the presidential election to college students. He then reported that the HSSU Student Government Association would host the “Bring a Friend to the Polls” day on November 4, whereby students would walk from Gillespie Residence Hall to nearby polls. He stated that the activity would be followed by a presentation by Professor Robin Shaw and bipartisan representatives from the student body. Mr. Johnson noted that Harris-Stowe registered hundreds of students to vote. He then reported that he is working along with Professor Eugene Royster on developing a student research program, whereby students would “tag along” as research coordinators along with faculty conducting research.

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**Upcoming Events:**

*The Bluest Eye*, presented by the HSSU Players, November 20-22, 8 p.m., Bank of America Theatre

Feed the City, Saturday, November 22, HSSU Dining Hall and Annex

Annual Sounds of the Seasons Holiday Concert, presented by the HSSU Concert Chorale, Sunday, November 23, 6 p.m.

Thanksgiving Day Parade, traveling down Market Street, featuring the HSSU Drumline and Honeycombs

*Picture of the Month:* Bring on the jazz! After much anticipation, the Don and Heide Wolff Jazz Institute at HSSU is open and ready for business! It has been, actually for the past three years. This year, however, marked the first Afternoon of Jazz, a tribute to the founders of the institute. It was a huge success!