Chairman's Report

Chairman Smith asked President Givens to announce a special celebration for Rev. Gillespie.

President Givens stated that Cote Brilliante Presbyterian Church would be celebrating Rev. Gillespie’s 53rd year as pastor of the church, with various celebratory events. He reminded everyone that Rev. Gillespie has served on Harris- Stowe’s Board of Regents for 30 years. He encouraged everyone to attend the celebration.

Chairman Smith then called for a report from Mr. Derek Collins, Student Representative to the Board. Mr. Collins stated that he had no official report, but that classes had begun, and for students, the academic year was off to a great start. He further stated that Organization Day was held on August 24, as a part of Welcome Week, which had been going very well.

Ms. McCall added that seeing the campus “come alive” with student life, has been invigorating.

President Givens introduced members of his Administrative Cabinet, which included recently appointed new members. They were: Ms. LaShanda R. Boone, Executive Director, Enrollment Management; Ms. Heather Bostic, Executive Director, Title III Sponsored Programs; Mr. James Fogt, Director of Information Technology; Mr. Charles Gooden, Interim Dean, Student Affairs; Mrs. Constance G. Gully, Executive Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs; Dr. George H. Hyram, Consultant (ex-officio member); Ms. Courtney Z. McCall, Director of Communications, Marketing and Alumni Affairs; Dr. Michelle McClure, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs; Atty. Robin Shaw, Vice President for Administration and Executive Assistant to the President; Dr. Dwayne Smith, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. LaTisha Smith, Dean, Teacher Education; Ms. Rochelle D. Tilghman, Assistant Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs and Dr. Fatemeh Zakery, Dean, Busch School of Business.

President Givens thanked members of the Board who participated in the William L. Clay Sr. Early Childhood Development/Parenting Education Center Dedication Ceremony held on August 14, 2009. He stated that the facility is most outstanding and a marvelous program was held including dignitaries who presented proclamations. He added that those dignitaries who could not attend sent representatives.

President Givens provided Board members with an overview of his recent “State of the University” address made at the Fall 2009 Faculty/Professional Staff Institute on August 19, 2009. He stated that he shared with members of the faculty and professional staff Harris-Stowe’s great, unique and ongoing mission; a review of the progress of Harris-Stowe’s Five-Year Strategic Plan, which Dr. Hyram presented in detail during another session of the Institute; the overall goals and objectives for the new academic year; the importance of community service, as various St. Louis organizations request to utilize the campus; President’s Initiatives; the student enrollment explosion at Harris-Stowe; the ongoing fundraising project; the success of grants and the success of the University’s scholar athletes. He then called for the distribution of printed copies of his address to members of the Board.

President Givens added to his reports that while Governor Bob Holden was in office, Harris-Stowe had received approval to lease the former Hubert Wheeler School as the Busch School of Business, located on Wilson Avenue. After several years of leasing payments, he requested that Governor Blunt sign over the facility to Harris-Stowe. In addition, he asked Ms. Rochelle Tilghman to go to Jefferson City, as needed, to oversee the process of pursuing ownership of the facility. As a result of Ms. Tilghman’s hard work, he was pleased to announce that House Bill 909 and Senate Bill 93 had been signed by Governor Nixon and that Harris-Stowe now has full ownership of the Busch School of Business. He thanked Ms. Tilghman for her tireless efforts in this major acquisition and noted that plans are now underway for the establishment of a new library and technology resource center at the Busch School of Business.
Prior to his report, Dr. Smith shared information about HSSU’s Math/Science Academy, which was funded by the National Science Foundation. The Academy was held this past summer at Harris-Stowe. He stated that the program was a tremendous success, and that 35 percent of the students who participated, increased their math proficiency by two levels. He noted that 6 are now ready to enroll in calculus. He stated that the focus is now on those 48 students for continued academic success.

Dr. Smith asked Dr. McClure to report on the very successful Fall 2009 Faculty and Professional Staff Institute, followed by Dr. LaTisha Smith, Ms. LaShanda Boone, Mrs. Heather Bostic and Mr. James Fogt, who would give various department program reports.

Dr. McClure reported that the Fall 2009 Faculty and Professional Staff Institute were focused on creating a culture of assessment. She stated that theme, “Creating a Culture of Assessment,” was most appropriate since Harris-Stowe will have its NCATE visit in March 2010 and North Central Accreditation visit in March 2011. She further stated that Dr. Karen Solomon, Vice President of the Higher Learning Commission of North Central Accreditation and Dr. Victoria Landrum, Research Coordinator for the Ronald E. McNair Program at Truman State University, spoke and presented at the Institute. Dr. Solomon spoke on how Harris-Stowe should assess itself as an institution and was pleased to hear that Harris-Stowe was completing its second year of its Five-Year Strategic Plan, which would serve as a path into the University’s self study. Dr. McClure then reported that Dr. Landrum gave helpful tips on entering into re-accreditation.

Dr. McClure reported that the annual Rites of Passage Ceremony for the Harris-Stowe State University class of 2013 was held on August 21, 2009. She stated that more than 300 first-year students participated in the ceremony and that faculty, staff and parents were in attendance to honor and welcome the class of 2013.

Dr. Smith reported that the Harris-Stowe State University Teacher Education Department has undergone many changes, and that these changes were designed to continue to provide a high quality Teacher Education program for its candidates. She reported that the overall changes that were addressed in the Unit’s Conceptual Framework included: assessment systems, clinical and field experiences, candidate retention, curricular improvements and enhanced collaborations. Dr. Smith further reported that the goal of the modifications is to develop teachers who can meet the needs of the 21st century learner. She stated that the modifications also provide a clear indication of how the unit’s programs impact P-12 learners and enhanced collaborations. Dr. Smith further reported that the goal of the modifications is to develop teachers who can meet the needs of the 21st century learner. She stated that the modifications also provide a clear indication of how the unit’s programs impact P-12 learners.

Ms. Boone shared information about the various admissions procedures and retention strategies employed by the University’s area of Enrollment Management. She reported on Harris-Stowe’s new and transfer students and first-time freshmen. She further reported that the student head count and enrollment of part-time and full-time students almost doubled from fall 2004 to fall 2009. She announced that this would be a banner academic year in terms of enrollment at Harris-Stowe and that she would keep the administration and members of the Board of Regents informed.

Mrs. Bostic reported on grants that had been awarded to Harris-Stowe during July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009. She reported that Harris-Stowe has experienced a record year in grant funding, with $3,939,201 already awarded. She stated that all academic departments were represented in the record total. Mrs. Bostic then reported that Fiscal Year 2010 will begin with multiple-year grant renewals and the addition of one new award in Arts and Sciences. She further reported the year to date total for FY 2010 is $3,865,607, which is just $75,000 short of the 2008-2009 banner year. Mrs. Bostic then gave an overview of the pending proposals totaling more than $3.5 million.

Mr. Fogt reported that the departments of Management Information Systems and CIO at Harris-Stowe, have consolidated into a single unit, beginning August 2009. He stated that its constituents are faculty, staff, students, alumni and administration of Harris-Stowe State University and its mission is a commitment to providing access to education technology both on and off the Harris-Stowe campus. Mr. Fogt shared IT’s developmental mission, major projects and goals and objectives.
Prior to her report, Mrs. Gully stated that the unaudited preliminary results were ahead of schedule and that the report will include the Fiscal Year 2009 revenues, expenditures and assets, versus 2008. She added that the internal audit, thus far, showed no recommendations and no findings. She then stated that she is most proud of the accomplishments of the staff, and that the report combines all of the institution’s activities.

Mrs. Gully shared income statements and cumulative revenues relating to the budget for fiscal year 2008-2009. She reported that the Financial Report for fiscal year 2009-2010 was reviewed and discussed in detail with the Board Finance Committee on August 20th. She further reported that budgeted revenues realized to date were at 23.9% and expenditures were at 5.98% through May 2009. She added that revenues are ahead at the Gillespie Residence Hall, and thanks to Ms. Boone, retention has greatly improved. Mrs. Gully also reported on Fiscal Year 2009-2010 grants and contracts ending June 30, 2009. She then reported that the Department of Higher Education conducted a facilities review as a part of a statewide visit to all two and four-year campus in Missouri.

Mrs. Gully reported that the William L. Clay Sr. Early Childhood Development/Parenting Education Center has passed all inspections and requirements for licensure, including fire and sanitation, and that it has been approved by the State for full operation. She shared slides from the Dedication Program and further reported on the cost report items, the revised budget, invoices to date and percentage of completion which was at 93%.

Ms. McCall reminded everyone of the devastation that occurred during main pipe break on Harris-Stowe’s campus. She noted that, as one of the first individuals to see the water resulting from the break, the flood looked like a mini-tsunami. Ms McCall showed media coverage on the campus flood and distributed a packet on the printed media coverage. Ms. McCall then showed a video clip of a new testimonial “branding” commercial as a part of Harris-Stowe’s campaign on the importance of staying in school. She noted that the commercial was created on Harris-Stowe’s campus by her and HSSU staff member Walter McElroy.

Ms. McCall distributed the new brochure on the Wolff Jazz Institute. She stated that once the highly anticipated concert is over, her department will keep the momentum going with continued advertising and promotion of the Institute, along with intimate listening sessions of a variety of music, speeches, comedy, radio program and motion picture soundtracks under the direction of the Wolff Jazz Institute Coordinator Rhoda Hayes-Wilson.

Ms. McCall distributed media packets and newspaper articles on coverage of the William L. Clay Sr., Early Childhood Development/Parenting Education Center Dedication Ceremony. She stated that there would be additional coverage by the St. Louis Post Dispatch.

Ms. McCall then distributed copies of St. Louis Today’s College Connection, which included an interview with a Gillespie Hall student resident, an ad on the Early Childhood Development/Parenting Education Center and inclusion in the section’s campus events.
Harris-Stowe State University Homecoming Celebration 2009

Calling all faculty, staff, students and alumni of HSSU...please join us for a week of events and festivities to celebrate the illustrious Harris-Stowe State University and its predecessor institutions. This year’s theme: “New Additions, Enhancing Historic Traditions” is in place to pay homage to a flourishing campus that continues to make strides in the education realm. Please be on the look out for a complete list of Homecoming events!

Picture of the Month: The legendary Clark Terry, St. Louis’ own hometown jazz hero, is shown here at the Night of Jazz Greats benefit concert, held on Saturday, August 29, 2009, at Harris-Stowe. Also pictured, left, his wife, Gwen Terry; Dr. Henry Givens Jr.; Atty. Donald Wolff and Rhoda Hayes-Wilson, after President Givens presented Terry with the Presidential Medallion.