Harris-Stowe State University Alumni Association Board Meeting Minutes
Date: November 11, 2009

The Harris-Stowe State University Alumni Association Board Meeting was called to order by Vice President Wilzetta Bell at 5:37 p.m.

The minutes from October 14, 2009, meeting were read aloud. The minutes were approved with corrections.

Correspondence: Corresponding Secretary Sarah Archibald read aloud a thank you letter from Board Member Armetta Whitmore regarding her husband’s funeral. A memorial scholarship has been setup on behalf of Whitmore’s husband, Artie, and son, Michael. Whitmore is yet in our hearts and prayers.

Financial Report: Financial Secretary Scharad Hutchins made three individual reports. The reports reflected money received in October 2009, for the Gold Gala and the association’s alumni and gifts fund. Hutchins asked if there were any questions concerning his reports. A question arose as to how much was charged per Gold Gala dinner. Another member wanted to know if a copy of the contract with the hotel could be provided. A question arose as to the initial price and the end price. Ex-officio Yvonne Chatwell asked if the price the hotel guaranteed was known. According to the calculations, 177 tickets were sold and two tickets were refunded. One of the members wanted to know if the cost of entertainment was included in the final amount.

Public Relations/Alumni Specialist Nisa Korte e-mailed each Board Member the HSSU Alumni Association mission statement. Korte asked if there were any questions. Some of the members stated that they tried to read the mission statement and were unable to open the attachment.

Insurance Report: Someone wanted to know if the insurance policy was going to be an individual policy. There were questions about the policy such as: “What would happen if I had a fever and a cough?” “Will the policy vary state-to-state?” Korte stated coverage depends on the policy you sign up for and certain parts vary state-to-state. There is a Short Term Medical (STM) policy and a permanent medical policy available. Korte stated that she spoke with someone from Webster University, and the person gave a favorable review of the company. Someone asked if we are still in the process of voting for the insurance. Harris-Stowe State University’s lawyer could not look at the insurance policy because the Alumni Association is a separate entity from the University. Someone commented that if Board Members have questions and are skeptical, how do we think students are going to perceive the program? The Web site for the insurance is user-friendly, and anyone can log onto the Web site. A student will be chosen to act as the liaison between the company and the student body. Board Member Jeanine Riley will have the insurance policy reviewed by an insurance broker that she has worked with for 12 years.

Gold Gala: Plans are underway; please sign up for the 2010 Gold Gala Committee. Joan Moehl gave an overview of the Gold Gala. A venue and a date for the 2010 Gold Gala are needed. It was suggested that the theme for Gold Gala be a masquerade ball. The HSSU Homecoming Committee is looking at the last week of September for the 2010 Homecoming.
Goal Reports:

Goal #1: Provide Support for Activities: Chairwoman Archibald spoke with Korte about upcoming Harris-Stowe events. Archibald proceeded to distribute calendars of upcoming Harris-Stowe events. On November 15, 2009, there will be a statewide Global Entrepreneur Week, which includes Harris-Stowe State University’s Anheuser-Busch School of Business.

The Harris-Stowe State University Players will present Dracula November 19-21. It will begin at 8 p.m., and the cost is $10 for general admission and $5 for alumni and students. The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. State Celebration Commission Kick-off Program is January 9, 2010, at 6:30 p.m.

Goal #2: Coordination and Collaboration between HSSU Alumni Association and HSSU: Discussions between Dickson, Korte and Director of Communications, Marketing and Alumni Affairs Courtney McCall were on the following topics:

1. How to increase participation for social activities and fundraiser activities
2. Proposed social downtown for “young” alumni, which raised the following questions from Board Members:
   - What is meant by “young”?
   - Why would we have an activity just for the young alumni?
   - It was suggested that the Alumni Association sponsor a fundraiser to promote the association to the younger graduates.
   - The proposed venue for the fundraiser is The City downtown.
   - The association asked why this place was chosen. The place was chosen because they agreed to offer a discount to the Alumni Association.
   - If the event was held on campus, alcohol could not be served. It was stated that not serving alcohol would not deter people from attending.
   - Some students cannot be served alcohol, but the event is targeted at alumni, who are all of drinking age.
   - Who will sell the tickets?
   - Chatwell asked if it is held on campus does it have to be a fundraiser?
   - Chatwell suggested that the social be held in the foyer of the Emerson Performance Center (EPC).
   - Someone asked will the foyer be too small?
   - It was stated that the association needs to host more activities.
   - McCullough suggested an indoor tailgate in the annex.
   - It was questioned if the event could be promoted in such a short time period, and Dickson assured the Board that the event could sufficiently be promoted.
   - Someone asked if students had to pay. The response was no.
   - The date of the Indoor Tailgate was set for December 8, 2009, from 5-9 p.m. in the foyer of the EPC in honor of the Men’s Basketball home opener.
   - Dickson asked for suggestions for food vendors.
   - The motion was made and passed to proceed with this event.

Goal #3: Awarding/Funding of Scholarships: Chairman Tom Stenger was not present, and no comments were made from this committee.
Goal #4: Increase Diverse Membership: Chairwoman Yvonne Chatwell reported that the committee met October 2009 where bylaws and the HSSU Alumni Association mission statement were given to members. It was suggested in their meeting that representatives from the Alumni Association begin to dialogue with the Department of Teacher Education and the Student Government Association about what the Alumni Association does. The association needs to facilitate rapport with students so when they graduate, they’ll join the Alumni Association. The committee is going to start HSSU alumni chapters in Washington, D.C.; Chicago; East St. Louis and Los Angeles. Alumni from these areas should contact the Alumni Office at (314) 340-5754 for more information. Catherine Stenger spent $8 making copies of the bylaws for the committee. It was motioned that Catherine Stenger be reimbursed. The motioned carried.

Membership Committee: Chairman Terell Wayne stated that the Harris-Stowe State University Alumni Association has 162 regular members. The association will have a big membership drive in January when memberships will be valid through May 31, 2011. Dr Wilma Wells and the Danforth Foundation contributed $10,000 to the Alumni Association’s Buy-a-Brick initiative. Terell Wayne made a motion that Dr. Wells be made a lifetime member of the HSSU Alumni Association. The motion carried. Lifetime memberships are not offered at this time. Chairman Terell Wayne read the roll for membership. Charles Ferguson sent $250 for a lifetime membership. The cutoff date for lifetime memberships was May 31, 2009.

Scholarship Committee: Chairwoman Marilyn Wayne stated that they received a donation in the amount of $175.

Recognition Luncheon: The new chairwoman for this event is Jeanine Riley, and the committee is working to set a date for the event.

Unfinished Business: McCullough stated that Interim Dean of Student Affairs Charles Gooden does not have a date for the 2010 Homecoming. The room number for the alumni’s new space is HGA 006. There is some furniture in it and a telephone. The office needs a table, chairs, computer equipment, a copier and a file cabinet. In order to view the room, a formal written request must be made. The Alumni Association needs to determine if the room is large enough to accommodate the monthly Board meeting.

New Business:
1. Korte is selling advertisements for the Hornet Alumni Messenger, the official HSSU Alumni Association newsletter. It will be published December 9, 2009, and will be sent to faculty, staff, students and alumni’s e-mails.
2. The Alumni Association is waiting for Alumni Association President Dr. John Ingram to return to town, so that the association can get its office space on campus. Dickson will send an e-mail to Dr. Ingram regarding this matter.
3. Gooden requested that some alumni serve on Harris-Stowe’s Homecoming Committee. Casson, Riley, Dickson and Sevier volunteered to serve on the committee.
4. Hutchins asked for volunteers for Junior Achievement at Big Picture High School.
The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. by Bell

Those in attendance: Scharad Hutchins, Joan Moehl, Jeanine Riley, Catherine Metzger Stenger, Marilyn Wayne, Shirley McCullough, Dorothy Sevier, Wilzetta Bell, Suzanne M. Goodwin, Candace Dickson, Nisa Korte, Terell Wayne, Edward Scruggs, Yvonne Chatwell and Sarah Archibald.

Excused Absences: Dr. John Ingram and Tom Stenger

Rebecca Casson
Recording Secretary