



Building Missouri's future...by degrees

March 18, 2011

Henry Givens, Jr., President
Harris-Stowe State University
3026 Laclede Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63103

President Givens:

MDHE staff members are in the process of reviewing Harris-Stowe State University's request for waiver of penalty for a tuition increase in excess of that permitted under the provisions of the Higher Education Student Funding Act. I'm writing to request some additional information and clarification to assist me in completing the review.

1. Under Criterion #1 on page 2 of your request, the language "and 17.0% through 2010" is confusing. It seem unlikely that if the increase in student FTE from fall 2004 through fall semester 2009 was 40.9%, that it would then go down to 17.0% through 2010. Please clarify this point.
2. The second full paragraph on page 3 discusses the influx of academically unprepared freshmen. It then references an AAC&U report indicating that 53% of students entering college are academically unprepared and ends with the comment that this "is a 33 percent increase in the number of academically prepared students since 1996." Should that passage read that the increase was in the area of "unprepared" students?
3. The last paragraph in the discussion of Criterion #1 on page 3 refers to HSSU's strategic enrollment plan, but no details about that plan are provided. I believe I recall some aspects of it from the discussion we had earlier this year during a meeting with your staff on this subject; however, I could benefit from a summary of the strategic enrollment plan for purposes of completing this record.
4. Criterion #5 on pages 8-9 covers costs related to other initiatives designed to meet specific needs of the state. Regarding the information contained in that section:
 - a. The course redesign initiative is mentioned, but no associated cost figures are provided. Has this, or will this initiative result in additional costs for HSSU and if so can you quantify them?
 - b. The discussion mentions two new METS degree programs in biology, but also states that HSSU received a \$2.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation. Does the grant cover the costs of adding these two degree programs or is there a shortfall that part of this tuition increase is intended to address?

- c. The discussion refers to a sizeable annual investment that HSSU has made in information technology. Costs over the past five years are included, and the projects/upgrades identified include those already completed and those planned for the near future. Please provide more detail on projects yet to be completed including estimated costs for those projects or upgrades.
5. Criterion #7 covers the need to address damage, destruction or deterioration of the institution's physical plant. The discussion on pages 12-13 identifies a number of needs in this area, including the percentage increases in assignable square footage and personnel costs to support and maintain the physical plant. Please also provide your dollar estimate of the institution's backlog in maintenance and repair needs.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and responsiveness. If you have questions please direct them to MDHE General Counsel Joe Cornelison.

Regards,



David R. Russell, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Higher Education

cc: Constancy Gully
Kevin Burnett