South Carolina State University
Staff Senate Meeting
October 2, 2014
Staley Hall Auditorium

Executive Officers Present: Kenita Pitts, Ronald York, Monica Johnson, and Sean Jones.

Executive Officers Absent: Timothy Smith and Anquanetta Darby.

Ex-Officio’s Absent: Kay Snider, Doris Gathers-Dantzler, and Thomas J. Elzey.

Senators Present: Beulah El-Amin, Candyce Brown, Cynthia Geter, Sandra Scott, Pinkey Carter, Eartha Mosley, and Kendrick Lewis


I. **Call to Order**
   - Kenita Pitts called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

II. **Invocation**
    Sean Jones led the members present in prayer.

III. **Roll Call of Executive Members**
    Roll call was done by Sean Jones.

IV. **Roll Call of Senators**
    Roll call was done by Sean Jones.

V. **Adoption of Agenda**
    Kenita Pitts made a motion to adopt the agenda. Ron York so moved, seconded by Sean Jones.

VI. **Welcome**
    a. President Pitts gave the welcome address to those in attendance. In her welcome address, she announced that she has created an email address for staff to use to voice concerns, ideas and/or issues that they may be having without fear of retaliation. The email address of dearcsustaffsenate@gmail.com was given and attendees were encouraged to use it.
    b. In President Pitts’ closing, she thanked all of her “campus angels” for their emails, text messages, and phone calls of encouragement. She also acknowledged her parents, and aunts that were in attendance for moral support, her daughter, sister, and niece in their absence. She also encouraged those that are not a member to consider becoming a member of the Staff Senate.
VII. **Introduction of Staff Senators**  
   a. Vice President York welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for their vote of confidence.  
   b. Vice President York introduced all Senators and the areas they represented. He also acknowledged those that were absent.

VIII. **What is Staff Senate and Benefits of Participation**  
   a. Historian Johnson gave the purpose and history of the SCSU Staff Senate.

After Historian Johnson’s presentation a drawing for three (3) door prizes were done as compliments of DTZ, Follett Bookstore and SCSU External Affairs and Communications.

President Pitts asked the attendees if they were enjoying the new monthly Staff Senate newsletter and received a unanimous, “yes”. She also encouraged staff to submit articles, achievements, promotions. She stated that those submissions are not limited to staff but to share the accomplishments of your children and grandchildren if you like. She stated that the accomplishments and successes of family are theirs as well because they are a part of you and that makes them a part of the SCSU family. She also stated that if there is any information that they would like to be shared with the University family after the newsletter has been published, she would include it as a “Bulldog Alert”.

President Pitts gave some information relating to her seat as an Ex-Officio member of the Board of Trustees. She stated that as a member of the Board of Trustees she does not have a vote, however, she is very vocal. She also talked about membership on the Senate and explained the Standing Committees and their goals/duties. She also reminded the attendees that only staff senate members will be privileged to. She also reminded the attendees that only staff senate members that are current in their dues will be allowed to vote during the 2016 Staff Senate Election. She stated that this year’s election was a courtesy because there were no paid members of the Senate; therefore, the election this year was open to the entire campus body. Again, she encouraged everyone to pay the annual dues of $10.00 to become a member of the Senate. President Pitts also reassured the attendees that even if they do not become a member of the Staff Senate, it does not mean that their concerns will not be heard; we the Senate will continue to be advocates for the staff as a whole.

President Pitts opened the floor for questions. No one had any questions. Ms. Joann Owens, Title III stated that she did not have a question but she just wanted to thank President Pitts for keeping everyone informed and that she was doing a great job thus far and to keep up the good work. President Pitts thanked her and stated that she truly appreciate her and the words of encouragement.

Since there were no questions, President Pitts addressed the rumors of the mandatory furlough for SCSU. She informed the attendees that the mandatory furlough was approved by the Board of Trustees as a part of the 2014-2015 approved budget, however, the request for the University to participate in a mandatory furlough was denied by the SC Budget and Control Board because the University did not meet the guidelines to qualify. She also stated that the President of the University must now seek special permission from the General Assembly for the University to move forward with the mandatory furlough, which will be January 2015 when the Assembly is back in session.
President Pitts also explained that if the mandatory furlough is approved by the General Assembly, the days could not be staggered as they had been during the previous furlough. In the past, the University spread the seven days across seven pay periods. If the University is approved for the mandatory furlough, the days that are taken will be deducted from your paycheck all at once.

A question about the $13million loan request came from the floor and President Pitts explained that yes, the request was made but Governor Haley only gave the University $6million to assist with past due bills, and payroll. The $13million loan will only be considered after the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee has been submitted to Governor Haley. If the University is approved for the $13million loan, it will be distributed in increments, not all at one time.

In closing, President Pitts asked those in attendance to please complete the survey received as they entered the auditorium. She also asked the attendees to please notate what time would be best for future monthly meetings and door prize winners were asked to remain to take a photo for the October staff senate newsletter.

The closing invocation was given by Parliamentarian Jones and the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenita Pitts
President