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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA, S.C.

Senators criticize SG effort

■ SG senators want to move on to other issues

BY BRANDON LARRABEE
THE GAMECOCK

Little more than two weeks before the height of Student Government's petition drive to extend the drop date, the SG Senate Academic Affairs Committee has "shocked" SG Pres. Jotaka Eaddy by writing her a letter alleging that she has spent too much time on the effort.

"We unanimously agree that too much time and effort is being dedicated to a project that does not guarantee any results," says the letter, dated Sept. 13. "It is our opinion that the current drop date is sufficient and does not need to be changed."

The letter states that, while the committee's members "stand behind [Eaddy] personally" in her drive to finish her "Contract with Carolina" by changing the drop date, the amount of time Eaddy has dedicated to the petition drive has hurt other goals that are more easily accomplished by SG.

"It is our opinion that while this issue is relevant, there are more pressing issues on campus that have a better chance of being implemented and making an impact on the Student Body. These include increasing school spirit and campus safety," says the letter, signed by committee members Sens. C. Tyson Nettles, Shereef El-Ibiary, and Allison Whitworth.

Eaddy received the two-page letter after the Senate meeting Wednesday.

The letter comes a little more than two weeks before the Oct. 5 deadline for students to withdraw from their classes without getting a "WF." SG is planning a campaign-like push that day to get students to sign the petition.

Eaddy said she was surprised by the letter.

"It's a bit shocking," Eaddy said. "We ... felt that this was something positive that SG was doing."

Eaddy said the project was worth the effort even if the proposal to extend the date students can drop a class without getting a "W" on their transcript fails.

"Even if the drop date doesn't get extended, Student Government can say we did our part," Eaddy said.

Eaddy said she was concerned about whether the committee had done any research into the issue before they had written the letter. She took issue with the letter's contention that the schools' current policy is lenient and "the current drop date is sufficient."

"I'm not sure that they did not know that there were classes that didn't even meet" before the current drop date had passed, Eaddy said.

Eaddy also said that, while she thought issues such as school spirit were important issues for SG to address, she didn't think they were as important as the drop date.

"I honestly do not put Garnet and Black Friday over this petition to ex-

LETTER SEE PAGE 2

JAMFEST 2000



Amy Goulding THE GAMECOCK
Tau Kappa Epsilon and Chi Omega performing to the music of Michael Jackson's Thriller at this year's Jamfest 2000.

Grand jury requested in investigation

■ Prosecutor asks for panel to look into USC institute

BY CHARLES PRASHAW
THE GAMECOCK

The investigation into corruption at USC's Institute of Public Affairs moved ahead yesterday with Fifth Circuit Solicitor Barney Giese officially requesting the assistance of a statewide grand jury in to hear evidence about allegations of misuse of funds at the USC think tank.

Five USC employees who work for the institute have already been suspended without pay in connection with the allegations.

The grand jury is part of the South Carolina Attorney General's Office and is available to give assistance to local law enforcement agencies for investigative reasons.

Giese stated that he made the decision to move towards a statewide grand jury after consulting with Attorney General Charlie Condon and SLED Chief Robert Stewart.

"The statewide grand jury works on big cases," USC law Professor John Freeman said. "They take the cases that affect multiple counties, like drug offenses, public corruption and election scandals."

Freeman explained the grand jury would either suggest an indictment of those charged with the misuse of funds or dismiss the case for lack of evidence after review.

He said that if the jury moves for an indictment, then the institute case would go to trial.

Although neither SLED nor the Attorney General's offices would release any new information on the case Thursday, SLED spokeswoman Catherine Richardson said the fate of the case no longer rests with law enforcement.

"This is totally in the hands of the statewide grand jury now," Richardson said. "There is nothing more we can say."

However, Giese did release a statement saying that because of the nature and complexity of the case, he had determined the appropriate course of action is to use those unique methods of a statewide grand jury to achieve a thorough examination of all of the allegations.

He added that USCPD investigators working on the case would continue to work with the SLED agents who are assigned to the grand jury unit.

Although USC spokesman Jason Snyder declined to release an official university statement about the matter Thursday, he said the investigation could take several months to complete. As soon as the university believed it has

SOLICITOR SEE PAGE 2

Congaree swamp to hold day of public service

BY JENNIFER CARTER
THE GAMECOCK

"This land belongs to everyone, and we can all help protect and preserve it."

It's not too late to volunteer to help with the Congaree Swamp National Monument's Public Lands Day and River Sweep tomorrow.

This annual event gives people a chance to give back something special to public lands by helping to keep natural areas clean and beautiful, said Congaree Swamp National monument ranger Fran Rametta.

National Public Lands Day and River Sweep will bring volunteers to work at more than 80 sites across the country in parks, forests, lakes and other public lands that are major recreation areas for millions of Americans.

Here in Columbia, volunteers can participate by assisting the park staff of the Congaree Swamp National Monument in clearing debris from around the park's new visitor center and foot trails.

Volunteers will also help by cleaning up litter along the Cedar Creek canoe trail.

"This is a chance for people to gain a better appreciation of this land's natural beauty," Rametta said.

The Congaree Swamp National Monument is recognized by the National Park Service and consists of 22,000 acres of land.

Of these, 11,000 acres are ancient, uncut forests. For those who have never been there, Rametta said it is a truly wonderful experience.

"To walk through this forest is like walking back in time. None of the trees have ever been touched," she said.

This National Park has boardwalks, picnic tables and walking trails that are available for everyone's use and recreation.

It is also home to over 700 different varieties of plants.

In 1999, more than 200 volunteers from the Columbia area came to the Congaree Swamp for the event. This year, Rametta said, they hope to have even more volunteers.

Nationally, thousands of volunteers, which last year included families and people from various age groups, will spend the day at different sites around the country, participating in hopes of enhanc-



SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

The Congaree Swamp, shown above, will hold a public service day for volunteers to help clear debris from around the new visitor's center and foot trails and pick up litter from the canoe trail.

ing and improving public lands and learning more about the role of public lands in preserving a healthy environment.

But, Rametta said, the event is more than just a clean up. Projects result in real and needed improvements to public lands, she said, and volunteers get to see first hand the effort that goes into maintaining recreation areas.

Anyone interested in volunteering in the National Public Lands

Day and River Sweep this Saturday can call the Congaree Swamp National Monument at 776-4396.

Projects will take place between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Volunteers can work the whole day, half of the day or any amount of time they choose.

The city/state desk can be reached at gamecockcitydesk@hotmail.com.

Coliseum tunnel art vandalized

BY BRANDON LARRABEE
THE GAMECOCK

Disheartening.

That was the word used by Student Government officials when they learned that, for the second time in less than five months, vandals had found a target in the paintings SG added to the Coliseum tunnel in April.

"I think that it's a bit disheartening with all the work that went into it," SG President Jotaka Eaddy said.

Eaddy said the vandalism could point to signs of other crime in the area, and police might want to consider beefing up their patrols of the area.

"It's hard to imagine what else is going on" around the tunnel, Eaddy said.

Research and Development Co-Director Josh-Pruitt Mayfield, who helped paint the tunnel, said he wasn't surprised that someone vandalized the tunnel.

"But, at the same time, it's kind of disheartening that people have so little respect for other people's work and

VANDALISM SEE PAGE 2

WEATHER

FRIDAY
76
73
SATURDAY
85
68

INSIDE



Spotlight takes a look at Urban Legends

PAGE 10

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Give me a firm place to stand, and I will move the Earth. - Archimedes

DATEBOOK

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 22
Homecoming Parade, 3 p.m.
Cockfest, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 23
Football vs. Mississippi 12:30 p.m.