The regular weekly meeting of Dakota State University’s Student Association Senate was held on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 8:01pm in the Regents room.

Senator Harmer motioned to approve the minutes. Vice President Johnson seconded. The motion passed.

Senator Alholinna motioned to move SRO Approval and SRO Presentations from New Business to right above Open Forum. Vice President Johnson seconded. The motion passed. Vice President Johnson motioned to approve the agenda. PR Chair Lucas seconded. The motion passed.

DSU SEDS approached the Senate to be granted approval and become an SRO. The Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences (BCCCS) Representative Vertullo motioned to approve DSU SEDS as an SRO. Senator Harmer seconded. The motion passed.

Gaming Club approached the Senate to be granted approval and become an SRO. Senator Harmer motioned to approve Gaming Club as an SRO. PR Chair Lucas seconded. The motion passed.

International Club approached the Senate to be granted approval and become an SRO. Senator Harmer motioned to approve International Club as an SRO. PR Chair Lucas seconded. The motion passed.

DSU Cricket Club approached the Senate to be granted approval and become an SRO. Senator Harmer motioned to approve DSU Cricket Club as an SRO. PR Chair Lucas seconded. The motion passed.

The Alliance approached the Senate to be granted approval and become an SRO. BCCCS Representative Vertullo motioned to approve The Alliance as an SRO. PR Chair Lucas seconded. The motion passed.

AAUW approached the Senate to be granted approval and become an SRO. Senator Harmer motioned to approve AAUW as an SRO. PR Chair Lucas seconded. The motion passed.
Computer Club approached the Senate to be granted approval and become an SRO. Senator Harmer motioned to approve Computer Club as an SRO. PR Chair Lucas seconded. The motion passed.

Art Club approached the Senate to be granted approval and become an SRO. Senator Harmer motioned to approve Art Club as an SRO. PR Chair Lucas seconded. The motion passed.

PBL presented to the Senate about their club.

DSU SEDS presented to the Senate about their club.

Gaming Club presented to the Senate about their club.

International Club presented to the Senate about their club.

DSU Cricket Club presented to the Senate about their club.

Art Club presented to the Senate about their club.

The Alliance presented to the Senate about their club.

AAUW presented to the Senate about their club.

Computer Club presented to the Senate about their club.

Carl Peterson, the Secretary of Esports Club, came to Open Forum. He informed the Senate that he and the other Esports Club Officers were meeting with Jeff Dittman on Thursday to discuss the merging with athletics, hiring a coach, and setting up an arena and equipment for next fall.

Administrative Assistant Oeltjenbruns reported that she is working on acquiring items from the comment sheet for the Senate office. She is also going to add a pen and paper to the comment box outside the Senate office.

PR Chair Lucas reported that the PR Committee met last Friday. They are working on renting out the Madison movie theater. The committee is also doing more research for SHED. They are considering doing a presentation for SROs about the Senate. During the election process, they hope to work with Election Committee and advertise events. They also plan to advertise SRO events. They plan to attend club meetings to show support from Senate. The business cards are ready to be printed.
Vice President Johnson reported that there is a FED conference call on Sunday. They will be discussing SB41 and the firearms survey. He also presented the budget to Senate. The Senate has about $11,000 not including salaries. The funds for International Club’s bowling night went through, as did the Aberdeen meals and lodging and Senator of the Year plaque. Vice President Johnson will be investigating an unknown “janitorial services” expenditure.

President Williams reported that he is looking into SHED pricing. All the Senators have expressed interest in attending SHED. There is no word from the FED Chair or Director over whether there will be a breakfast or dinner with legislators. There will be a phone call with BOR on Friday. President Williams also brought up the issue that Senators are not paying attention during speakers and discussions. He asks that Senators lower computer screens, look up during discussions and voting, and use their computer for research only.

The Faculty Advisor reported that Dr. Hanson is planning campus forums on the open speech debate. The goal is to get ahead of legislature and have a plan in place in the event of an incident. He encouraged Dr. Hanson to involve Student Senate and have a Senator on the ad hoc committee.

SRO Audit Committee reported that Slack polls will now be in the committee minutes. They have planned information sessions on SRO funding for the first week of February, funding paperwork due in the second week, interviews during the third week, and the final proposal submitted to GAF in the fourth week. They voted on Soccer Club and Newman’s SRO applications. Four clubs are working on their constitutions, four clubs are working on their applications, two clubs have sent in no applications, and six clubs have said they don’t want funding.

Concealed Carry Committee reported they met today and elected Vice President Johnson as their chair. They talked about how surveys are brought to students. They decided to forgo FED’s proposed methods and let schools pick their own questions to ask. They also suggested that FED check with BOR General Council on the legality of the survey questions. They plan to present these suggestions to FED on Sunday. The questions the committee plans to ask DSU students are similar to the questions that South Dakota School of Mines and Technology asked. They are planning to send out the survey before SHED and the survey will come from the Senate email to all students.

Student Federation Response Committee reported they plan to meet on Saturday.
Student Success Committee reported they had a meeting on Tuesday and talked about student retention. There is a dip in the junior-to-senior retention rate and the freshman-to-sophomore rate is low. Students are also not as active on campus this year. There was discussion on the poor leadership of clubs, students stretching themselves too thin among different clubs, and students not being encouraged to come to events. The Faculty Advisor will send out the retention data to the Senate. Residence Life is trying to improve and help students. If outside businesses can advertise events on campus, it will help students know about events going on in the community.

Senator Harmer motions to confirm Vice President Johnson’s appointment of PR Chair Lucas to be the Executive Officer on SRO Funding Committee. Senator Alholinna seconded. The motion passed.

The DSU Gala will be held on March 22. It is an event for DSU to raise additional money for scholarships. There is a dinner, speakers, silent auction, and entertainment. Volunteers work as ushers during the event. Twelve Senators volunteered to serve.

The Regents Room Removal was discussed. Many students and faculty weren’t happy that the Regents Room could be taken offline. It would be difficult to use the Alumni Room for meetings due to noise, and there is a need to have more large meeting rooms around campus. There are plans to renovate the Alumni Room. The Senate was informed that the Regents Room will be open to all students when it is not reserved by a team. Athletics will pay a fee to use the room and provide the computers while the athletes provide personal mice and keyboards. The Regents Room is only a temporary arena. They want to get the Arena set up as soon as possible, so DSU can compete at a varsity level. A recommendation was made for Student Senate to host an open forum to inform people about this issue and invite club leaders, the Faculty Advisor, students, and faculty. Senator Harmer motions for Senate to hold an info session about the Regents Room Removal, promoted by PR Committee, but the Senate is in charge of talking to students, getting them to attend, and creating the content of the info session. Administrative Assistant Oeltjenbruns seconded. The motion passed. PR Committee will set the date and time, preferably in the first half of February.

The next meeting is on January 30, 2018.

PR Chair Lucas motioned to adjourn the meeting. Vice President Johnson seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:56pm.