The regular weekly meeting of Dakota State University’s Student Association Senate was held on Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 8:01 pm in the Regents room.

Vice President Johnson motioned to add student employee salary schedule policy changes to New Business. Senator Garippo seconded. The motion passed. Senator Harmer motioned to add research committee statement discussion to Old Business. College of Arts and Sciences Representative Guillory seconded. The motion passed. Vice President motioned to approve the agenda. Senator Peterson seconded. The motion passed.

Senator Peterson motioned to approve the minutes. Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences (BCCCS) Representative Vertullo seconded. The motion passed.

Administrative Assistant Oeltjenbruns reported the jackets for the new Senators have not been delivered. An email will be sent out once they arrive.

PR Chair Lucas was not in attendance; President Williams reported on his behalf that the new Clubs and Organizations web page should be live on the DSU website. PR Chair Lucas is also working with Senator Harmer to improve the GAF page. The poster program is still open. PR Chair Lucas will meet with the PR Committee once he returns.

Vice President Johnson reported that he spoke to Susan Slaughter about Senators not being invited to their Institutional Committee meetings. It was determined to be a miscommunication issue and suggests in the future committee appointments should be made soon after Student Senate elections, so everyone is prepared come August. Vice President Johnson will also be speaking at graduation on behalf of the Student Senate. President Williams emphasized to the Senate that if they still are not receiving emails from their committees to email the committee chairs directly.

President Williams reported on that the next FED and BOR meeting will be December 4. He informed new Senators that they are required to attend one FED and BOR meeting or attend SHED days. The December 4 meeting will be in Aberdeen. President Williams and Vice President Johnson will take up to five people with them. They will leave on Tuesday night and return the next day after the BOR meeting.
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College of Arts and Sciences Representative Guillory reported she met with Dr. Jones yesterday. Dr. Jones is still curious about the free speech discussion. She is still looking for tutors for students majoring in Digital Arts and Design. She reported there is a lot of interest from students, but the Dean has requested concrete numbers on interest. As a result, she is putting together a survey to send out to students. The goal is to have tutors for next semester.

BCCCS Representative Vertullo reported that Idaho National Laboratory visited the campus today. They met with students and talked about internship and employment opportunities available. Next week, high school students from the Career and Technical Education Academy in Sioux Falls will be coming to tour DSU.

Graduate School Representative Bolt reported that an information session about the two graduate programs for computing majors has been scheduled for November 28.

SRO Audit Committee reported they did not meet on Monday because of Veteran’s Day. More applications have come in from clubs and organizations. They are pushing clubs to get updated by the recommended deadline of November 20. There is concern that if every club turns in their applications at the same time, the committee won’t be able to approve every club in time and some clubs will not receive funding as a result. January 30 is the absolute deadline for any club to turn any paperwork in.

The Food Service Committee reported they met with Gayle Cole and the Head Chef at Sodexo. The pizza in the Marketplace has improved. The Head Chef wishes to add more options to the first area of the Marketplace as burgers and fries are almost always served there. The Hall Council should also be attending future meetings. Senator Harmer asked the committee to reach out to student employees of Sodexo to ask about their working conditions. Last year, complaints were made by student employees that they were working too many hours at Sodexo.

The Faculty Advisor took the issue of Student Senators’ Membership on Committees to the VP Council. He believes it is a miscommunication issue and a plan has been put in place to remedy it; Susan Slaughter should be notified by the Student Senate of the Committee Representatives. He also reminded committee chairs to add their Student Senate Representatives to their email lists. If a Student Senate Representative cannot attend a meeting, they should notify the chair of their absence or send a proxy and notify the chair.
The Faculty Advisor also reported that he proposed to the Cabinet that he forward all new policy and policy changes to the Student Senate. The goal is to put the Student Senate and DSU Faculty on equal footing when it comes to input on new policy. The Senate was content with this proposal.

DSU will also be providing another free flu shot clinic to students. The Faculty Advisor was contacted by the South Dakota Department of Health, who had leftover flu vaccines. The flu shot clinic will be on November 27 from 10am-2pm in the Trojan Center. Students will receive a free flu shot if they present their student ID.

Vice President Johnson reported that the State of South Dakota is raising minimum wage to $9.10 effective January 1. As a result, new DSU policy is adding 25 cents to student wages. The Faculty Advisor reported that this pay raise will “ripple up” through the other pay grades.

PR Chair Lucas asked for a decision to be made regarding Student Senate business cards. It would cost the Senate $45.50 for all 14 Senators to have 50 cards. This money would either come out of the general fund, which has about $11,000 in it or the Office Supplies Budget, which has about $5,000 left in it. It was brought up that business cards would be great to have when the Senate goes to Pierre during the Legislative session. Senator Garippo motioned to allocate funds for 50 business cards per senator but with the stipulation that the PR Committee decide on the design of the card, which uses the design of the DSU business card as a template, and it has the Senator’s term year and Student Senate logo on it. BCCCS Vertullo seconded. The motion passed.

President Williams wanted the Senate’s input on the Student Federation Freedom of Speech Testimony. There is not enough time for the Senate to pass a resolution, but President Williams feels comfortable in voting on the issue because the Senate will have had enough time to discuss it before the vote takes place. The Student Senate could declare a Declaration of Emergency and bypass the resolution rules in order to pass a resolution before the FED meeting. Vice President motioned to table the discussion until the next Student Senate general meeting. Senator Van Driel seconded. Johnson withdrew his motion. The withdrawal was approved. Johnson motioned to postpone the discussion until the next Student Senate general meeting. Senator Garippo seconded. The motion passed.

The Student Senate winter retreat was discussed. Ideas include going to an escape room, getting dinner, or holding a potluck in the basement of the Sundog Café and playing board games. Senator Harmer motioned to postpone the discussion until
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the next Student Senate general meeting. Senator Garippo seconded. The motion was withdrawn. Senator Garippo motioned to set the date of the winter retreat to November 30. Harmer seconded. The motion passed. Senator Garippo motioned to postpone the discussion until the next Student Senate general meeting and until a timeline can be decided upon. Senator Van Driel seconded. The motion was withdrawn. The withdrawal was approved. BCCCS Representative Vertullo motioned to have the Executive Council reach out to venues and post in the Senate slack the options to be voted on. Senator Harmer seconded. The motion passed.

President Williams reported on the Student Federation meeting. Topics of discussion included information availability across campus and Native American outreach. A resolution was passed to support the Dakota Promise. They changed the Constitution to disallow any FED officer to hold elected office and clarified the duties and process of electing the executive offices. The Legislative relations plan has not been founded yet, but talks will continue about it. BCCCS Representative Vertullo feels the meeting wasn’t run very well. This resulted in motions being done incorrectly. BCCCS Representative Vertullo wished to bring this up to the Senate because the motions may not have followed the rules.

The Research Committee Statement was brought up and discussed. The Senate decided to send the Research Committee a statement rather than a resolution. The statement was still a rough draft. Senator Harmer motioned to have a recess until five-minutes after the Senate received the statement draft in the documents Slack so Senators can read the statement. Graduate School Representative Bolt seconded. The motion passed.

Recess was called for Senators to read the Research Committee statement at 9:43pm. Recess ended at 9:48pm. Senator Garippo said the statement was great but needed more “authoritative bite”. Vice President Johnson added that it is DSU policy 4-20-00 that Student Senators be on all Institutional Committees. Senator Garippo motioned to include the policy verbatim along with its number and a link in the statement. BCCCS Representative Vertullo seconded. The motion passed. Senator Harmer motioned to consider the document a statement in the authority of the Student Senate to be delivered to the Research Committee by the Research Committee Representatives. There was no second. The motion did not pass. BCCCS Representative Vertullo motioned to have the statement returned to the Research Committee Representatives and have the final draft approved by the Executive Council. Graduate School Representative Bolt seconded. The motion passed. President Williams also brought this issue up to FED. Representatives from Black Hills State University and the University of South Dakota responded that they did not
have policy for students being on Institutional Committees. He also spoke with former Faculty Advisor Marcus Garstecki. Garstecki stated that this was no coincidence and he actively fought against it during his tenure at DSU. Vice President Johnson will meet with Dr. Josh Pauli, the chair of the committee, next week. The Faculty Advisor will also bring the issue up to President Griffiths during their meeting next week.

There will be no meeting next week. The next meeting is on November 28th, 2018.

Vice President Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting. BCCCS Representative Vertullo seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:05pm.