The regular weekly meeting of Dakota State University’s Student Association Senate was held on Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at 8:01 pm in the Regents room.

Vice President Johnson motioned to approve the minutes. Administrative Assistant Oeltjenbruns seconded. The motion passed.

Senator Van Driel motioned to amend the agenda and add “Freedom of Speech Committee” under Committees. Senator Harmer seconded. The motion passed. Senator Harmer motioned to amend the agenda and add “Courtyard Committee” under Committees. Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences (BCCCS) Representative Vertullo seconded. The motion passed. Vice President Johnson motioned to approve the agenda. PR Chair Lucas seconded. The motion passed.

Administrative Assistant Oeltjenbruns reported that she created a lot of polls since so many committees met this week. Office hours for this month end this week. The Senate office was recently rearranged, and if Senators wish to rearrange it in the future, they should inform Administrative Assistant Oeltjenbruns.

PR Chair Lucas reported that he updated the website. The monthly newsletter is almost done. PR Committee is busy planning events for after spring break.

Vice President Johnson reported that he attended a lot of committee meetings this week. The SB140 resolution was posted in the Student Federation chat along with the request for other schools’ input. The FED Chair was in favor of the resolution and is glad DSU brought it up. Senator Garippo commented that FED is only focusing on bills that BOR tells them about. As a result, FED isn’t acting autonomous and bills affecting students have slipped under the radar.

President Williams reported that he and College of Arts and Sciences Representative Guillory met with Steve Bartel about issues in the Trojan Center brought up by students. Steve Bartel told them that the doors on the TC bathrooms were removed because they would hit people, and they are considering turning those bathrooms into gender neutral bathrooms. The closet door near the Senate office has been leaking water, and it was determined by Steve Bartel and Javier Lopez that it wasn’t a plumbing issue but instead caused by an employee. As for the closets in the
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Regents Room and Oyate Room being used for SRO storage, the Regents Room closet can’t be used by SROs because the room will be converted into the Esports arena and the Oyate Room closet is full of random stuff. It was recommended that the empty offices in the Underground be converted into an SRO storage space. Senate would be in charge of choosing cabinets and locks and creating policy. There was also discussion on securing HDMI cables, so they can’t be removed from meeting rooms. They considered retractable cables and locking mechanisms. They are also looking into getting a water bottle filling station for the Underground and first floor of Emry Hall. SB9, a South Dakota Senate bill that would have removed the rights of some organizations to regulate their firearms, died. President Griffiths traveled to Pierre to lobby against HB1087. She had a copy of the Senate’s resolution with her. HB1087 died.

The Faculty Advisor reported that the Sharps Hazard Disposal bins plan to be installed by next fall. He gave President Griffiths a copy of the Senate’s resolution in opposition of HB1087. The new residence facility is having setbacks. DSU doesn’t have the budget to pay for the new facility because the Maintenance Room and Repair fund was increased. It won’t be open by 2020. Work is underway in the St. Thomas property. The building is being dismantled and projected to fit 21-22 beds. He will also get the Senate statistics on DSU student retention rates.

College of Arts and Sciences Representative Guillory reported that she hasn’t met with the dean. The Digital Arts and Design program is hosting a fundraiser at Sundog Café on March 20 where ten percent of Sundog’s profits will go to the local animal shelter.

BCCCS Representative Vertullo reported that he met with the dean on Monday. DakotaCon is coming up at the end of March. The week leading up to DakotaCon, 40 online PhD students are traveling to DSU to do their residency. They are looking into hiring two teaching professors and two research professors. President Griffiths and Dr. Hanson are presenting a paper to the Higher Learning Commission. Dr. Hanson is also on the East Hall remodel committee. They have a new draft for the remodel of the first floor but don’t have the money to remodel. Banner is being launched and the new DSU website is being created with rebranding in mind. Dr. Hanson also wants to hold more free speech open forums.

Election Committee reported they elected Administrative Assistant Oeltjenbruns as chair. They approved the Senator application. They changed the date and front page, updated the email address, and added the Senate office as a place to turn in the application. They plan on doing an information session about Senate. In
the election regulations, the committee removed regulations on social media posts and
the approval of posters. Senator Harmer motioned to approve the election regulations.
The motion was rescinded. Senator Harmer motioned to approve the election
regulations. Senator Peterson seconded. The motion passed.

Constitution Revision Committee reported that they met to discuss 18-24-C.
All the other amendments are in comment period which is open until March 9.

PR Committee reported that they heard back from Computer Club,
International Club, and LCA on co-sponsoring a movie night. It was suggested that
transportation is offered as that could entice more students to attend. The Senate
would like the cost of offering transportation before approval. The committee is also
working with Election Committee to make posters for the elections. They will also
meet with Deb Roach on advertising the election and do an open forum or panel about
Senate. They will meet on Friday.

SRO Funding Committee reported that they are asking for $32,000 from GAF.
They are going to push SROs to fundraise twenty-five percent of their funds. It is not
guaranteed that the committee will get $32,000. The committee got a lot of feedback
on scheduling and making sure everyone had the information they needed.

Student Federation Bylaw Committee reported that they met on Sunday. They
went through the first and second readings of amendments and discussed them during
second readings. President Williams and Senator Harmer are looking to bringing
forward changes. It was decided that FED votes will remain unanimous and abstains
won’t be counted. They meet again on March 11.

Senate Budget Committee reported that they met last night to discuss the GAF
request. They added the Finance Chair and made PR Chair a 9-month position. They
lowered the budget for leadership retreats, work orders, and awards. They added
money for a Slack paid plan and office supplies. The biggest increase was in campus
events and the SRO emergency fund. Senator Garippo motioned to vote for a special
session over spring break. The motion was rescinded. BCCCS Representative
Vertullo motioned to amend the budget to put the PR Chair’s salary back at $1200.
Senator Garippo seconded. The motion was rescinded. BCCCS Representative
Vertullo motioned to amend the budget and put the PR Chair’s salary at $1206.
Senator Van Driel seconded. The motion failed. Senator Alholinna motioned to cut
the Finance Chair to a 9-month position and cut the pay to $900. Senator Harmer
seconded. The motion passed. Senator Van Driel motioned to approve the budget.
Graduate College Representative Bolt seconded. The motion passed.
Parking Committee met today and went over some appeals. They approved one or two appeals. They discussed the request made by a student to look into parking in red spaces over the weekends. A new policy was created that will be discussed at the next meeting. Another student was concerned that the no overnight hours weren’t posted anywhere, and a student could be working late and have to walk a longer distance to their car which is dangerous. The no overnight times should be posted on signs to inform students. There was another complaint that the parking sticker blocks a driver’s field of view. They talked about possibly getting RFID hangers.

Freedom of Speech Committee met on Thursday to discuss the previous open forum. They came up with three steps to improve free speech on campus: to urge the creation of more opportunities for campus discussion, to urge the creation of a free-speech manifesto, and to urge the creation of a speaker series and bring experts on freedom of speech to campus. Dr. Hanson wanted the Senate to vote on the steps. Vice President Johnson motioned to table the discussion until the next meeting. The motion was rescinded. Vice President Johnson motioned to postpone the discussion of the three steps until the next Senate meeting. Senator Harmer seconded. The motion passed.

The Courtyard Committee reported they elected Senator Harmer as their chair. The committee would like more time to meet with people including the Director of Facilities Management.

College of Arts and Sciences Representative Guillory motioned for a five-minute recess. Senator Harmer seconded. The motion passed. The meeting reconvened at 10:30pm.

The Senate voted on nominations for Senator of the Year. Senator Garippo nominated PR Chair Lucas. Senator Alholinna seconded. Senator Van Driel nominated Senator Harmer. BCCCS Representative Vertullo nominated President Williams. Senator Alholinna motioned for a closed session. Senator Garippo seconded. The motion passed. BCCCS Representative Vertullo motioned to have the results of the voting publicized to the minutes. President Williams received six votes, PR Chair Lucas received five votes, and Senator Harmer received zero votes. BCCCS Representative motioned to leave closed session. President Williams was nominated for Senator of the Year.

Steve Bartel is planning on changing the bathrooms on the west side of the TC into gender neutral bathrooms. There was also talk of having future residence halls
having unisex bathrooms. Vice President Johnson motioned that the Senate recommend the TC west side bathrooms become gender neutral bathrooms. Graduate College Representative Bolt seconded. The motion passed.

The Senate discussed the DSU 2025 questions. BCCCS Representative Vertullo stated that students felt the questions were too broad and no one was sure how to answer them. Beacom students are excited by DSU’s growth and the impact the university makes on the cyber security field. Vice President Johnson stated that DSU is lucky to have faculty members and administration who have visions that gained a lot of momentum. DSU is also lucky to have leadership who put these visions into action. PR Chair Lucas expressed that DSU must balance their growth with what they can sustain. Graduate College Bolt stated that living space and faculty numbers aren’t big enough to maintain a large enrollment. Senator Harmer commented that DSU was almost shut down in the 1980s and now is the only South Dakota public university that is growing. The university needs to handle their money wisely and spend it on what will benefit students. Vice President Johnson added that DSU needs to take a step back every now and then to avoid dropping the ball on an issue. Senator Garippo stated that DSU may be overestimating its growth and DSU won’t stay unique in the cyber security field. The university needs to bring in bigger names and maintains its uniqueness. The university needs to take large strides to become more known. Senator Harmer commented that DSU hasn’t made it clear on whether it will remain a teaching school or become a research school. The university also needs to bring in faculty to teach, not do research. College of Arts and Sciences Representative Guillory stated that with the university’s heavy emphasis on technology, students feel that the College of Arts and Sciences is being left behind. Senator Garippo explained that DSU is required by the state to remain technology-driven. Vice President Johnson stated that the university needs more money for faculty, dorms, etc. and other non-monetary things. PR Chair Lucas stated that the university should maintain connections with the government and the private sector. Senators can submit written responses to the questions to President Williams or Vice President Johnson. They can also prepare remarks for the next meeting.

Constitutional amendment 18-24-C had its second reading. Constitutional Revision Committee recommends a pass with amendments. They struck the word “undergraduate” and section 2. They added the phrase “or course rotation”. Vice President Johnson motioned to move the amendment along in the legislative process. PR Chair Lucas seconded. The motion passed.

The next meeting is on March 13, 2019.
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Vice President Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Senator Larsen seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:36pm.