The regular weekly meeting of Dakota State University’s Student Association Senate was held on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 8:04pm in the Regents room.

Senator Harmer motioned to approve the minutes. Senator Bigger seconded. The motion passed.


Many students attended Open Forum to discuss the Regents Room Removal. President Williams began the discussion by asking if anyone had a problem with Esports having a place on campus. No one responded. President Williams then informed the open forum that discussion was to specifically be about the removal of the Regents Room as a meeting space. The Faculty Advisor reported that the long-term goal is to put Esports in the future Athletics complex. He also reported that the Regents Room utilization was at about thirty percent and that Senate is invited to be involved in the remodeling of the Alumni Room. He also said there will be meeting rooms available in Madlabs for students to use, but they have to be reserved. The Senate pointed out that the overall number of meeting rooms on campus will be decreasing, especially large meeting rooms. The Faculty Advisor also said that if the Regents Room is converted into the Esports training facility, the space will still be available to all students. Dylan Marion and another Gaming Club Officer named Jaqueline stated they were against Regents Room removal because they see a drop in attendance whenever they don’t host events in the Regents Room. Griffin Egner was in support of the Regents Room removal because he feels it could help boost enrollment at DSU. Carl Peterson said that he is okay with losing the Regents Room. Griffin Egner, along with other Officers of Esports Club, gave Senate a petition with
59 signatures in support of the Regents Room being taken offline. Mike Shlanta was worried the Alumni Room will be too loud if an event in the Underground is going on at the same time and said the Senate should look into soundproofing the Alumni Room. Ryan Marnet stated that the Regents Room is used more by smaller informal groups and that the room’s removal shouldn’t affect too many individuals. Chris Loutsch stated that meeting areas in the Trojan Center are actually limited and most meetings take place off-the-record.

Additionally during Open Forum, Carl Peterson from Game Design Club reported that the SRO went overbudget with their Global GameJam and would like the Senate’s help in paying off the $228 debt. Game Design Club plans to fundraise and would like the Senate match or pay the difference. Future events this year will also require money, so the club will bring a grand total to Senate. The club plans to ask for more money for next year.

Also during Open Forum, AJ Schoenfelder mentioned that there was also an icy spot near the main entrance of Richardson Hall where students were slipping and falling.

Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences (BCCCS) Representative Vertullo motioned for a five-minute recess. Graduate College Representative Bolt seconded. The motion passed. The meeting reconvened at 9:15pm.

A new club called Media Breakdown Club asked the Senate about becoming an official club and requesting funding. Senator Harmer will meet with them to discuss the SRO process and speak with Amanda Parpart to get the application.

Administrative Assistant Oeltjenbruns reported that she submitted the reimbursements for the office supplies and got the Constitution updated on the website.

PR Chair Lucas reported that he worked with Executive Council and Senator Harmer to get the website updated.

Vice President Johnson reported that he investigated the budget discrepancy. It turned out to be the name tags and name plates for the new senators. He posted the two resolutions from last week to FED. He also had the Senators choose roommates for SHED.
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President Williams reported that the SHED agenda is available. HB1087 passed committee, and there were amendments to sections XI and XII. However, it is unclear if the amendments passed.

The Faculty Advisor reported that Dr. Hanson is chairing an ad hoc committee about having an open forum for free speech. Vice President Johnson appointed Senator Van Driel to the committee. Graduate College Representative Bolt motioned to confirm the appointment. PR Chair Lucas seconded. The motion passed.

Senator Harmer motioned “order of the days” to move down to New Business. BCCCS Representative Vertullo seconded. The motion passed.

Students reported they could reserve the Beacom for events until midnight, but the building locks at 10pm. BCCCS Representative Vertullo would look into the issue.

Students also reported there were no sharp hazard bins around campus. The hope is to have various bins around campus and ask the Facilities Director about the issue. The Faculty Advisor would handle the issue.

Students were concerned the Courtyard bathrooms aren’t up to code. The drains aren’t big enough and prone to flooding. Senator Harmer motioned to create a five-member committee to look into the Courtyard bathroom issues and to report back to the Senate with their findings within three weeks. PR Chair Lucas seconded. Senator Garippo motioned to amend the motion to invite the Facilities Director to participate in the committee. Vice President Johnson seconded. The motion passed. The amended motion passed. Vice President Johnson appointed Senator Larsen, Senator Van Driel, PR Chair Lucas, Senator Harmer, and Vice President Johnson to the committee. Senator Harmer motioned to approve the appointments. Senator Van Driel seconded. The motion passed.

Students were concerned that Sodexo has been ordering incorrectly which causes things to be out of stock. The kitchen has gone an entire week without potatoes, cheese, or other necessary ingredients. The Faculty Advisor, Senator Van Driel, and Griffin Egner plan to meet with the Sodexo Head Chef.

Students had heard rumors about DSU rebranding and were worried their club logos would have to be reapproved. The Faculty Advisor will extend an invitation to Kelli Koepsell to talk to the Senate about rebranding and to help the Senate and SROs about getting their new logos approved.
Senator Garippo motioned to amend the agenda and add “Discussion on Senate Meeting Time” under New Business. Vice President Johnson seconded. The motion passed.

BCCCS Representative Vertullo motioned to return to college reports. Vice President Johnson seconded. The motion passed.

College of Arts and Sciences Representative Guillory reported she went to the Arts and Sciences Faculty meeting. At the meeting, they discussed Banner changes and changing the curriculum in the Cyber Leadership and Intelligence major. They plan to replace Tech Communications with Intercultural Communications.

The BCCCS Representative Vertullo reported that he talked to the Beacom Secretary about the poster policy change. The policy did change because the Dean didn’t like the posters being where they were. There is currently no poster space in the Beacom, and there are no plans to make one. Senator Van Driel will talk to Dr. Hanson about the issue when they meet for the ad hoc Free Speech committee.

PR Committee reported that they met last Friday. They are trying to get in touch with LCA to collaborate on a movie night. Senator Lucas motioned to have all Senators wear their 2018 Student Senate polos and khakis or equivalent dress pants to the President’s Cabinet dinner. Senator Harmer seconded. The motion passed. The committee also planned an event to promote the Senate Facebook page, similar to the Traveling Trojan. College of Arts and Sciences Representative Guillory handed out the test business cards. The committee also put together the posters for the Regents Room Removal open forum tonight. PR Chair Lucas also went to a SEDS meeting as part of an initiative to get out and visit SROs.

SRO Audit Committee reported that they met last night and created the financial and budget documents. The committee is setting up a meeting with the business office to talk about overdrawning and other money issues for SROs. They plan to create documents about what GAF can be spent on, how to reserve a meeting room, etc.

SRO Funding Committee reported that a second info session was held today. SRO financial documents are due next Wednesday. Interviews will be held in two weeks.

Student Federation Response Committee reported they made grammar changes in the response letter. Vice President Johnson and President Williams were concerned the letter could be seen as a motion to impeach the FED Director by other universities.
The Senate decided to have a private meeting with the FED Director, FED Chair, BCCCS Representative Vertullo, Vice President Johnson, and President Williams to discuss the issues brought up in the response letter.

The Food Service Committee met on Monday. Sodexo is trying to fix the dishwasher and are working to reduce the amount of waste being produced.

Constitutional amendment 18-19-C had its first reading. The amendment is about the powers and duties of the Administrative Assistant.

Constitutional amendment 18-20-C had its first reading. The amendment was about subsection XI of the constitution.

Constitutional amendment 18-21-C had its first reading. The amendment was about rephrasing certain sections of the constitution.

Constitutional amendment 18-22-C had its first reading. The amendment was about SRO Funding Committee.

Constitutional amendment 18-23-C had its first reading. The amendment fixed some numbering issues in the constitution.

Resolution 18-04-R had its first reading. The resolution is in opposition of HB1087. Senator Harmer motioned to move the resolution along in the legislative process. BCCCS Representative Vertullo seconded. The motion passed. Senator Garippo motioned to create a five-person committee to discuss the resolution. Vice President Johnson seconded. The motion passed. Vice President Johnson appointed Senator Garippo, Graduate College Representative Bolt, Senator Harmer, Senator Larsen, and Vice President Johnson to the committee. Senator Harmer motioned to confirm the appointments. PR Chair Lucas seconded. The motion passed.

With Senate meetings lasting a couple hours, Senator Garippo asked the Senate if they would want to consider pushing the meeting time earlier in the evening. A different day might have to be considered to work with everyone’s schedules. It was decided to have the discussion once the new Senate is elected in the spring and when the fate of the Regents Room is decided.

Senator Harmer motioned to take a 10-minute recess. Vice President Johnson seconded. The motion passed. The meeting reconvened at 11:48pm.
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18-02-R had its second reading. The committee recommended a pass. Senator Harmer motioned to move the resolution into final disposition. PR Chair Lucas seconded. The motion passed.

Senator Harmer motioned to amend the agenda and add “Discussion of Feedback on Regents Room Removal” to New Business under Old Business. Senator Garippo seconded. The motion passed.

The Senate discussed the feedback it received during the open forum tonight. Senator Harmer reported that students he spoke to outside of Senate were against the removal of the Regents Room, but many who attend the open forum tonight were for the removal of the room. Overall, it seemed more people were for the Regents Room being turned into the Esports training area. The Senate should tell the President’s cabinet that many students use the room unreserved and make sure the cabinet weighed every argument in their decision. President Williams said that the goals moving forward should be to improve the communication between administration and students and making sure the cabinet understands why the Senate held the open forum. Senator Harmer suggested pursuing the idea of making the Student Senate President a member of the President’s cabinet. Senate should also have a strong presence in the remodeling of the Alumni Room and the Regent’s Room moving forward.

The next meeting is on February 13, 2019.

The Alliance and AAUW will be having a bake sale next week. All proceeds will go to domestic violence shelter in town. All those going to SHED should meet by East Hall by 8am on Sunday. If the roads are poor, the Senate won’t go. The business cards will be printed off tomorrow, senators should check for errors on their cards.

PR Chair Lucas motioned to adjourn the meeting. BCCCS Representative Vertullo seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:33am.