A regular meeting of the BSUSA Student Senate was called to order at 5:06 pm in the Crying Wolf Room of Lower Hobson on November 20th, 2019. The President served as the chair and 16 members were present with 4 members absent.

The agenda was moved to be amended by Chair Sam Frenz to add New Scholarship Application Process Feedback to New Business. This motion was seconded by Senator Lawrence Hanenberger and was approved by a unanimous vote. Vice President Noah Wendland moved to amend the agenda to add Strengths Bill First Reading to New Business. This motion was seconded by Senator Lawrence Hanenberger and was approved by a unanimous vote. The Agenda was then moved for approval by Senator Lawrence Hanenberger and seconded by Senator Zachary Schueller, with no dissent the agenda was approved.

The minutes were moved for approval by Senator Lawrence Hanenberger and was seconded by Senator Caitlin Stern, with no dissent the minutes were approved.

Our Public Hearing was open to the public in which we had Mike Bird from the City Council introduce himself to senate and inform the senate that he is in attendance to observe.

During new business, Chair Samantha Frenz presented on the New Scholarship Application Process and asked for Feedback regarding the application. During the feedback discussion Chair Samantha Frenz moved to Suspend Robert’s Rules for 5 mins to have open discussion on the topic at hand. Chair Alexis Bugera-Brown seconded the motion. The motion was dissented against and Chair Alexis Bugera-Brown called the motion to question with a second from Vice President Noah Wendland. The motion was brought to a voice vote and passed with a majority in favor. Robert’s Rules were suspend for 5 minutes starting at 5:16 and were reinstated at 5:21. Due to discussion not being complete on the topic Chair Alexis Bugera-Brown moved to Suspend Robert’s Rules until the end of discussion and was seconded by Vice President Noah Wendland. The motion was dissented against and Chair Alexis Bugera-Brown called the motion to question with a second from Chair Nathan Datres. The motion was brought to a voice vote and passed with a majority in favor. Robert’s Rules was suspended at 5:21 until discussion had ended on the New Scholarship Application Process Feedback and Robert’s Rules were reinstated at 5:34.

The second item of business in New Business was the Clifton Strengths on DARs Report Bill. This bill was moved by Tatum Tufte with Co-Authors Anna Knowles and Noah Wendland and was seconded by Senator Zackary Schueller. The presentation on the bill was given by Chair Tatum Tufte and Zackary Schueller. At the end of the presentation, both senators requested feedback from the senate.

In Cabinet Reports, Chair Nathan Datres passed out names for the Secret Present Giver activity the senate will be participating in during the holiday party and discussed some ideas that his committee is currently working on. One of those items was figuring out ways to advertise the meditation room to make sure it is utilized during finals. Vice President Noah Wendland provided an update on apparel and some of the clothing items ordered have been reprinted. The delivery date is to be determined. Chief of Staff Jonathan McNicholes reported on behalf of the SAFAC Ad Hoc Committee and informed the senate to participate in the poll online to find available times for a meeting on Monday. Chair Samantha Frenz updated the senate on her committee’s current tasks and responsibilities in which their Ride Share board is in progress but will be up and running on Thursday. Chair Samantha Frenz also updated the senate on Beaver Points Progress and her committee has collected a total of 250 prizes. Office Manager Maggie Lowrey reminded the senate to email and/or speak with her after the meeting if they have any questions about their tabling hours or volunteer hours from the emails that were sent out the day before. Chair Alexis Bugera-Brown offered a volunteer opportunity to the senate. President Matthew Sauser spoke on senator self-evaluations and asked that senators complete these and turn them into
their committee chairs as soon as possible. Chair Tatum Tufte informed the senate of a meeting with Dr. Peffer to discuss Academic Affairs concerns on Friday December 6th from 10-11am in Deputy 301.

For University Committee Updates, Chair Alexis-Bugera Brown spoke on behalf of the Bookstore Committee. The Bookstore Committee is currently looking to work with faculty on updating their Textbook requirements online as some students are spending money on textbooks that they don’t actually need and in the end is causing the bookstore to lose money. They are also working on their social media presence to advertise their store. Office Manager Maggie Lowrey spoke on behalf of the Art Committee for the new Hagg-Sauer building. The committee is currently working on narrowing down their artists and pushing for student artists on campus. They have also narrowed down the locations of where the art works are going to be placed.

For Student Organization Updates, Office Manager Maggie Lowrey spoke on behalf of the Relay for Life student organization. Relay for Life is currently working on getting their website up and running through the Relay for Life Foundation. Once their website is established, they are sending the link out to Club and Org leaders to encourage them to create teams and help support their efforts and the foundation.

In Advisor’s reports, Advisor Nina Johnson informed the senate that the position of the Associate Director of Hobson Memorial Union has been posted publicly and are working towards creating a search committee. Advisor Nina Johnson also presented the changes that SAFAC has made to their SAFAC Budget Request Form and requested feedback from the senate. Advisor Travis Greene informed the senate of a food pantry coming to campus to help with food insecurity issues on campus. Advisor Travis Greene also updated the senate that Bemidji State University passed all of the levels of accreditation from the HLC visit in October. Advisor Travis Greene wrapped up his report by thanking the senate for their participation and attendance in the Board of Trustee’s visit to campus this past Tuesday and Wednesday.

In other Reports, Chief of Staff Jonathan McNicholes also spoke on behalf of Students United informing the senate of the Advocacy Conference being hosted at Winona State University on November 22nd – 24th. Chief of staff Jonathan McNicholes also updated the senate on his testimony he gave to the Board of Trustees about his experience here at BSU. Senator Lawrence Hanenberger updated the senate on his progress with the parking bill that he is currently working on.

The meeting was motioned to adjourn at 6:59 pm by Chair Nathan Datres, was seconded by Senator Zachary Schueller and was approved by unanimous vote.