

**SFU Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry (SOCA)**  
**July 24, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Monique called the meeting to order at 5.14P.M with a territory acknowledgement and an invite to share what has brought joy to the attendees.

**ATTENDEES:**

- Monique Leslie
- Fegor Obuwoma
- Balqees Jama
- Karugi Gathumbi
- Giovanni Hosang
- Mubarak Adebawale
- Denise Somuah-Asamoah
- Osas

**MEETING AGENDA**

**TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

SOCA recognizes we are situated on the unceded territories Coast Salish Territories of the Musqueam, Kwikwetlem, Squamish and Tsleil-waututh peoples and we recognize the importance of this acknowledging that this land has never been granted, surrendered nor sold to any government but taken by force.

**ROUNDS**

(Name, Something that brought you joy/made you happy this week and your Access needs)

**APPROVE MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING**

- Monique moved/Balqees seconded
- Approved

**REPORT OF OFFICERS**

- President
  - N/A
- Vice President
  - Working on the mental health workshop with Hassan.
  - Approval from SFSS on a grant for the mental health workshop of \$500.
- External Relations Officer
  - The introductory emails have been sent out to external partner organizations.
  - Sharing job opportunities from external partner organizations to SOCA membership.
- Internal Relations Officer

- Worked on the name change
  - De briefing meeting
  - Attended a couple of meetings
  - Recommended and aided in the gandhi statue
- Secretary
  - N/A
- Events Coordinator
  -
- Treasurer
  - N/A
- First Year Rep
  - N/A
- Grad Rep
  - N/A
- FIC Rep
  - N/A
- Execs at large
  - N/A
- Other Assigned Members
  -

## REPORT ON SPECIFIC MATTERS

- Space Conversations
  -

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Mental Health Event:
  1. We chatted with Julie Richards
  2. She is giving us resources for us to chat and feel comfortable
  3. Space is for 20 people max
  4. Round table
  5. Posted on our social media
  6. We should try and make it worth clarifying so that we could know our target audience i.e Black student events (Balqees)
  7. Tweak the poster in summary
- Cookout event
  1. Lofty's organizing
  2. Date supposed to be last wednesday
  3. Reason it didn't happen: No reason or insight shared from Lofty, according to Fegor. We have to follow up as it was on the agenda.
  4. **Monique would follow up and chat with him [To-do]**
- BLM event - August 1 cookout

1. Black Lives Matter was having an event and they had a table for us SOCA to be there or present and it was all a matter for who can be there to represent us.
  2. We do not know who can be there to represent us but we have a table there and would be a great opportunity.
  3. Is this something we want to do or are able to do.
  4. We need more insights regarding the event. **[TO-DO]**
- SFU Clan update
    1. Invited Fegor for a read through of a letter
    2. Spoke about the language
    3. Agreed on a diplomatic standpoint
    4. Fegor stated to them " She does not represent all Black people but she could speak from her perspective
    5. Met and followed up and then they did a run through reading it from paragraph to paragraph and then concluded on how to distribute it.
    6. Have not gotten back to Fegor.
    7. We passed the motion on not calling them the clan in our BIPOC committee meeting, but formally we did not take it up
    8. We formally recommended that they should not call the CLAN The clan
    9. But we did not formally pass the motion
    10. Uncomfortable situation for Fegor during the meeting as she was not being asked or heard but later followed up and apologised.
    11. Inappropriate comment by peters during the meeting
  - RCMP Recruitment on campus
    1. Balquees: In the [SFSS solidarity statement](#) we support the defunding of the police. SFSS is advocating for stopping the recruitment during career day and reasons following racial profiling
    2. This conversation was held at the meeting and was heard by Balquees.
    3. She followed up and asked if there are cases by the police which have happened on campus, which would be discussed later on by Balquees.
    4. Be ready to be engaged by them as they are asking for any factual police evidence that has happened on campus.
    5. We feel we should not share anyone's story as everyone feels different about their own experience or rather we do not have to back up our claims as the trend shows otherwise.
    6. Our response would be people are not comfortable sharing their own experience.
  - New SUB Space Allocation Proposal
    1. Bottom of the agenda
    2. Initially we were supposed to share space but we got our own space and office.

3. Link below and the square feet is 879.
4. 1 open space. Two office's
5. Open Space 1: 615.2
6. Two office's with 132.1 and 132.1 respectively
7. Our room is smaller because we do not have staff and it also gives us more space according to Gio. It also gives us more of a safe space.

- SFSS 2019 Racial Profiling Incident

- Debate and Event: An SFU alumni, was racially profiled and targeted on the grounds of his colour by SFSS board and Staff. They then called security members as he did not want to be ID as he felt he deserved to be there just like everyone else. The situation almost escalated from SFU Security to Police. There is history between the SFSS and SOCA regarding these activities and also the reason they did not want to call the Police was because they were scared for his well being rather than them being racists.
- He followed up and wanted an apology
- SFSS planned and totally abused power to instigate this event.

- Communication between Execs and with Membership

- The first meeting we had Slack was suggested but there was an issue that we need to even use our own Whatsapp so an engagement issue
- We could prompt every week to contact everyone so we could engage communication within the group.
- Giovanni asked what is happening with the President and calling the meeting
  - VP says that it was a situation that there was no reply
- Monique says reason she had to call this meeting is because Tim is not replying and has not been communicating for a long period of time now, so she went ahead and called+chaired the meeting
- Monique: Shoutout to Denise for sending out the newsletter as well
- Karugi: Communication between execs around attendance at meetings and stuff that need to be done
- Monique: Need more communication from some execs. Some people are doing stuff and some not communicating. If people don't have capacity it, should be communicated
- Gio: if people are not at capacity, they need to share that so they can be supported, but if they're not pulling their slack and doing their tasks in general, it becomes a case of execs being forced to take up responsibilities that need to get done, and it can become stressful
- **Recommendation:** If not able to attend meetings, communicate to the exec team in WhatsApp chat or directly to who is chairing the meeting, and send a report to be read out on your behalf during the meeting. That's a problem if people don't come.

## COMMITTEE AND SUB-ASSOCIATIONS UPDATE

- SSA (Somali Student Association)
  - SSA wanted to reach out to meet SOCA exec
  - Gio: Scan MoU and send it to SOCA **[To-do]**
- NSA (Nigerian Students Association)
  -
- Social Justice and Advocacy Committee
  -
- Cultural Events Committee
  -
- Space (BCSC) Committee
  -
- Dance Team (N/A till Fall)
- Parties and Pub Nights Committee (N/A till Fall)

## MOTIONS

### 1. **Final SUB Space Organization Allocation Proposal**

**Whereas**, SFSS provided an alternative model for space allocation "Final SUB Student Organization Space Reallocation" proposal that provides SOCA a space in the Student Union Building and satisfies the needs of SOCA at this time, alongside the rest of the Rotunda Community,

**Be it resolved**, to support the "Final SUB Student Organization Space Reallocation" proposal as passed at the SFSS Board of Directors meeting on July 10, 2020,

**Be it further resolved**, to authorize any two of the Executives out of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer to enter into conversations and to sign a letter of agreement outlining the terms as outlined in the proposal

**Fegor moved / Mubarak Seconded**

**CARRIED Unanimously**

## OPEN ISSUES OR CONCERNS

- N/A

## ACTION ITEMS FOR EXEC & Other Assignees (THIS WEEK 24-7-2020)

- **Karugi:**
  - **Reach out to Black Lives matter**
- **Tim and Monique:**
  - **Follow up regarding the space, motion and submission**
- **Juju:**
  - **Bank transfer needs to be done**
- **FROM LAST MEETING ACTIONS but (TO DO )**
- **Tim:**

- Contact SFSS ([vpfinance@sfss.ca](mailto:vpfinance@sfss.ca)) regarding Social Development Partnership Program
- Send out summary of resources from entrepreneurship event to SOCA mailing list
- Send out information on pandemic resources to mailing list
- **Lofty:**
  - Begin promoting the cookout event (to be held on July 15th 2020)
- **Mubarak:**
  - Draft letter to SSA and NSA to set up a meeting with the SOCA exec team for us to chat
- **External Relations Officer**
  - Draft email for partner organizations, currently waiting to introduce self.
- **Internal Relations Officer:**
  - Draft letter to SFU Admin regarding endorsement of 'SFU Clan' name change.

**Meeting Adjournment Moved by Monique, Seconded by Giovanni at 7:04pm.  
ADJOURNED**

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

SUB student Organization Space Allocation Proposal

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11cXBxFVEYyPUbNGRr0nSmVfyCslay4st/view>