

**SFU Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry (SOCA)**  
**July 3, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER: 5:20 pm**

**ATTENDEES:** Tim Maruti, Khadija Issa, Afia Poku, Denise Somuah-Asamoah, Mohamed Conde Lofty, Giovanni HoSang, Ashaa Issa.

## **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 about yourself that's not known to everyone, Access needs, One thing you had good this week and one you're looking forward to or alternative)

### **APPROVE MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING**

- **Approved**

### **REPORT OF OFFICERS**

- **President**
  - Entrepreneurship workshop debrief
    - Workshop was held on Thursday July 2nd with Trish Mandewo, SFU's mentor-in-residence for the Coast Capital Savings Venture Connection Program.
    - Attendees were very engaged, they asked a lot of questions and gained a lot of useful information.
    - Summary of resources that were mentioned by Trish will be sent out to the community via email, as well as instructions on how to get in touch with Trish as a mentor for the Venture Connection program.
  - Pandemic resources
    - Send out in mailing list
- **Vice President**
  - I would like to state that I am officially a part of the BIPOC COMMITTEE for SFFS as the SOCA exec rep.
  - Also, worked with ERO, Karugi AND IRO, Fegor in creating a book club which was postponed due to recent uprisings and decided to prioritize rest amongst our group but will resume possibly by end of month.

- Wrote up the SOCA Statement in regards to the protests for our social media pages
- Assisted and have had several discussions along with other execs members ( Karugi& Hassan) with ASA in taking action in regards to SFU Anti-Black racism and have collaboratively compiled list of demands from SFU to right their wrongs.
- Created a list of resources for our Instagram to point our members to petitions , aids and issues within the Black community which need amplifying. Ie. Hogan's Alley petition, BC mutual aid
- External Relations Officer
  - Draft email for partner organizations, currently waiting to introduce self.[To-do]
- Internal Relations Officer
  - Writing up email for internal orgs about all the changes etc [To-Do]
  - Collaboration with OOC - folks looking forward to it [To-do]
  - **SFSS Council report:**
    - Motion to endorse the SFU clan renaming campaign passed and SOCA voted in favour
- Secretary
  - N/A
- Events Coordinator
  - I am planning on hosting a mental health event where we invite a therapist/counsellor to come discuss at like a Q&A type thing. A lady name Jolie reached out via Facebook while Monique replied and had a phone call discussing briefly about hosting one. Any date preferences ? And what they want to discuss? And who wants to join on the committee?
- First Year Rep
  -
- Grad Rep
  -
- FIC Rep
  -
- Execs at large
  - Lofty: Discussion Wednesdays
    - Sent flyer last week for cookout, but did not have enough time to advertise
      - Also did not talk about current issues yet
      - Has topics that people might be interested in
      - Wants permission from leadership to hold the events
    - Will have event on 15th June.
- Other Assigned Members
  - Eileen library list sent to SOCA email

## REPORT ON SPECIFIC MATTERS

- Space Conversations
  - No update
- Feedback from anyone who has attended BLM protests over the past few weeks
  - Karugi submitted statement to the Peak about the protests after attending
  - Denise attended first one, general sentiment good amount of folks who are allies and Black community folks
  -

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Games Night Event debrief – **Hassan**
  - 7 people attended
  - Improvements:
    - earlier send out to mailing list
    - Have people register prior
  - Went well:
    - Fun with music
    - Community togetherness
  - Good with limited resources
- Black Hair event debrief - Denise and Karugi
  - 29 attended, 51 registered
  - Held on Tuesday 5.30
  - Improvements:
    - Started a lil late
    - technical issues at the start
    - Hiccups during the coordinating and Denise will have another update when she speaks to the coordinator
    - Balqees: Reminder should be made for folks to turn camera on
  - Went well:
    - Folks listened in
    - Black folks centered
    - Lot of people learnt from everything
    - Balqees: Was sooo good, skipped other commitment
- Upcoming Discussion Wednesday
  - Lofty had discussion from his report
  - Will happen on July 15
- Book Club update
  - Review of book - My sister the serial killer
  - Was postponed due to all the events and centering rest. Need to discuss for August/Fall?
  - Tim to share the digital version in the SOCA chat
- SFU Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) consultations update
  - Advisory council didn't know Black undergrad students weren't aware. They point this out and will try to make space
  - Balqees will have a call with council person and report back

- Anti-racism at SFU
  - Update under Monique's report
  - ASA taking the lead with that and SOCA supporting as best as possible.
  - Admin issues:
    - SOCA and ASA concern with lack of apology from SFU,
    - SFU being very slow on the financial redress,
    - Still no action Black staff hiring - no update
    - Black mental health supports - to get update from SFU
    - ASA and SOCA compensation regarding advising for the emotional labour
    - SFU to make substantial donation to Black BC Community fund
  - ASA and SOCA to stay aligned, keep supporting Monique in these issues
- Race-Based Data Collection Update
  - Petitions distributed in last meeting
  - Motion passed at Vancouver City Council - 21 speakers spoke in favour of the motion - motion emphasizes the co-ownership and co-analysis of data through racialized communities and is a start towards strategically putting funding and resources for addressing systemic racism
  - BC committed to move towards collection:  
<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/british-columbia/article-bc-premier-john-horgan-says-he-wants-to-collect-race-based-data/>
  - Balkees spoke on the motion on behalf of the SFSS and centered Black students experience
- Supporting athlete's calls for renaming SFU Clan
  - a motion later on;
  - Endorse and Support the Black student athletes and their petition to rename the SFU Clan to a more appropriate name
    - Need to sign petition as SOCA, and to send it out for others to sign as well
    - SFU has been questioned about it before, but have not done anything yet; need to sign it to support a change this time
  - Write a **letter** in line with the calls outlined in the SFU athletes' template letter and support the campaign
  - Petition:  
<https://www.change.org/p/president-andrew-petter-the-clan-simon-fraser-university-needs-a-new-name>
  - Really important to note that the Black Athletes are taking the lead on this. SOCA needs to recognize that a lot Black students are athletes and we need to center their experiences
  - The athletes specifically want SOCA's support - especially IRO through SFSS council.
  - Motion passed at SFSS Council - SOCA voted in favour at Council;
    - In motion: going to write letter, called Board of Directors to support as well
    - Contact info of Athlete organizers: (for IRO to reach out)
      - othniel\_spence@sfu.ca, marie\_haddad@sfu.ca
  - Organizers want meeting with various people involved including SOCA, professor who suggested name change initially, Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)

- SOCA Black Support Staff (Balqees)
  - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Se0rbPVhfV6SJoO3MYHPsdxM6IXHeyKX/view>
  - Has come up with SOCA over the last couple of years
  - SOCA is the only constituency group with space without staff support
    - (DNA does not currently have space but there will be an accessibility coordinator hired)
  - Board was in favour, currently research is going on
  - Campaigns and Policy research coordinator is looking at what it will entail
  - Council motion: \_\_\_\_
- Update on SFSS BIPOC Committee
  - SOCA has a seat (occupied by Monique) however SFSS needs more At-Large members to apply
  - To be sent out to mailing list- how to apply to be on committee
  - Balqees: asking SOCA to share on social media and mailing list
  - Purpose of committee to decolonize the SFSS, hold SFSS accountable on EDI efforts
  - Will send ToR to SOCA: \_\_\_\_
- Calling General Meetings:
  - Need to call more frequently, Tim apologizes on behalf of the Executive for that
  - Online environment a bit challenging to collaborate and communicate
  - To put out a survey of times people are available, will continue to be until any change if necessary
  - If people are agreeable we can extend the opportunity for folks to call SOCA GM.
    - 3 people from Exec are able to call
    - President, VP, Events Coordinator being able to call a meeting
      - Plus majority of Execs emailing or signing the SOCA petition for a General meeting, and any exec would be able to call with a weeks' notice upon that petition.
  - Twice a month
- Social Development Partnership Program:
  - Financial support for black-led NGO organizations in Canada
  - Up to \$100,000 in funding available for equipment purchase for work or community spaces, and/or renovations or retrofits of existing workspaces or community spaces to improve their functionality.
  - Application deadline- **July 27th, 2020 (3:00 pm)**
  - Tim: looking into SOCA's eligibility to apply
    - Still need to have SFSS sign on in any contracts and so on, so SOCA not a legal entity on its own
  - There is a petition on Facebook to the government to allow Organizations that do not have a physical space to apply for funding, for other things besides physical renovations.
  - Can bring this up at the BIPOC Committee meeting or SFSS Board meeting

## COMMITTEE AND SUB-ASSOCIATIONS UPDATE

- SSA (Somali Student Association)

- SSA elections launched:  
<https://www.sfusoca.ca/sfu-somali-students-association.html>
- SSA wants to have a meeting with SOCA new executives, to be more involved with ASA and SOCA in the future
  - MoU agreement to be sent to SSA
  - Benefits to both associations- space, etc
- Tim: will ask secretary to draft email to send to SSA
- Balqees: Scan MoU and send it to SOCA **[To-do]**
- NSA (Nigerian Students Association)
  - Afia: NSA having trouble getting to SOCA, need to do more to reach out to and support NSA
  - President and IRO to contact NSA **[To-do]**
- Social Justice and Advocacy Committee
  - N/A
- Cultural Events Committee
  - N/A
- Space (BCSC) Committee
  - N/A
- Dance Team (N/A till Fall)
- Parties and Pub Nights Committee (N/A till Fall)

## MOTIONS

1. **Whereas**, the Black SFU athletes have started a petition for the change the SFU sports teams name from being the SFU clan due to the racial terrorism that it invokes and the psychological and mental impacts on Black athletes and allies  
**Be it resolved that** SOCA supports the petition to change the name from the Clan and work in line with other bodies calling on SFU to change the team name **and write letter to admin and others** in support  
**Balqees** moved / Afia **seconded**  
**CARRIED** unanimously
  - **Discussion:** reach out to the Black athletes very important from the SOCA email
2. **Whereas**, there have been challenges with calling meeting and there have been concerns from membership around meetings,

**Whereas**, the current SOCA constitution does not have another mechanism of Executives meetings outside of the President unless the President is unable to act or vacates the position,

**Whereas**, this causes risk to the SOCA Constituency group in the event that the president is overwhelmed and not able to call meetings,

**Be it resolved** that SOCA extends the power of calling general meetings to two additional executives in addition to the President, namely the Vice President, and/or the Events Coordinator at any time,

**Be it further resolved** that SOCA empowers any Executive to call a SOCA general meeting provided that a simple majority of the current Executives sign a petition or sends an email to the SOCA email address, for the calling of a General meeting with at least 1 week's notice.

**Karugi Moved / Tim seconded**

**CARRIED unanimously**

## **OPEN ISSUES OR CONCERNS**

1. **Afia:** images on posters. Make sure to get go-ahead to use images of people within our community before using them on posters that are being circulated.
  - Complaints from people who appeared on Entrepreneurship event poster
  - SOCA logo should be on posters for any events that we are organizing or co-hosting
  - Balqees: was not aware that it was a SOCA event. Give credit where credit is due (to individuals, photographers, SOCA)
    - Also creates a sense of safety for community members to have SOCA logo on posters
  - Tim: was reached out to by Afia, SFU VC department designed the poster
    - Chose photo from SOCA gallery for photo to avoid using a non-SOCA photo off the internet
    - Spoke to Karugi about using images on posters
    - Solutions: put out a disclaimer that images taken at events will be uploaded to the website, and that images will be used for non-commercial purposes.
      - Option 1: Moving forward, we will communicate with people in the photo for consent
      - Option 2: Organize group of people and take photos for advertising and editorial purposes
    - Got the poster quite late, felt that asking the VC department to redesign might mean poster would not have been ready in time for the event
  - Balqees: might be safe to use photos if individuals have graduated
    - Be careful not to put members in (psychological) harm's way
  - Giovanni: consent to be given at the time of taking the photo so people know from the start that the photo will be used by SOCA, and need to make sure the SOCA logo is attached in any usage. If people do not consent, then photo should not be taken
  - Afia: in the past, we have not had people saying no to appearing on posters, next time we should use the logo.
2. **Balqees:** Facebook event pages to be made for meetings and other events, in advance

- Tim: tend to use Instagram more, but will need to use Facebook to publicize meetings too
3. **Afia:** Peer check program and Study Hall- try to support members to study together virtually

## **ACTION ITEMS FOR EXEC & Other Assignees**

- Action Items [from the **To-Dos** above]:
- **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 setup a meeting with the SOCA exec team
- **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 Balqees, Seconded by Karugi**

Meeting Adjourned at **7:25 pm**

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

### **Council meeting - 2020-06-24:03**

9.2 Call on SFU to Change the Name of SFU Athletics – MOTION COUNCIL 2020-06-24:03  
Adrienne/Ryan

Whereas the SFU Athletics teams have the current name of SFU Clan which may negatively impact Black athletes that play for SFU through the invocation and similarities with the name of the Ku Klux Klan, a white-supremacist terrorist organization in North America,

Whereas SFU athletes were surveyed and 77% of athlete respondents surveyed were in support of SFU initiating a process to change the name,

Whereas the SAAC is a constituency group on Council representing student athletes on and supports the calls of the petition,

Whereas Maria Haddad and a former Student Athlete, Othniel Spence, have created and circulated a petition titled "The Clan: Simon Fraser University Needs a New Name" calling on the University to change SFU's team name,

Be it resolved that Council supports the calls made by student athletes to rename the SFU athletics teams from SFU Clan and endorses the petition on 'change.org' "The Clan: Simon Fraser University Needs a New Name",

Be it further resolved that the Council Chair be directed to write a letter on behalf of

Council to Andrew Petter, Dr. Joy Johnson and Rummana Khan Heman in collaboration with the SAAC Council representative and other Councilors in support of this motion and that the Chair align the letter with the email template from the petition, and wholly support the calls by athletes to rename the name of the team to a more appropriate name,

Be it further resolved that as the advisory body to the Board of the Society, the Council calls on the SFSS Board of Directors to add the call for the athletics team name change to their University-based advocacy efforts on behalf of the Society and to prioritize advocating for a resolution of the current issue prior to the beginning of the fall term

## **BIPOC COMMITTEE TOR**

### **Name and Type**

Name: SFSS Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) Committee

Duration: The committee will be established upon the adoption of these terms of reference and dissolved at the discretion of the Board and proper consultation with BIPOC student groups and communities.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this committee is to ensure and prioritize the voices of the Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) community at Simon Fraser University within the framework of the Simon Fraser Student Society, and that the lived experience of racialized folks is always considered, recognized and acknowledged. Historically Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour disproportionately face more barriers due to the constructs that have been established without BIPOC folks in mind. Academia and university settings are not exempt to the mistreatment and misappropriation of BIPOC voices.

Academia as we know has been used as a tool to assimilate and indoctrinate racialized voices. This committee is to ensure that Black, Indigenous and People of Colour have the ability to speak on issues that directly affect our BIPOC communities within SFU and their educational experience. This committee shall work with the Board of Directors and the SFSS to properly support racialized students from a BIPOC perspective. The role of this committee should be to support, voice opinions and give advice to where the SFSS and SFU are lacking and to close the gaps and barriers that racialized students face in their university experience.

The SFSS prioritizes Indigenous voices, and acknowledge that the SFSS is located on the traditional, unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the x̱wməθkʷəŋəm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Sel̓ilwílulh (Tsleil-Waututh), ḵwíkʷəŋəm (Kwikwetlem) and ḑícəŷ (Katzie) Nations.

### ***Scroll to BIPOC Committee:***

<https://sfss.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/BOARD-2020-06-12-Minutes.pdf>