

Students of Caribbean & African Ancestry
RM 1430 (Student Union Building)
Simon Fraser University
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, B.C V5A 1S6



SFU Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry (SOCA)
[January 31st] at [5:30]

ATTENDEES: Stacy, Naomi, Adanna, Emmanuel, Nandi, Anne-marie, Nobuhle, Clare, Trixie, Munatsi, Bamenyer, Ian, Mekeil, Dominion, Imnet, Akuol, Jennifer

MEETING AGENDA: TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

SOCA recognizes we are situated on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish, the Musqueam, Kwikwetlem, Squamish, Tseil-waututh, and Katzie 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. You can see who's land you're on using an app called <https://native-land.ca/> which is a map of Indigenous lands.

ROUNDS.

(Name, Pronouns, access needs, What form self-care are you giving yourselves during BHM)

Stacy - She/her, access needs are met, hanging out with friends and attending bhm events around vancouver

Nobu - She/her, access needs are met, sleeping

Emmanuel - he/him, access needs are met, Playing ball and sleeping

Clare - she/her, access needs are met, sleeping

Naomi - She/her, access needs are met, reading

Adanna - she/her, access needs are met, Exec retreat

Nandi - she/her access needs are met. Watching movies and reading

Anne-Marie- she/her access needs are met, N/A

Muna - he/him access needs are met, Black activities

Trixie - she/her access needs are met, N/A

Mekeil - she/her access needs are met, Ski trip

Bam - he/him access needs are met, Travelling to Montreal

Dominion - he/him access needs are met, sleeping and Watching movies

Ian - he/him access needs are met, Watching netflix

APPROVE MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

- **Approved**

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REPORT OF OFFICERS

- **President**

- Finalizing Black history month events
- Picking up food for Catch ah vybz + making payment for food orders
- Workin on exec retreat with Muna
- Submitting cheque recs staying on top finances
- Coordinating whistler trip for members
- President-coordinator check in meeting
- A lot of email correspondence
- Made posters for BHM intro, Bhm calendar, SOCA yearbook, BHM panelists
- Placing food orders for events
- Depositing cheque in the scotia bank account

- **Vice President**

- Sent email invites to SFSS executives
- Planned community kitchen with embark in collab with Mekeil
- Connected soca to sfss for potential support for gala night & met with Vp equity,
- Made mental health workshop posters
- Coordinated and bought men's mental health workshop refreshments,
- Catch ah vybz shopping
- Helping with flea market planning and emails
- Coordinating clubs days

- **External Relations officer.**

- Finalizing financial literacy workshop
- Posted some resources to group chat
- Promoted workshop
- Facilitating Black Professional Networks with KPMG
- Email correspondence
- Catch ah Vybz shopping
- Tabling for clubs

- **Internal Relations Officer**

- Attended the onboarding meeting for the community kitchen with Tricia Kay
- Attended SFSS Council meetings
- Sent email invitations for black history month events
- Tabling for clubs day
- Catch ah vybz shopping
- Helping with flea market planning

- **Secretary**

- Absent

- **Treasurer (and Finances report)**
 - Sends regrets
- Accounts balances and in and out flows (trust, levy fund, Soca Core, staff department line item, Scotiabank, outstanding/upcoming grants):
 - Trust: \$8135.02
 - Levy: \$27,108.22
 - Soca CG core fund: \$1,350.00
 - Staff Dept Levy: N/A
 - Scotiabank (external): \$5,043.72
 - Grant funding: N/A
 - Cheques to be signed (include Motions Date and Number approved and person to reimburse): N/A
 - Cheque requisitions to be done: Pizza for reimbursement,
 - Other: Updated the finance tracking sheet
- **ITO:**
 - In the process of making a Catch Ah Vybz recap video
 - Made a fit check video for catch ah vybz
 - Attended Catch Ah Vybz
 - Making poster for exec intro on instagram
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- **Events Coordinator:**
 - Sends regrets
- **First Year Rep:**
 - Absent
- **Grad Rep -**
 - Sends regrets
- **FIC Rep**
 - Connected with Muna for black history month at the library
- **Execs at large Mekeil:**
 - Tabling for Clubs day
 - Attended Catch Ah Vybz
 - Setup the newsletter
 - Planned community kitchen with embark in collab with Stacy
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- **Execs at large Naomi:**
 - Tabled for Clubs Days
 - Attended Catch ah Vybz
 - Attended the onboarding meeting for the community kitchen with Tricia Kay
 - Helped with shopping for Catch ah Vybz
- **Execs at large Joanne**
 - Sends regrets

● **Black Student Support Coordinator-**

- Submitted cheque reqs that were outstanding
- Facilitated setting up of BHM Library display
- Meeting with Paola for SVSPO collaboration
- Had a meeting with John Ives learning center
- Meeting with Sophie about the Black history month flea market
- Meeting MECS about the Gala night
- Screening of Black August movie in collaboration with SFPIRG

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Black History month programming.

● **Black History Month - SOCA'S THEME OF THE MONTH- From Past to Future: Black Canadian History and Leadership"**

- **Feb 3rd is a panel discussion/kickoff in the SUB social stage.**
 - Our panelists so far are Sosa Eweka-Valentine, Brian Seremba, Ndidi cascade, C lcart. Balqees Jama would be moderating the panel.
 - There's gonna be a raffle for prizes such as airpods, gift cards etc so come out
 - Refreshments to follow afterwards in the spaceEvents happening this month include;
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- **Feb 7th: Black expressions:**
 - Open mic and discussions (Bukola Balogun cancelled)
 - Poster to be done asap
- **Feb 10th @5pm** - financial literacy workshop
 - On a monday
- **Feb 12th** - Movie night/ interrobang session
 - In collab with svspo
- **Feb 13th** - Community kitchen event
- Poster will be made by Tricia Kay
- Feb 24th - Movie screening with SFPIRG
- **Feb 25th** - Flea market to support black owned businesses.
 - In the AQ
- **Feb 27th** - Community kitchen with Embark.
- **Feb 28th** - Community Gala night
 - Expect "GLAMOUR"
 - looking for mecs to cater for the event.
 - Rafiki band is expected to performFood vendors- Vansuya, Simba Grill, Possibly Ethiopian cuisine

2. Black Joy on the slopes 2025 with colour the trail

- In honour of BHM, SOCA is collaborating with colour the trails to organize a skiing/snowboarding trip to Whistler on February 8th
- Offered five spots for SOCA members
- SOCA will cover the cost of the lessons for the members

3. Mental health sessions with Tricia-Kay:

- We need to promote it more so members are aware of this resource
- Also do we think SFU needs another Black counsellor?
- Unfortunately it was cancelled today due to some circumstances
- The meeting can be more interactive to attract more members to the workshop
- Member suggested that a petition should be made for more resources and staff for Black students needing mental health counselling in SFU

4. SOCA Yearbook / yearbook committee

- Are you a Black student graduating in 2025 (June or October)? SOCA is creating a yearbook and archival record to celebrate our achievements, document our legacy, and preserve history for future Black students to come.
- Also need people to join the yearbook committee, open to everyone
- Archive needed in order to have a history to look back on
- Request to have students interested in joining the yearbook committee

5. Bringing back the Black Study Hall

- Stacy is passionate about bringing back the study hall.
- Is enquiring with the library. Set to start in February
- SOCA will have its private designated space in the library 3rd floor.
- Will be on Wednesdays 6pm- 10pm
- Tell your friends. Come study with your friends!
- Refreshments will be provided
- Suggestion: Monthly roster for the execs to facilitate
- We need a poster made by next week.

6. Black History Month coverage at The Peak

- We would love to publish an article of your events for Black History Month and share it on social media.. We're also interested in learning more about the new student support coordinator. Would they be interested in being interviewed for an article to learn more about the role?
- This could be anything from humour and personal narratives, to recipes, to research-based and historical pieces. Book, movie, food, or music reviews are all also great.

- If least 3 or so people are interested, we could put together a spread where each person shares a short paragraph(s) about their cultural heritage to show some of the diversity in your group.
- Folks can also contribute photography, illustrations, and/or comics. Every contribution is paid at the end of the semester.
- We are planning our official Black History Month Issue for week 7 and work 2 weeks ahead, so ideally anyone interested in contributing to this issue should aim to reach out by Jan 30. That way they can have a week to work on it and hand it in the following week

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7. SFU BSSC Food Bursary Program for students

- Line item to support black students facing food insecurity
- Purchasing gift cards from african stores and grocery stores
- Gift cards may range from \$50-\$100
- Access is going to be need based and on a first come basis
- The program should be running from March
- Creating a signup form to access needs

8. Nominating outstanding soca members/volunteers for award on gala night

- Appreciating our volunteers/members

9. Mc for panel discussion

- Request for an MC for the panel discussion
- Bam is mcing

10. Screening of “Black August” in the SOCA space in collaboration with SFPIRG and Canada-Philippines Solidarity for Human Rights (CPSHR) on February 24.

- o The movie “Black August” is a film about political prisoner and former Black Panther, George Jackson. CPSHR is currently campaigning for the release of political prisoner Maoj Maga. This is an opportunity to connect the struggles for Black liberation and national democracy in the Philippines.
- o Initiative gotten from Noelle at SFPIRG
- o Opportunity for some cross cultural learning and a discussion will be had as well
- o The movie will be from 6pm-9pm
- o There will be refreshment

12. BPN (Black Professionals Network at KPMG)

We have been contacted by the Black Professionals Network (BPN) at KPMG Canada, Greater Vancouver Area (GVA) regarding a potential collaboration. BPN is committed to fostering an inclusive environment and supporting the professional development of self-identifying Black students and professionals.

As part of their current initiatives, BPN is looking to connect with Black Student Unions at UBC and SFU to:

- Learn more about the programs and events we organize.
- Discuss possible partnerships to enhance networking and mentorship opportunities for Black students.
- Identify any challenges we face that they could assist with through mentorship programs, workshops, seminars, and community engagement.

We have a meeting scheduled with them on Thursday at 2:30 PM to discuss the next steps (via zoom).

- Stacy, Nobu and Muna will be attending
- Everyone is invited

13. Building maintenance ventilation and wall repair .

- The building team have accessed the ventilation system
- Request will be sent by Muna to repair the wall
- Seating arrangements need to be changed to avoid the problem from recurring

MOTIONS.

1. Motion for printing a SOCA yearbook archive for graduating members.

Whereas SOCA is celebrating the achievements of the 2025 graduating class and want to create a yearbook to highlight and celebrate this milestone as well as document it for future generations to come.

Be it resolved that SOCA reallocates funds from the following line items #50 Black Graduation YearBook, \$1,000 #51"SOCA BSSC Annual Conference / Speaker Series" \$1000 account 741/45 and line item 57 account 820/45 \$1000"Campaign and Advocacy Workshops" for this expense Totaling \$3000

**Moved by [Emmanuel] / seconded by [Stacy]
CARRIED unanimously**

2. Motion to compensate Richard Goodluck for creating SOCA Merch design

Whereas SOCA is celebrating Black History Month and contacted Richard Agbo-Goodluck to design merch for soca members.

Be it resolved that to provide a honorarium of \$150 for this expense from line item #72 "Honoraria pool" Account 815/45 "SOCA Operational and Administrative"

**Moved by [Nobu] / Seconded by [Naomi]
Carried Unanimously**

3. Executive Retreat motions

Whereas the SOCA executives have a retreat after the end of each semester. However, due to the spring semester exam schedule clashing with the easter holiday, we decided to move it to reading break. There is left over budget from unused line items

Whereas the SOCA executives plan on using roughly \$10,907.19 for the executive retreat as SFSS policies require us to book hotel accommodation instead of Airbnb, outside of accommodation cost, there's other costs such as transportation and food costs.

Be it resolved, that SOCA approves the amount of up to \$10,901.19 for the executive retreat spring 2025

Be it further resolved that this amount be taken out of the following accounts, 886/45 - #80 "Execs Transition Retreats, Training and Leadership Development" **\$809**. account 815/45 #71 - "Exec stipend" **\$1098.19**. Be it further resolved that SOCA uses **\$9000** from account 886/45 line item #83 "Black Student and Community Groups Support and Collaboration"

Moved by [Naomi] / seconded by [Emmanuel]

Carried unanimously

4. Black joy on the slopes with Colour the Trails

Whereas SOCA is collaborating with Colour the trails for their Black Joy on the slopes event in honour of Black History Month.

Whereas SOCA has agreed to cover the skiing/snowboarding lessons for 5 SOCA members totalling \$105 per person as well as lunch at Whistler.

Be it resolved that SOCA approves the total of \$1000 to be spent on this event

Be it further resolved that this amount be taken from the core account funding

Moved by [Anne-Marie] / seconded by [Stacy]

Carried unanimously

5. Screening of "Black August" in collaboration with SFPIRG and Canada-Philippines Solidarity for Human Rights (CPSHR).

Whereas SOCA is planning a Screening with SFPIRG and CPSHR for black history month and the BSSC coordinator is facilitating the planning of this event for members

Whereas Food and refreshments as well as planning expenses will be inquired.

Be it resolved that SOCA approves an amount of up to \$500 from account, 741/45 - line #52 "SOCA BSSC Coordinator-Led Special Programming and Services"

Moved by [Nandi] / seconded by [Imnet]

Carried unanimously

6. Purchasing office supplies for the space

Whereas the SOCA Black Student Support Centre (BSSC) space requires essential office supplies, as current stock has been depleted;

Whereas upgrades and replacements are needed for furniture and equipment, including lamps, additional flags, plants, LED lights, a microphone, and games to enhance the functionality and atmosphere of the space;

Be it resolved that SOCA allocate \$500 from line item #66 account 820/45("Office Supplies/Expense") and \$500 from line item #74 account 815/45 ("Office Supplies/Room Maintenance Supplies Expense"), for a total of \$1,000, to purchase office supplies and make necessary furniture upgrades for the SOCA BSSC space.

Moved by [Stacy] / seconded by [Anne-Marie]

Carried unanimously

7. SFU BSC Food Bursary programing contribution

Whereas SOCA believes it is important to support members who might be facing food insecurity for the spring semester

Whereas SOCA would like provide culturally appropriate food resources for its members who are in need and there is a line item for a food bursary contribution for students facing food insecurity

Whereas SOCA would be purchasing gift cards from African grocery stores and regular grocery stores and distributing it to soca members through need based sign up sheets.

Be it resolved that SOCA approves the amount \$1000 for this expense to be taken from account 741/45 line item #46 "SFU BSC Food Bursary contribution"

Moved by [Nobu] / seconded by [Dominion]

Carried unanimously

8. Honorarium for Panelists for BHM Opening Ceremony

Whereas SOCA is hosting a panel discussion for BHM and the panelists need to be compensated for their time and effort to share their experiences with students.

Whereas these panelists are; Cassandra Onyejikwe, Esosa Eweka-Valentine, Naa Sheka Riby-Williams and C Icart, Brian Seremba all leaders, advocates and trailblazers within their various field of expertise

Be it resolved that SOCA approves the amount of \$250 as honorarium for each of these panelists. Be it further resolved that this amount be taken out of line item 34, "Black History Month Panel Discussion", Account 795/45

Moved by [Naomi] / seconded by [Jennifer]

CARRIED unanimously

9. Motion for refreshments purchased for General meeting on January 31st.

Whereas SOCA had a general meeting on 31st January 2024

Whereas Munatsi Mavhima the SOCA bssc purchased pizza for members and executives at the meeting.

Be it resolved to reimburse Munatsi Mavhima the amount \$77.69 of from line item 81 "Meetings Vouchers and Snacks", Account 886/45 "Governance and Miscellaneous"

Moved by [Emmanuel] / seconded by [Naomi]

CARRIED unanimously

10. Honorarium for the Moderator BHM Kickoff ceremony panel discussion

Whereas SOCA is hosting a panel discussion for BHM and the moderator needs to be compensated for their time and effort to share their experiences with students.

Whereas the moderator for the panel discussions is Balqees Jama

Be it resolved to provide a honorarium of \$250 to Balqees Jama from line item #72 "Honoraria pool" Account 815/45 "SOCA Operational and Administrative"

Moved by [Imnet] / Seconded by [Nandi]

CARRIED Unanimously

COMMITTEE AND SUB-ASSOCIATIONS UPDATE

- **Social Justice and Advocacy Committee**
 - Nothing to report
- **Cultural Events Committee.**
- **BSSC and Space Committee.**

- **Food Justice.**

- **NSA**

- **SSA**

ACTION ITEMS FOR EXEC

- Anne-Marie:
 - uploading meeting minutes to the website
 - Making posters for BHM events
 - Showing Muna how to edit the website + access to socials
 - Black study hall poster.
 - Forwarding our posters and events to other BSU and clubs for outreach.

- Nobuhle: organizing vendor list for flea market. Monitor socials, respond to emails, messaging other dsu's on IG to repost our events (write a short blurb for them)
- Alison: updating the budget as we spend (pizza purchases for meetings, etc), Finalizing Naomi's Cheque requisitions
- Ruki: posters for your movie night
- Waithera: create eventbrite link for cultural night. Your poster for event on the 7th.'

OPEN ISSUES OR CONCERNS.

- None.

Meeting Adjourned at [6:53pm]

Moved by (Anne-Marie) /seconded by (Adanna)