

SOCA ELECTIONS POLICIES 2021/22

- **Call for nominations shall be made prior to any election – nominations will be vetted for suitability by a Nominating Committee who will determine the prospective candidate's level of commitment to the organization's overall goals.**
- Provided that each prospective candidate successfully completes the nomination package, and if asked, answers the Nominating committee's questions around the prospective candidate's commitment to the organization's overall goals (as per SOCA Constitution Section II), and the committee then finds the responses to be suitable, the Nominating Committee shall accept the nomination.
- Candidates must be SFU or FIC students to run in the elections. Candidates may ~~print posters~~, run ads and be reimbursed for up to \$5 for the campaign period upon provision of receipts (Note: Due to COVID-19, there will be no printing of posters)
- **Nomination Period is from Feb 22 to March 2, 2021. Voting Period March 13 9am to March 16 11:59pm.**
- **Approved Election Candidates shall be announced as early as March 3, 2021. (The Nominating Committee shall ensure that the Candidates announcement within 72 hours of the close of nominating period).**
- Positions Candidates are (This section, amended after candidates approved):
 - **President:**
 - Balqees Jama
 - **Vice President:**
 - Isaac Maulana
 - **Secretary:**
 - Mohamed Conde Lofty
 - **Treasurer:**
 - Samia Ishimwe
 - **External Relations Officer:**
 - Nafoni Modi
 - **Internal Relations Officer (SFSS Council Rep):**
 - Linda Kanyamuna
 - **Events Coordinator:**
 - Yasmin Mohamed
 - **Information Technology Officer**
 - VACANT - to be appointed by members after elections
 - **Exec at large (elected):**
 - Khalid Ali
 - **First Year Rep (Exec at large):**
 - Mugasha Rutega
 - **FIC Rep (Exec at large):**
 - Farah Messan
 - **Grad Rep (Exec at large):**
 - Tiara Cash

- There will be two general non-representation based **Execs at large, one of which** will be **appointed** from membership after elections, recommended by the President, in consultation with the rest of the Executive.
- Voting: <http://bit.ly/SOCAVotes2021>
- **Conduct:** All elections should be void of harassment or violent actions towards other candidates
 - There will be no fines for elections. Just warnings and subsequent disqualification. The Nominating committee shall provide a mechanism to appeal a warning or disqualification and the burden of proof that the original decision breaks policy or protocol shall be on the candidate.
- **Posting** (Note: Due to COVID-19, there will be no printing of posters)
 - ~~Allowed anywhere outside as long as it's in line with SFU and SFSS Posting Rules~~
 - ~~No posting inside of the office space or on Glass or Window of SOCA.~~
- **Eligibility to Vote:**
 - Only SFU or FIC Students **who are** on the SOCA mailing list are eligible to vote
 - People who are on the mailing list as at cutoff date of **March 12 at 6:00pm** (the day before voting period) are considered eligible to vote
- **Process:**
 - The Membership shall:
 - call the elections dates the Semester prior to elections and by-election and shall ensure the dates are aligned with the restrictions set out in the SFSS Bylaws
 - Appoint a nominating committee to govern the conduct and policies of the elections
 - Prospective candidates shall
 - Fill all information on the Call for Nominations Form
 - Candidates shall be able to change the position they want to vy for within the nomination period for any reason, the latest finalized position at the end of the period will be what they are running for, if approved by the Nominating Committee.
 - Communicate with the Nomination Committee as necessary or requested by the Nominating Committee to verify eligibility and the criteria to run as outlined in the SOCA constitution
 - Approved Candidates shall:
 - Shall submit Campaign poster or any other material to be posted on the SOCA Social media in line with the restrictions set out in these policies
 - Be able to use the template poster provided or any other poster design as needed
 - If a candidates uses their own template, the link to the full list of platforms must be put on a candidate platform poster in order it to be able to be posted on the SOCA Social Media platforms (this restrictions does not apply to posters posted on personal social media accounts or activities)
 - The Nominating committee shall share the submitted candidates platform poster on the SOCA Social media a maximum of twice per candidate
 - Act fairly during the elections period and uphold good conduct at all times
 - The Nominating Committee shall

- Revise the Elections Policies and shall report the policies to a meeting for approval
- Create a Call for Nomination Form that collects all prospective candidates nominations
 - the Nominating Committee shall make every effort to recruit candidates for vacant positions and may communicate to all prospective candidates such positions as necessary to get those vacant positions filled
- Create the various Call for Nomination posters for the distribution, and post them anytime prior to the start of Nomination Period
- Shall post the Call for Nomination Period posters on the various social media platforms have it sent to Membership
- Ensure the Elections webpage on the Sfusoca.ca website has information for people to submit nominations
- Confirm candidates eligibility and suitability for nomination as per the SOCA constitution section II, V and VII
 - Candidates who don't fit the criteria shall be notified that their nomination for candidacy is not approved
- Distribute Information on Social Media on the candidates approved, and monitor the conduct of elections throughout the election period
- Prior to 48 hours after the close of nominations, publish the list of candidates running in the elections and ensure all candidates' information is on the SOCA website
- Prior to the close of the campaign period, ensure the voting link is prepared, then schedule the email to membership to vote on the first day of voting, and that this link be posted on the SOCA Website
- Be available for questions about the process from candidates or members
- The Nominating Committee (during and/or after voting period) shall:
 - Check eligibility of online ballots cast (during/after voting period)
 - Create a spreadsheet of all the names who voted with the Online Ballot
 - Ensure that all persons in the online ballots have been on the voter list as at the Snapshot Date (The Day before Voting Period at 6:00pm)
 - ~~■ Cross Reference In Person Ballot (N/A due to COVID)~~
 - ~~● Ensure all persons in Person have not voted online already~~
 - ~~○ If they have already voted using the online ballot, discard their in person ballot~~
 - ~~● Sign up all persons who voted in person in the SOCA mailing list after the election~~
 - ~~■ Combine both lists in a spreadsheet~~
 - ~~● Sort the list by sfu email address~~
 - ~~● Delete all duplicates~~
 - Count the ballots for each position
 - Tabulate the results based on percentage of all eligible voters
 - If any results are tied for the highest number of votes, a runoff election between the top candidates tied shall be scheduled and completed within 48 hours. If there is another tie after the runoff, the winner will be decided by random selection for example by the flip of a coin (or a pulling of the winning name from the list of top candidates if more than two persons are still tied).

- Send an email to all the candidates highlighting the results and publish online
 - Report the results at the next general meeting of SOCA for ratification.
- **Presidential Restriction: President** must be of the varied Afro-Descendant communities, else will be rejected by the Nominating Committee
- **Election Website:** The Election page on the website should be a hub for all things related to the election
- **Resources**
 - Nomination Form: <https://forms.gle/RmwYkmgHLvzL5ZrYA>
 - Voting Link: [SFU SOCA ELECTION 2020/2021 - Online Voting \(NC\)](#)
 - Elections Policies: [link](#)
 - Constitution: [link](#)
 - SOCA Manual: [link](#)
 - SOCA Voter List for election:
 - Register or sign up prior to voting period: ____ To be Posted ____
 - ~~You can be added to the list on voting day if you vote in person.~~

SOCA Constitution from which the Nominating Committee has the mandate and jurisdiction

VII Elections and by-elections

1. Executives of SOCA must be elected from and by the membership with a majority vote. An election must be held at least once per year.
2. Elections will take place in March of each academic year.
3. Call for nominations shall be made prior to any election – nominations will be vetted for suitability by a Nominating Committee who will determine the candidate's level of commitment to the organization's overall goals.
3. The results of any election are recorded in the SFSS Registration sheet.
4. Executive positions can be held by any student member of the organization.
5. Votes may be cast by secret ballot or a simple show of hands. Majority vote wins. In case of a tie, the chair casts the deciding vote, or the member with the least votes drops out and votes are recast.
6. If for any reason an executive position becomes vacant, a by-election for that position will be held. By-elections may be held at any-time, preferably in the Fall Semester for any vacant position. This is not required if less than one month is left before the next scheduled election; instead, a member may be appointed to the position by the Executive. The SFSS General Office must be notified of Executive changes.
7. An Exec-at-large position might be appointed at any time by the President or Vice President in consultation with the Executive.

SOCA ELECTIONS

TIME TO VOTE!

JOIN OUR EXECUTIVE TEAM

Celebrating Oneness Through Diversity

POSITIONS:

President	Events Coordinator
Vice President	Information Technology Officer
Secretary	Exec At Large
Treasurer	Grad Rep
External Relations Officer	First Year Rep
Internal Relations Officer (SFSS Council Rep)	FIC Rep



Nominations: Feb 22 - Mar 2
Voting: March 13 to March 16
bit.ly/SOCANominations2021
(No In-Person Voting This Year due to COVID)



Note: Sign up to be a SOCA member to register to vote sfusoca.ca/sign-up