

SFU Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry (SOCA) [24 March, 2024 Time:]

<u>ATTENDEES</u>: Gift, Richard, Ruki, Amina, Gloria, Daisy, Emmanuel, Claire, Alson, Oromiya, Marie, Susie, Yaye

# **MEETING AGENDA**

## TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

SOCA recognizes we are situated on the unceded territories Coast Salish Territories of the Musqueam, Kwikwetlem, Squamish and Tsleil-waututh 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, Pronouns, Access needs, Question)

- Laury; pronouns she/her, she will be eating, no questions
- Marie: pronouns she/her/hers, will leave early, no questions
- Susie: pronouns she/her/hers, will have to leave early, no questions to add
- Oromiya; needs to leave early, pronouns; she/hers, no questions
- Daisy: Pronouns she/hers, access needs are met, no questions
- Gloria: pronouns she/hers, access needs are met, excited to be a part of this group
- Emmanuel: pronouns he/him, access needs are met, no questions
- Claire: pronouns she/her, access needs are met, no questions
- Gift: pronouns she/hers, access needs are met, no questions here to congratulate
- Richard. Pronouns he/him, access needs are met, no questions he lives here
- Alson; pronouns he/him, access needs are met, no questions
- Ruki; pronouns he him, access needs are met, no questions
- Amina, pronouns she/her, access needs are met, no questions

## **APPROVE MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING**

- March 10th General Meeting Minutes APPROVED
  - E Agenda March 10th, 2023



#### REPORT OF OFFICERS AND ACTION ITEMS FOLLOW UP

- President Laury
  - Meeting with SFSS and CUPE to address Job description updates and concerns with Marie and Emmanuel
  - Working with Oromiya on securing a space with Inua Collective
  - o Planning and looking for ways to raise funds for potential summer retreat trip
  - Planning the food order for end of year social
  - Meeting with the Equity Office and Black Caucus to discuss the hiring process of 15 Black Faculty
  - Planning Black Grad with Jennifer, Adjua and Marie
- Vice President Emmanuel
  - Emails and coordinating w/ other teams members
  - Talking w/ Laury about getting things in order for the end of semester
  - Planning an end of semester event
  - Space shopping soon
  - Meeting w/ CUPE
- External Relations Officer Oromiya
  - Laury and her meeting w/ Inua collective
  - Working on getting space w/ them this will be on April 28th
  - Working w/ a guy named Isaac?
  - Needs to ask Samia in regards to ticket buying
  - Will help a future event w/ marketing, but waiting on the company for the flyers so she can repost on our socials
- Internal Relations Officer Amina
  - Planning retreat w/ Laury
  - SFU Academic Advising wants to host a meeting w/ some students to talk about their experience w/ the advisors here.
  - Who would be interested in going?
  - Hosting a Switch tournament with other CG's happening on April 6th 1-5 PM (Who will be interested in going?)
  - Council Updates
    - 1. ESC
      - 5k run is a mental health run hosted by the Equity Office
      - Earth Day workshop
    - 2. BIPOC
      - 5k approved!
    - 3. Council



- Nothing much.
- Secretary Gift
  - Talking to the first year peoples
  - Transitioned to the Women's centre
  - Encouraging Black students to show up in SOCA space
  - Preparing herself for what's next.
- Treasurer (and Finances report)
  - Accounts balances and in and out flows (trust, levy fund, soca core, staff department line item, scotiabank, outstanding/upcoming grants):
    - Trust: \$6737.77
    - Levy: we are expected to receive \$61,830.50
    - Soca CG core fund: \$1125.00
    - Staff Dept Levy
    - Scotiabank (external): \$2179.40
    - Grant funding
  - Cheques to be signed (include Motions Date and Number approved and person to reimburse):
  - Cheque requisitions to be done
  - Working with the Nominating Committee
  - o Other:
- Events Coordinator Sends Regrets
- First Year Rep Vacant
- Grad Rep Vacant
- FIC Rep Richard
  - Working on two posters for the socials and retreat
- Execs at large Marie Haddad
  - Nominating Committee
  - Setting up the GoFundMe page and coordinating with the SFSS Office
  - Meeting with CUPE discussing the Staff JD
  - Meeting with the Equity Office and Black Caucus to discuss the hiring process of Black Faculty
  - Planning Black Grad with Jennifer, Adjua and Laury
  - Discussing being panel event speaker with the Inua collective event
  - Prepped our restocking snack list
  - Medical Student Workshop
- Exec at Large Susie
  - Asking about the Gift Card and how that is gonna work



- BSC Committee of Surrey, working on a justice project
- Having meetings to complete the reports on the surveys
- Works to help international students in BC more specific Black and Caribbean students in Surrey
- Trying to report and get as much information as possible and send that to the Surrey gov. And to edit it.
- SOCA BSSC Staff Support Maternity
- Other Assigned Members and Items

## **REPORT ON SPECIFIC MATTERS**

N/A

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Continuity reports (Need to have outgoing execs do reports, template in drive)
  - Continuity report template: SOCA Executive Continuity Report Template
- End-of-year review + AGM report blurb (to be sent to SFSS for annual AGM report, examples in email and from last year meeting, team should start working on for next meeting)
  - Example of last year's year end review presentation slides example:
     <a href="https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10HMXaK0spC5bqbQpQHLXSGgzqaN0">https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10HMXaK0spC5bqbQpQHLXSGgzqaN0</a>
     <a href="https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10HMXaK0spC5bqbQpQHLXSGgzqaN0">https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10HMXaK0spC5bqbQpQHLXSGgzqaN0</a>
     <a href="https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10HMXaK0spC5bqbQpQHLXSGgzqaN0">https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10HMXaK0spC5bqbQpQHLXSGgzqaN0</a>
     <a href="https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10HMXaK0spC5bqbQpQHLXSGgzqaN0">https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10HMXaK0spC5bqbQpQHLXSGgzqaN0</a>
     <a href="https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10HMXaK0spC5bqbQpQHLXSGgzqaN0">https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10HMXaK0spC5bqbQpQHLXSGgzqaN0</a>
     <a href="https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10HMXaK0spC5bqbQpQHLXSGgzqaN0">https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/10HMXaK0spC5bqbQpQHLXSGgzqaN0</a>
  - Example last year of Blurb for Annual Report for SFSS AGM for SOCA BSSC: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1E-KNBNrdbhN\_xrXgxqXea7bZFVMUjOtn/view?u">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1E-KNBNrdbhN\_xrXgxqXea7bZFVMUjOtn/view?u</a> sp=drivesdk
- Election Results and Nominating Committee

## **Election Results as follows:**

 TOTAL ELIGIBLE VOTERS FOR EXEC POSITIONS (27) (16 ineligible out of 43 respondents on the Voting Google Form as they did not sign up by the snapshot date of March 13 by 6:00 pm as per the Election Policies 2023/24)

#### **PRESIDENT**

Oghenekaro Lauretta Umukoro with 100% votes cast - ELECTED Yes: 26, No: 0, Abstain: 1

**VICE PRESIDENT (VP)** 



Emmanuel Adegboyega won with 96% of votes cast - ELECTED

Yes: 26, No: 1, Abstain: 0

#### **SECRETARY**

Oserukeme "Ruki" Ukwade won with 51.85% of votes cast - ELECTED

Yes: 14, No: N/A, Abstain: 4

Amina Hassan

Yes: 13, No: N/A, Abstain: 4

#### **TREASURER**

Akuol Awoul Chan

Yes: 12, No: N/A, Abstain: 0

Alson Amin Lema won with 55.55% of votes cast - ELECTED

Yes: 15, No: N/A, Abstain: 0

## **INTERNAL RELATIONS OFFICER (IRO)**

Yaye Seydi Balde won with 100% of votes cast - ELECTED

Yes: 23, No: 0, Abstain: 4

# **EXTERNAL RELATIONS OFFICER (ERO)**

Oromiya Ali won with 100% of votes cast - ELECTED

Yes: 23, No: 1; Abstain: 4

# **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICER (ITO)**

Laila Saleman

Yes: 8, No: N/A, Abstain:4

Daisy Bigirwa won with 65% of votes cast - ELECTED

Yes: 15, No: N/A, Abstain:4

# **Events Coordinator**

Gloria Bigirwa with 100% votes cast - ELECTED

Yes: 24, No: 0, Abstain:3

# **Exec At - Large**

Claire Umutesi with 100% votes cast - ELECTED

Yes: 15, No: N/A, Abstain:4

- Refer to website for summary of questions



- Will be appointing an Exec at Large, First Year Rep, and Head of Volunteer
- Marie: Will be down to do the Head of Volunteer after her Executive Year
- Laury: Starts next semester
- Chike: Good evening, he is interesting because he is easy to cooperate and easy to speak to and if you share his ideas with him he is very effective at turning those ideas into a reality.
- Laury: Do you have any experience socializing with first and/or second years
- Chike: Yes, I do have experience.
- Marie: What are you most excited about in this role?
- Chike: There's nothing in particular, just everything
- Laury: Will give a brief rundown of what people have done;
  - 1. Grabbing first and second years into this role
  - 2. Active in clubs day and service fair
  - 3. Hosting a fest at second year social
  - 4. And any other events you want to host for first year
- Laury: Can you commit those hours to execute those roles?
- Chike: Yes!
- GO Fund Me for International Black Caribbean Student in Need and SFPIRG Mutual Aid for Disabled Black Student in Need
  - Laury: Two students who are reaching out for support. We set up a GoFundMe to pay for their tuition fees to help them get back on their feets
  - Laury: They need these fees in order to fulfill their study permits asking for 13k so we set up the GoFundMe accordingly
  - Laury: Women's Centre and OOC will provide support and will confirm with the President in regards to this support. Hopefully we can cover the cost of this students needs
  - Laury; We will plan on sending \$4,500 for this student
  - Laury; Another student SFPIRG asking for support for medical bills, and other financial aid SOCA will plan on donating 1200 as well.
  - Marie: We talked w/ the SFSS advocate office and the Engagement Coordinator and talked about how both the students situations is legitimate
  - Marie: The GoFundMe was approved as well as donation via SOCA
  - Marie: Was able to look at the budget and to look at the line items from past years. Would be beneficial to use that budget now.
  - Susie: How did SOCA distribute the money for each person?



- Marie: For the GoFundMe student they asked SOCA for 13k and cannot go back to school until this loan is covered
- Marie: WC and OOC are able to accumulate 4.5-5k each and asking us to cover the remaining which is where the other half comes from
- Marie: Whereas the other student is just asking for 1,500
- Susie: It depends on how much the student gets from the GoFundMe and SOCA covers the rest?
- Marie: Basically that's how much it accumulates after WC and OOC contributions
- Susie: Does SOCA now help students in need? She sees students in need on Campus and believes that SOCA should be able to help these students
- Laury: It is one thing for students to ask for help financially, however we cannot provide help for situations such as that, it is the only gray area
- Susie: Some students don't know whether SOCA is able to help them out financially, if we can be explicit in that, it'll help future students
- Laury; we will take that into account for our budget for next year.

## SOCA Summer Wellness Retreat

- Laury: was thinking about it and brought it to the executives first. She won't be as
  active during the summer so she's asking executives and members who will be
  interested.
- Laury; Looking at a way to raise funds and how to accommodate for that. Looking at the frameworks
- Laury; BIPOC approved 5k for the retreat. However, 5k won't be enough due to accommodation and transportation.
- Laury: We tried to make this trip open to as many students as possible. It won't be as feasible so we are not overwhelmed. Cost wise it is a lot
- Laury: RIght now we are thinking of 25-30 people, still figuring out logistics and how much it'll take for us to go to this place.
- Susie: Believes it is a must. Only suggestions to add, what can 5k do within BC. Let's start with places in BC then the following years we can keep going.
- Laury: Tried considering BC, however many suggested Tofino and Banff, but it might be expensive.
- Suse: Victoria
- Laury: Might be hard for us to get their due to the ferry
- Laury: Will probably go to Council or another committee for extra money
- Marie: Lune Lake.
- Marie: If you guys go to council and get more money, you all can rent out a cabin



- Laury: Any other suggestions? Also the google form will be out either later today or on the weekend
- Laury: The dates will potentially be on June 30th-July 3rd
- Susie: How will we determine who will come?
- Laury: Will be on a first come and first serve basis. If it is in BC we can add more people to the trip
- Susie: If it is first come first serve, can we make an announcement? So that more people know about? Only people who have access to the information will know about it compared to those who don't have access to that information.
- Laury: The google form will be out next week.
- Marie: Is a really big cabin and accommodates 40 people, conference room and has many accommodations for individuals.
- Marie: It is a UBC owned resort, and all the activities are free as long as you book.
- Laury: The poster and form dropping later this week.
- Laury: The poster will go up this weekend about this retreat.
- Marie recommended Loon Lake as a retreat spot where we can book a big retreat space <a href="https://loonlake.ubc.ca/">https://loonlake.ubc.ca/</a>. Accommodation, activities, food and stay included but we would need to go to council
- End of Semester Social
  - Laury: April 6th will be the last meeting date
  - Laury: Will be after the meeting with East and West African food
  - Laury: The last meeting we will introducing the new executive team and an outro for the old team
  - Laury: Please come to the next meeting!
- SOCA Merch and Hoodies
  - Laury: Already had discussion about our merch, but since our coordinator went on leave the convo died down
  - Laury: We still want the hoodies and merch
  - Laury: Yaye is talking to the company about this merch
  - Laury: It is just the executives' hoodies that are going to get the hoodie. Even if the team changes, it will still be the old team that gets the hoodie
  - Laury: The hoodies for membership as well, we will go into producing those as well
  - Emmanuel: we will be selling them
  - Yaye: Is it T-shirts or Hoodies
  - Emmanuel: It is just t-shirts for members



- Laury: T-shirts for members Hoodies for executives
- Laury: Anyone have anything to add?
- Alson: What if a member wants a hoodie>
- Emmanuel: we will put it up for request

#### Black Graduation

- Laury: we usually have our Black Grad during the summer
- Laury: We are currently in the planning phase for it w/ SOCA executives VPEI and Black Caucus
- Laury: Trying to figure out how the Black grad is gonna go
- Marie: Every year we run a Black Grad, we have a line item for it, but we don't lead it solely, Black Caucus is the one who leads it and SOCA funds it along w/ VPEI
- Marie: We were assigned Jennifer and Yabome to support this so that SOCA can find funds so that it can be fully furnished.

## SFSS x CUPE

- Laury: Meetings w/ CUPE very tedious and long process.
- Laury: Has started since last year and it still a long process
- Laury: Adjusting the BSC position and finding a temporary coordinator
- Laury: Reached out to Sindhu for support.
- Laury: Mary wants to support us with admin work, and is asking members if they
  are comfortable with it?
- Laury: Trying to fit BSC description with other CG's coordinators description
- Laury: Also trying to meet CUPE standards
- Marie: Having difficulties in coming to agreements with this description
- Marie: Finally resolved the issue with space in the job description, where we are going forward with a shared space model as long as both the executive and the BSC is in agreement
- Marie: We will have admin and coordinator hours just so that both of those elements of the role are fulfilled.
- Marie: Only problem is that is the executives ability to book space within the SFSS
- Marie: CUPE didn't know that the BSC roles are similar to Executive roles. Which takes away the roles that executives have. This convo will be on hold.

## SFU Month of Welcome Calendar

 Emmanuel: Looking at creating it during the end of spring semester beginning of Summer semester



#### **COMMITTEE AND SUB-ASSOCIATIONS UPDATE**

- Social Justice and Advocacy Committee
- Cultural Events Committee
- Parties and Pub Night Committee
- BCSC Committee
- Dance Team
- NSA
- SSA

## **MOTIONS**

# 1. Election Results Received and Draft Nominating Committee Report

Whereas, the elections voting closed on March 16th 2023 and results were released by the Nominating Committee,

Be it resolved to Ratify results here as follows as listed below and the respective positions be filled as listed for the 2023/24 Executive team to start their term effective immediately at the end of the Transition Retreat and Training,

- a. President: Oghenekaro Lauretta Umukoro
- b. Vice President: Emmanuel Adegboyega
- c. Secretary: Oserukeme "Ruki" Ukwade
- d. Treasurer: Alson Amin Lema
- e. Internal Relations Officer: Yaye Seydi Balde
- f. External Relations Officer: Oromiya Ali
- g. Information Technology Officer: Daisy Bigirwa
- h. Events Coordinator: Gloria Bigirwa
- i. Exec At-Large: Claire Umutesi

Be it further resolved to accept the full report from the Nominating Committee at the next meeting upon completion from the nominating committee.

Moved by [Amina] / seconded by [Yaye] CARRIED unanimously

# 2. At-Large Appointments

Whereas, as per the SOCA constitution and SOCA practice after the elections, at-large



is appointed,

Whereas the at-large appointee shall take on responsibilities that fit within their capabilities and time constraints and that it is not mandatory that the Exec-at-large have a specific portfolio;

Whereas, the at-large representative may be appointed in consultation with the Executive,

Be it resolved that SOCA appoint two at-large for the 2023/2024 year,

Be it further resolved that SOCA appoint Akuol Awoul Chan and Amina Hassan to the roles of at-large executives for the 2023/2024 year.

Moved by [Alson] / seconded by [Gloria] CARRIED unanimously

# 3. SFSS Council Seat Appointment

Whereas, SOCA has a seat on SFSS Council and there has been a newly elected Internal Relations Officer whose role includes sitting on this seat on the SFSS council,

Be it resolved, to appoint Yaye Seydi Balde - the new Internal Relations Officer - to be the appointed person on the representative seat as per the SOCA Elections Results on the SFSS Council for the 2023/2024 executive year;

Be it further resolved that Oghenekaro Lauretta Umukoro - the new President, and Emmanuel Adegboyega - the New Vice President, be appointed as the alternates on Council as per SFSS Bylaws 6.27

Moved by [Yaye] / seconded by [Alson] CARRIED unanimously

## 4. First-Year Rep Appointment

Whereas, during this year's election there is a vacancy for the First Year Rep position,



Whereas, SOCA may decide to hold by-elections for the First Year Rep position, or appoint a First Year Rep position, until the by-elections in the Fall to fill any vacancies.

Whereas, it is preferred to fill vacancies for the upcoming year until any by-elections to held.

Be it resolved to appoint Chikeziri Jehoshua Ogbonna-Onugha as the SOCA Acting First Year Rep in the event that the person accepts the appointment for the year 2023/24 until the next By-elections are held.

Moved by [Amina] / seconded by [Samia] CARRIED unanimously

# 5. Disabled Black Student In Need For Support Through the SFPIRG Engagement Office

Whereas the Simon Fraser Interest Research Group (SFPIRG) Director of Engagement approached SOCA in February to support a Disabled Black Student experiencing ableism with medical treatment, medication and basic needs to provide supports for a health crisis they are in;

Whereas we have vetted and had multiple conversations on their situation with the Director of Engagement and understand they are being supported accordingly by an SFU Case Manager;

Whereas they will be remaining anonymous due to their safety and to ensure they are protected given the precarious nature of being a Black student asking for financial support; it has been confirmed that they are a Black student experiencing severe adversity at SFU and is in need of support in affording medication, medical services, access to mental health care, and basic costs of living;

Whereas SFPIRG has set up a <u>Mutual Aid Campaign</u> to support this student for \$1500.00 with the student's full story encompassed in the caption, although were unable to reach the target in an urgent manner and so are asking for supports from relevant groups;



Whereas the Advocacy and Campaign line items including "Black Campaigns Research and Grants" has \$500.00, "Campaign and Advocacy Workshops" has \$1,000.00 remaining that has been unused for this fiscal year;

Be it resolved that SOCA approves the amount of \$1500.00 to donate towards the Mutual Aid from the "Black Campaigns Research and Grants", and "Campaign and Advocacy Workshops" line items as a donation via a transfer or donation to SFPIRG's mutual aid to a student in distress who is being supported by the Simon Fraser Interest Research Group mutual aid fund raising (Further, SOCA is to communicate internally with the SFSS to use the Events line item if relevant due to overusage of the Space and Services line item category accidentally).

Moved by [Yaye] / seconded by [Amina] CARRIED unanimously

# 6. Bursary Usage for Black Student Member Support Through The SFSS Student Advocate Office

Whereas the SFSS Student Advocate Office approached SOCA in February to support an International Black Caribbean student on housing and other expenses to alleviate the crises they are in;

Whereas we have vetted and had multiple conversations on their situation and they would appreciate this support and asks to remain anonymous;

Whereas the Women's Centre and Out of Campus have agreed to contribute on average the amount of \$4000 each to alleviate a large portion of the cost;

Whereas SOCA has set up a <u>Go-Fund-Me page</u> with approval of members that encompasses their full story to support the Black student at SFU who needs financial support in paying off their tuition of \$13,000 with SFU to continue their education and fulfill their study permit requirements;

Whereas the two Bursary line items in the SOCA BSSC levy fund budgeted has not been used and has \$1500 and \$2200 left in it;

Whereas the "SFU Black Student Support Campaigns" line item has a total of \$600.00 remaining;



Be it resolved that SOCA approves the amount of \$4000 to donate towards the Go-Fund Me to complete the amount of \$13,000 for this cause with \$1500.00 from the "SFU BSC Food Bursary contribution", \$2200.00 from the "SFU BSC Black Student Bursary Contribution" and \$300.00 from the "SFU Black Student Support Campaigns" line items as a donation via a transfer to that SFSS office or via donation to GoFundMe to a student in distress who has been liaising with the SFSS Students Advocate office (Further, SOCA is to communicate internally with the SFSS to use the Events line item if relevant due to overuse of the Space and Services line item category accidentally).

# Moved by [ Daisy] / seconded by [ Laury ] CARRIED unanimously

#### 7. SOCA End of Semester Social

Whereas SOCA is organizing an end-of-semester social, for members to relax and socialize before exams start, with some food, drinks, and other activities.

Be it resolved that SOCA approves the amount of \$1600.00 to purchase food and drinks for the end-of-semester social;

Be it further resolved that \$1125.00 of this comes from the CG Core Fund at the SFSS (which has 1125.00 currently) and the rest comes from the \$475 line item under the SOCA BSSC Levy Fund or the SOCA Trust account.

## Moved by [Amina] / seconded by [Emmanuel]

# **CARRIED** unanimously

#### **ACTION ITEMS FOR EXEC**

Action Items - Please fill in continuity report

#### **OPEN ISSUES OR CONCERNS**

- 1. Issues with Cheque Regs.
  - a. Unfortunately, it has been made known to us that much of our budget for this executive year has been filed under the wrong budget line item by the SOCA BSSC Coordinator under "Space, Services and Resources" instead of the proper line items we ask for support for which is "Events" and such. Moving forward, on any money motions we will have to include a "further be it resolved" clause to



internally SFSS withdraw finances under the "Events" line item to fix the mistake. This issue has been noted to the SFSS Operations Organizer.

- i. We assumed before that cheque requisitions weren't being processed quickly enough but we were wrong and there was an actual issue
- Our SOCA BSSC Coordinator didn't properly process some cheque requisitions for all the vendors we had for BHM, Lauretta is dealing accordingly with the situation and is consulting the SFSS Operations Organizer to ensure cheques are paid in full to vendors
  - i. SFU SOCA executives had apologized greatly to these vendors and will work to build relations appropriately

Meeting Adjournment moved by [Yaye], Seconded by [Alson]

Meeting Adjourned at [6:42pm]