

SFU Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry (SOCA)
May 8, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: 5:17pm

ATTENDEES: Tim Maruti, Balqees Jama, Denise Somuah-Asomuah, Afia Poku, Jessica Dickson, Monique Leslie, Hassan Abdullahi, Mubarak Adebawale, Karugi Gathumbi, Afia Poku, Farah Messan, Chris Mphande, Giovanni HoSang

MEETING MINUTES

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, 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 (Tim Maruti)
 - Internal relations office appointed to SFSS Council.
 - Salary will be \$25 per meeting.
 - Will reach out to SFSS to update them on this so the IRO can begin term
[To-Do]
 - Addressing the current Pandemic (Covid-19)
 - If anyone needs help, please reach out
 - CERB and CESB
 - Student Support Fund by SFSS/SFU - Reach out
 - Black Mutual Aid Fund as well - application:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JYDQWVW>
 - Information on the return to normalcy information after COVID will be shared with membership as well:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-responese-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/bc-restart-plan>
 - Renters programme info: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JYDQWVW>
 - To be send out to mailing list [To-Do]

- SOCA committees
 - Overview of the committees given.
 - Example: Flourish and the rest of team meet regular.
 - All folks welcome
- Vice President (Monique Leslie)
 - N/A
- 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]**
- Secretary
 - N/A
- Events Coordinator
 - Trying to complete the plan for Events for summer and games and what and how to do it
 - Reach out to res life to locate and find people of black ancestry who would be interested in joining and participate
 - We mentioned Chris in the meeting, to try and locate a DJ (Preferably upcoming)
 - Date: **TBD**, sometime in June - Black hair with women center **[To-Do]**
 - Discussion Wednesdays and Movie Nights **[To-Do]**
- First Year Rep
 - Not Present: No Proxy to report
- Grad Rep
 - N/A
- FIC Rep
 - N/A
- Execs at large
 - Denise: Black Hair event:
 - Women Center reached out, got ideas regarding films and other topics
 - Lofty: Discussion Wednesdays
 - Virtual is a plus for us in this case so had conversation with Tim about prioritizing discussion Wednesday
- Other Assigned Members
 - Giovanni will be reaching out to MLA/MP to introduce Tim to the group **[To-Do]**

REPORT ON SPECIFIC MATTERS

- Space Conversations
 - MOU needs to be signed with the SFSS
 - President, IRO and anyone else who interested should be in conversations with the SFSS about the allocation and way forward
 - Shared space with Embark - suite split.
 - Overview of what Embark does, good opportunity to build collaboration

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Online activities for start of summer semester – **Hassan**
 - Catch Ah Vybz - Meet new student opportunities
 - Small DJ for a part of the event
 - Reach out to Rez life and Student Central to put out
 - SFSS Jotform: <https://form.jotform.ca/52435231914248>
 - SFU Undergrads new group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sfu2020/>
 - Proposed dates; **May 16th or May 22nd**
 - Finalise a DJ, on a near future proposed date which would most likely be the 11th, May.
- Conducting discussion Wednesday over summer semester- **Lofty**
 - First Date: May 20, 2020
 - Interested: Lofty, Monique and Hasan
 - Twice a month
 - IG poll for topics, To alternate with Movie
 - First topic COVID-19. Decide on topics Lofty **[To-Do]**
- Endorsement of Federation of Black Canadians Petition (Balqees)
 - Pandemic to address the Black Canadians and Black folks in Canada. Petition calls on race-based data being collected. Dedicated funding, financial resources for migrant folks, funding to Community based organizations who has access to vulnerable populations within the black community and consistency.
 - Everyone is agreeable to this and motion will be voted on later on
 - Important that we endorse and push this out as SOCA
 - <http://chng.it/GNNHZhbFth>
 - Due to the nature of the situation we are in, we plan to start discussion wednesdays bi weekly and will most likely run for 2hours
- SFU Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Advisory Council (Balqees)
 - Council by SFU to advise advisors. Initiative at SFU.
 - We talked about SFU Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Advisory Council (a committee and an advisory body which consists of 25 individuals)
 - Incoming President chairs, advisory committee put out and no Black undergrad student.
 - They will be reaching out to conversation
 - Related to data collecting and self assessment - no data collecting done currently and we should be pushing for this, but we should also be given a voice on this.
 - Their values and priorities include data management and inclusion but still have not gotten back to our people which is quite disappointing. Only 1 black graduate has been involved. We plan to connect and reach out to have someone who can represent us, preferably undergrad.
 - People applied in December, announced in February
 - Main issue: folks with lived experience, Black undergrads not included, community need to be raised specifically at the committee

- We have a good relationship with EDI, but no black undergrad being on the committee is the issue. This is a relationship issue as our concerns are not being raised to the committee. Such as services for black people on campus.
- Let the committee know, unhappy with the fact, let the rest of the committee know and consult ensure that we are being communicated with
- Make sure ASA is aware and up to date. Especially when it comes to the consultation that the EDI initiative does it..
- Collection of race-based data and services aimed to the Black community.
- They do not collect race based data but they should have a record for international students and their home countries
- We plan to reach out to the rep and see what they could do with it regarding the concrete data
- <https://www.sfu.ca/edi/about.html#advisorycouncil>

COMMITTEE AND SUB-ASSOCIATIONS UPDATE

- Social Justice and Advocacy Committee
 - Petition and research and advocacy: no update
- Cultural Events Committee
 - Making sure there is people from the different diasporas are on the committee
 - Afia: Art
 - Jouvert: online events can be done
 - Chalawote: as an idea for African artwork to be showcased
 - Best dressed costumes and meanings etc
- Parties and Pub Nights Committee
 - Holding off till Fall
- Space (BCSC) Committee
 - Library list completed by Eileen will be sent
- Dance Team
 - Juju: Dancers on hiatus till Fall
- NSA (Nigerian Students Association)
 - Need exec appointments or people interested
- SSA (Somali Student Association)
 - No update
- Note: Volunteer form can be used to cipher committees above

MOTIONS

1. **Whereas**, the Federation of Black Canadians are leading a campaign for the collection of disaggregated race-based data amidst the continuous disproportionate impacts on Black folks

Whereas, Canada collected no such data and that federal and provincial governments could use this data to uncover certain trends in light of access and bias with regards to Black, Indigenous and Racialized communities

Be it resolved that SOCA endorse the petition and share, spread the message on campus, and distribute online.

Be it further resolved that SOCA Executive reach out with a letter of support on this petition

Balqees moved / Monique seconded

CARRIED

- Discussion happened above

ACTION ITEMS FOR EXEC & Other Assignees

- Action Items [from the **To-Dos** above]
- **Tim:** to send updated exec list and the iro list to sfss student center and member service coordinator - unions; Reach out to SFSS re Space conversation
- **Hassan:**
 - reach out to Rez life and sfss, finalize dates for catch ah vybez and pick DJ.
 - Date: **TBD**, sometime in June - Black hair with women center [**To-Do**]
 - Discussion Wednesdays and Movie Nights [**To-Do**]
- **Lofty:** Discussion wednesdays date need to be fixed
- **Mubarak:** Compile info about resources and send mailing list
- **IRO:** Draft email to Internal groups introducing self
- **ERO:** Draft email to external groups introducing self
- **Gio:** connect Tim with MLA/MP

OPEN ISSUES OR CONCERNS

1. ASA conversation and collaboration opportunities
 - a. Afia will reach out to all the exec about exec transition at the SFSS officially
2. Juju:
 - a. Bank account transfer need to be done from the account
 - b. SSA and MSA Iftaar collaboration
 - c. We are trying to organise a meeting and make sure everything is clear regarding the deficit showing in our account
3. Afia: Sorting out stuff from the Winter Nights Gala event
 - a. Sort out negative balance issue for Winter Nights Gala
 - b. Transfer bank account after the issue
 - c. SVSPO Email: Here is the link to digital images in the SFU Vault:
<https://vault.sfu.ca/index.php/s/dwzYsp3RAoFplOo>
We hope you can help us raise awareness about why consent matters at SFU, and

encourage your students, staff and colleagues to engage. Help us foster a culture of consent and respect at SFU - it takes all of us to end sexual violence.

4. Lofty:
 - a. Bake sale idea for fundraising
5. Balqees:
 - a. History of that conversation in the IG chat
 - b. Langara African Club wants to set up a meeting with us

Meeting Adjournment moved by Afia Poku, Seconded by Denise Somuah-Asamuah

Meeting Adjourned at **7:30pm**