

Students of Caribbean & African Ancestry
TC 317 (Rotunda)
Simon Fraser University
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, B.C V5A 1S6



SFU Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry (SOCA)
April 10, 2020 at 6:02pm - Called to Order

ATTENDEES: Afia Poku, Giovanni HoSang, Balkees Jama, Eileen Kimaro, Corbett Gildersleve, Shaun Angawa, Wisdom Abioma, Hassan Abdullahi, Mubarak, Oyinda, Jasmine Kitine, Juanita Julius, Denise Somuah-Asamoah, Nathan Ngongo, Farah Messan, Frank Pabai, Flourish Adeogun, Jessica Dickson, Fegor Obuwoma, Lofty Conde, Tim Maruti, Karugi Gathumbi

MEETING MINUTES

TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We respectfully acknowledge that the SOCA is located on the traditional, unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), kʷikʷəłəm (Kwikwetlem) and q̓ícəy̓ (Katzie) Nations. Unceded means that these territories have never been handed over, sold, or given up by these nations, and we are currently situated on occupied territories. It's important that we center indigenous voices and are allied with them in the advocacy that we do.

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**
 - **Continuity Report**
 - Space Campaign - SOCA granted space in sub
 - Acknowledgement: Balkees Jama, Giovanni HoSang, Exec Team 2018/2019 for starting the space campaign
 - Sharing suite with Embark in the SUB
 - SOCA became a tier 2 Constituency group
 - Celebrated our 25th anniversary on campus
 - SOCA started 2 programs
 - Black Study Hall - studying together in booked rooms

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- Peer Check Program - to create academic excellence in our community through accountability
 - ALAS... collaboration to raise funds for Hurricane and the Amazon fires,
 - remaining:
 - Black History Month Celebration: ASA and Library display. Unfortunately we weren't able to have the event
 - Black in Vancouver
 - We had multiple movie nights and ongoing catch a vibes
 - Addressing the current Pandemic (CoronaVirus- Covid-19)
 - We hope everyone is safe. We will here more about how students may be helped (will be addressed later in the meeting).
 - We are hoping that we have more virtual events and meet-ups to cope/go through the Pandemic
 - If anyone needs help, please reach out
 - External Relations Officer
 - SFSS Promotional Video
 - Representing different cultural groups etc on campus that will be shown in Fall to welcome students. Flourish made a video on behalf of SOCA
 - Internal Relations Officer
 - Council Meeting
 - There was an emergency fund that was created... (note to Gio I'll do it later don't worry lol) lol ded
 - Not advising the board to do the audit. The fees were to high
 - Council report meeting: Delivered conversation around Covid-19. Resources will be available amounting 150,000. Message fiassist@sfu.ca. International students should apply if they need to.
 - They are still looking for things for FIC
 - it won't be voted against because of the fees that FIC students pay to the SFSS
 - Lobbying for international student relief from the BC govt
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Signing over for the new Exec team
 - Events Coordinator

- Langara reached out to SOCA to collaborate with them for the 26th year anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide. They want to read different poems for 100 days. Looking for people willing to read a poem
- First Year Rep
- Grad Rep
- FIC Rep
- Execs at large
 - Space allocation: Drafting or seeing if SOCA can get their own room and not share with Embark once the new team is in.
 - Draft might be made
- Other Assigned Members

REPORT ON SPECIFIC MATTERS

- Space Campaign Update:
 - SFSS voted for the following arrangement:

8.4 Viable Student Union Building Space Allocation – MOTION BOD 2020-03-04:11

Gio/Julian

Whereas the VP Finance and Executive Director presented configuration #3 and #3(a) to the Groups as mandated by the SFSS Board of Directors;

Whereas the SFSS agreed to provide space for the Groups in the Student Union Building based on configuration #3;

Be it resolved that the Executive Director enter into sublease agreements with the Groups.

Be it further resolved that the Groups' subleases align with the head-lease signed between SFSS and SFU for the Student Union Building.

Be it further resolved that SOCA, as a constituency group, be granted space as per configuration #3 with a Memorandum of Understanding.

CARRIED unanimously

- It was explained that the motion came back to the Board table, because the previous motion was not straightforward enough.
- Folks who ran for the SFSS and were more supportive of the campaign - a lot of them got elected and this provides a strong opportunity to engage the SFSS in good dialogue for the MOU between SOCA and SFSS for an MOU to be signed, MOU needs to be signed based on the last motion.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- COVID-19 Communication to membership
 - What should we do about COVID and the resources available to us for the Black community on campus?
 - Will send out what's out there too from SFSS, SFU, Govt
 - Thoughts on anything related to what SOCA can do?
 - Check in with Graduating folks to see how we can celebrate their achievements
 - If we have any second hand clothing etc. at home or finding out ways to help the community
 - If the situation gets better, will the campus be open in Summer
 - SFU are planning to plan two versions in case of anything (whether the distribution flattens or second wave)
- Recommendations for virtual activities during quarantine
 - [To-Do] X should do Y Any activities we can do during the pandemic to be social and more active:
 - Throw skype/zoom parties;
 - Movie nights (Discourse, Cast screen share, Netflix);
 - Discussion Wednesdays (anyday);
 - Bingo (word puzzles/games);
 - Guide on online organizing: <http://www.leadinggroupsonline.org/>
 - Summer timeline mapping
 - Promote physical activity (share videos to the group, do a workout together, going for a walk with a buddy)
 - Cooking (Share around a recipe cookbook compiled by SOCA members that people can try at home - and even virtual cookouts together)
 - Challenges (dance, don't rush etc. all virtually)
 - SOCA book club - 1 book/2 weeks
 - Virtually organizing support for Black folks
 - SOCA transitioning virtually during the summer due to the Pandemic
 - Ramadan - Is it possible to celebrate Iftar together (even if it's eating, praying etc. together virtually) during Covid-19 -
 - SSA and MSA collaboration (any group wanting to collab!). Is the SFSS planning on collaborating or doing anything for Ramadan?
- Afia
 - Recommendation for Vacant Secretary position to be filled by:
 - Mubarak:

- President believes that this person having expressed interest can do well in the roles
- Recommendation for appointed At- large Position :
 - Denise Somuah-Asamoah

COMMITTEE AND SUB-ASSOCIATIONS UPDATE

- Nominating Committee:
 - Elections Report
 - Total of (28 Votes all eligible)
 - PRESIDENT
Tim Maruti 76.9% | Abstain 23.1%
 - VICE PRESIDENT
Monique Leslie 84.6% | Abstain 15.4%
 - SECRETARY
VACANT (Acting Secretary to be appointed by Membership until By-Elections in Fall)
 - TREASURER
Juanita Julius 69.2% | Nathan Ngongo 26.9% | Abstain 3.8%
 - EXTERNAL RELATIONS OFFICER
Karugi Gathumbi 84.6% | Abstain 15.4%
 - INTERNAL RELATIONS OFFICER
Fegor Obuwoma 92.3% | Abstain 7.7%
 - EVENTS COORDINATOR
Hassan Abdullahi 76.9% | Shaun Gawa 19.2% | Abstain 3.8%
 - EXEC AT LARGE
Lofty M. Conde 92.3% | Abstain 7.7%
 - FIRST YEAR REP
Farah Messan 84.6% | Abstain 15.4%
 - GRAD REP
Hadeikaye Williams 84.6% | Abstain 15.4%
 - FIC REP
Oyindamola Fagbenro 88.5% | Abstain 11.5%
 - See opinion poll results on the Supporting Documents page:
What would you like to see SOCA do over the next year 2019/20 *

MOTIONS

1. **Nominating Committee reimbursement**

Whereas the Nominating Committee had required up to \$65 for reimbursement of campaign material for the Candidates

Whereas, the requested total reimbursement might be less than \$65

Be it resolved that up to \$65 be approved to reimbursed to the candidates who spent money on their campaigns

Giovanni moved /Hassan seconded

MOTION WITHDRAWN

2. **Election results received**

Whereas, the elections voting were held on April 3, 2020 and results were released by the Nominating Committee

Be it resolved that the results as outlined in the Elections Report be accepted and the respective positions be filled as listed for the 2020/21 Executive team to start their term effectively at the end of the transition retreat.

Flourish moved/ Balqees seconded

MOTION CARRIED

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 council,

Be it resolved, to appoint the new Internal Relations Officer - Fegor Obuwoma to be the appointed person on representative seat on Council for May 1, 2020 - April 30, 2021 at SFSS Council meetings

Giovanni moved/Balqees seconded

MOTION CARRIED

4. **At Large Appointment**

Whereas, as per the SOCA constitution and SOCA practice after the elections, an at large is appointed,

Whereas the at large appointee shall take on responsibilities that fit within his or her 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 an at large for the 2020/2021 year,

Be it resolved that Denise Somuah - Asamoah be appointed as at large on the SOCA Executive for the year

Balqees moved/ Jessica seconded

MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED

a. **Discussion**

- i. Most in favour in of Denise being added to the motion after Denise spoke to it

b. **MOTION TO AMEND**

- i. Instead of Person ___, Include Denise Somuah-Asamoah in the motion
(Giovanni moved /Balqees seconded)

CARRIED

5. **Acting Secretary Appointment**

Whereas, during this year's election there is a vacancy for the Secretary position,

Whereas, SOCA may decide to hold by-elections for the Secretary positions or appoint an Acting Secretary 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 Mubarak Adebawale as SOCA Acting Secretary for the year 2020/21

Flourish moved/Juju seconded

MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED

a. **Discussion:**

- i. Afia had recommended for Mubarak Adebawale to be appointed to the Exec
- ii. Most people were in support and the incoming President welcomes the appointment

b. **MOTION TO AMEND**

- i. Instead of Person "___", to include Mubarak Adebawale in the motion
(Giovanni moved/ Hassan seconded)

CARRIED

6. **Bank Signing Authorities**

Whereas, there is a new executive team for the 2020/2021 Year

Whereas, there are new signing officers required for the SOCA Bank Account (Named The African and Caribbean Heritage Students Association SFU)

Be it resolved that President - Tim Maruti, Vice President - Monique Leslie, Treasurer - Juanita Julius, and Acting Secretary - Mubarak Adebawale be appointed as signing officers

Giovanni moved/Jessica seconded

MOTION CARRIED

7. Blessed collaboration revisiting

Whereas, at this last meeting there was conversation around discontinuing the Blessed collaboration until further notice due to issues discussed in that meeting,
Be it resolved that SOCA discontinues this collaboration with Soulgood and approach UBC to enter another collaboration agreement where certain concerns are alleviated

Balkees moved/ Karugi seconded

MOTION CARRIED

a. Discussion:

- i. Already discussed as previous meeting related to only \$60 profits that goes to SOCA, communications issues etc (\$198)

ACTION ITEMS FOR EXEC

- Tim (New President):
 - Send out emails to the various Rotunda Community groups
- Gio:
 - To send emails to MP and MLAs and other parties to introduce the ERO and President as new points of contacts similar to last year

OPEN ISSUES OR CONCERNS

1. Current Executive thanks (Giovanni)
2. Thank you from the current President

Meeting Adjournment moved by Jessica Dickson, Seconded by Corbett Gildersleve

Meeting Adjourned at 8:22pm

Supporting Documents:

OPINION POLL RESULTS FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- Opinion Poll:
 - Try to establish a Black Student Fund through referendum and Hire someone as a Coordinator!
 - Great improvement this year. Though more awareness on African/Caribbean roots e.g. with monthly themes, African author book club, regular film screenings etc thank you for the good work you do tho
 - More of the Same / Keep up good work / Already doing a good job
 - Coordinate even more events for us to get together / More events
 - I would like to see better events organizations involving the community and actively trying to make people more active participants of SOCA. This would help create more awareness for SOCA not only for Africans and Caribbean's on SFU campus but also other people on campus as well.
 - Mental health initiatives
 - Book Club
 - ADVOCACY:
 - Invite ASA to merge; become a comprehensive Black Student Union (BSU), serving the diverse and uniquely-placed Black student population at SFU
 - Work with SFSS to establish a BLACK COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE (with a staff coordinator and levy to run the centre)
 - Advocate for SFU (with SFSS too) to collect racial stats so marginalized students (especially already-ignored Black students) have concrete data to support our claims and deflect gas lighting. [Currently, no racial data = no support = SFU continues systemically ignoring our needs because they don't believe us.]
 - Maintain the new Black Space in the SUB with office hours
 - Advocate for AT LEAST 2 Black counselors and 1 doctor, all with an understanding of systemic racism+intersectionality, in SFU Health and Counselling
 - COMMUNITY BUILDING:
 - Approach EVERY Black student you see on any of the 3 campuses if you're able to in that moment. Invite them to the next SOCA event/meeting and encourage them to follow the IG / FB. (I promise this one works in making people feel seen and appreciated. Warms hearts.)
 - Maintain an online presence - minimum 1 post per week (relevant SFU news, resources, local events, updates catered to Black students)
 - Recruit members to various committees; every committee host 1 event per semester
 - Host frequent small-scale, low-energy events in the new SUB suite. That's where the real bonding happens. (alternate between bi-weekly meeting and bi-weekly event)
 - Get the SOCA Library digitized and officially part of the Rotunda Library AND the SFU Bennett Library databases.