

**SFU Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry (SOCA)**  
**January 28, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER: 5:38 pm**

**ATTENDEES:**

- Monique Leslie
- Fegor
- Kevan
- Mohamed M
- Khadija
- Denise
- Nafoni Modi
- Giovanni Hosang
- Balqees Jama
- Jennifer Chou
- Osob Mohamed

**MEETING AGENDA**

**TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

SOCA recognizes we are situated on the unceded territories Coast Salish Territories of the Musqueam, Kwikwetlem, Squamish and Tsleil-waututh peoples 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, Something that brought you joy/made you happy this week and your Access needs)

**APPROVE MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ftRFBZ-B0Cw049qadtdpTX4s96j9t45xS4B-mcYL\\_mU/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ftRFBZ-B0Cw049qadtdpTX4s96j9t45xS4B-mcYL_mU/edit)

**Motion moved by: Monique**

**Seconded by: Fegor**

**REPORT OF OFFICERS**

- President
  -
- Vice President
  - BHM Planning
- External Relations Officer

- Leave of Absence
- Internal Relations Officer
  - Wrote letter regarding incident that happened with Black alumnus in SFU Residence dining hall
    - Not released due to lack of access/ feedback from others
- Secretary
  -
- Events Coordinator
  - Resigned
- Treasurer
  - Wrote letter, part of BHM Planning meeting
- First Year Rep
  -
- Grad Rep
  -
- FIC Rep
  - N/A
- Execs at large
  - Lofty: Cooking event with Embark on February 11th, 2021, part of BHM planning team
  - Denise: Part of BHM planning team, Working on Black Study Hall & Peer Check Program with Afia Poku (former SOCA President)
- Other Assigned Members
  -

## REPORT ON SPECIFIC MATTERS

- **Events Coordinator Resignation**
  - Hassan Abdulahi stepped down last year after sexual violence allegations.
  - Monique, Denise & Lofty worked together to discuss the issue and write a statement regarding SOCA's stance on sexual abuse and violence and shared it with the executive team.
- **SOCA Seat in SFSS Council**
  - Juanita Julius (SOCA Treasurer) attended in the Fall 2020 semester
  - Currently looking for a representative - no executive has offered their availability so far
  - Meetings occur biweekly on Wednesday at 4:30pm - 6:00 pm

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Black History Month
  - BHM Planning Committee meets every Saturday

- Collaborating with SSA on the Panel (Lofty & one SSA rep to work closely on the panel)
- Movie suggestion: Higher Learning by John Singleton
- Post-event reporting: post-event report template the events committee uses that can make it easier to keep a record of planning:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZknT5wDBnONglsvt894zkpnGZ7y638FfpkAuKNocwqo/edit>
- Collaborate with SFSS on the Afrodance workshop (SFSS Events already has \$100 dedicated to such an event), make sure to include SFSS on ads for that specific event
- Balkees: would like to pass an SFSS Issues Policy for BHM
  - Explain the importance of celebrating BHM particularly in Canada, mentioning anti-Black racism. Mention SFSS celebrating BHM and supporting BHM celebrations by SOCA, and others
  - Solidarity with Black folks and their journey to liberation
  - Celebrating Black folks all year round
  - SFSS opposing efforts to ignore BHM initiatives

Current Issues Policy:

<https://sfss.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/SFSS-Issues-Policy-Final-1.pdf>

Example:

CFS Issues Policy: Black History/African Liberation Month

<https://cfs-fcee.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Issues-Amended-2019-06.pdf>

- SFSS (Jennifer Chou): working with Nafoni
  - Will promote Black-owned businesses
  - Trivia about Black History
  - Collab with Lagos Chop
  - Honorarium: there is a cap this semester (\$200)
- Black Support Staff
  - Make note of how SOCA would like to be involved (be part of hiring committee, advising role, leave to Balkees & Osob, etc)
- Mental Health and Semester Update
  - Call on SOCA to support SFU athletes
- Peer Check and Black Student Hall
  - 1 night a week to start with
  - To help students studying remotely

- Ask for volunteers and have a standard link for everyone to jump in. eg. Google Hangouts
  - Impeachment of the President / Exec Team communication
    - Fegor expressed dissatisfaction with the way that the President handled some issues in the executive group chat .
    - Anti Black sentiments from president and letter and call for resignation was written and sent.
    - No teamwork within the exec team. Other exec members spoke towards this and how the work has fallen on the hands of some members because some have been silent.
    - Suggestion from Giovanni to put a motion forth as the proper process with Notice given so they have an opportunity to defend.
    - Negligence in fulfilling the role as President in calling meetings, coordinating the team and being president.
    - Fegor: feels weird and unfair to finish this term with Tim as president when he did not fulfill the duties of his role. We need to give Black women their dues, where Monique was fulfilling President by coordinating roles and doing the work. wants him to step down or be removed from his role before the end of the year. Tim did not want to release a statement after the racial profiling and violence arrest of Black Alumn on Dec 11 in the SFU Burnaby Dining Hall. Fegor felt uncomfortable in the SOCA Exec group chat. He was stating anti-Black sentiment. How he addressed it, which was not in line with how SOCA should be run and it's principles
- Statement calling for resignation of President:
- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/138Zaoqb2td64krCZOOQdC7x-6gBwLiPNYsyMVB9ljAA/edit?usp=sharing>

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

- SSA (Somali Student Association)
  -
- NSA (Nigerian Students Association)
  -
- Social Justice and Advocacy Committee
  - N/A
- Cultural Events Committee
  - N/A
- Space (BCSC) Committee
  - A/A
- Dance Team (N/A till Fall)
- Parties and Pub Nights Committee (N/A till Fall)

- Adhoc Black History Committee
  -
- Nominating Committee
  - Struck and shall give updates each meeting
  - Nominating Committee report: No update, will start work during the 3rd week of February and will draft the policies based on the Timeline set at out last meeting: (Nomination Period: Feb 22 to Mar 2, Campaign Period: March 3 to 12, Voting Period: March 13 to 16)
  - Giovanni, Monique and Tsion are on the committee.
  - [https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1VqvlHMfiiv-FnD0o9Giyz8QSpK\\_Envdl](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1VqvlHMfiiv-FnD0o9Giyz8QSpK_Envdl)

## **MOTION**

### **Concerns with the President**

Be it resolved to give notice of a motion at the next meeting to remove the Current President from the Executive as a vote of membership,

Be it further resolved that the Membership requests that the current President resigns from their position.

Fegor **moved** / Monique **seconded**

**Motion Carried (5 for, 2 abstention)**

- A letter was sent and it was discussed earlier in the Open Concerns with issues ranging from
  - Comments on anti-Blackness
  - Lack of work throughout the year which had to be picked up by Vice President, Monique Leslie and other exec members.
- Letter: [Letter Calling for The Resignation Of Tim Maruti](#)

ADJOURNMENT:

Monique moved, Fegor seconded , adjourned 7:29pm

## **ACTION ITEMS FOR EXEC & Other Assignees (THIS WEEK 12-11-2020)**

- **Monique:**
  - Ask in General - Create whatsapp group for the BHM committee
  - Respond to email to Tsion and send to Membership (include the black youth initiative)
  - Will reach out to library to see if they can do BHM display
  - Monique will sync with Execs on what's SOCA's preference re hiring committee (2 solid voting seats or 1 nonvoting)
- **Nominating Committee Whatsapp Group to be created (Giovanni)**
- **Sub-Association - send emails to find out if they want to extend the agreement for another two years (SSA and NSA)**

**Meeting Adjournment Moved by Monique Seconded by Fegor**  
**ADJOURNED 7:29 PM**

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

- SOCA SFSS LOA
  - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1T5B-P2Uwc\\_oUIN673oPa7dZQqJYy\\_why/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1T5B-P2Uwc_oUIN673oPa7dZQqJYy_why/view?usp=sharing)
- Transition Committee Standing Order
  - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ivXrHJNIPZL\\_ILryoF2joCLWtzQRT7vv/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ivXrHJNIPZL_ILryoF2joCLWtzQRT7vv/view?usp=sharing)
- SFSS - BN Black Student Support Staff
  - [Black Student Support Coordinator and Centre - Combined PDF - BN 2020-12-11.pdf - Google Drive](#)
- SFSS BIPOC Actions
  - [Briefing Note: SFSS BIPOC Committee on SFU Anti-Racism Efforts - Google Docs](#)