

Notes of ACHSA's Meeting held on Sept 26th 2014 in the SFPIRG Meeting Room

Present were: Robyn Broomfield, Oshane Jackson, Mona-lisa Delva, Colin Francis (skype) Marsha-Ann Scott (skype) and Joy Walcott-Francis

Executive Board Positions:

President: Joy nominated **Robyn Broomfield for the position of President**. This was seconded by Mona-Lisa.

Vice-President: Joy nominated **Oshane Jackson (Lamar) for the position of Vice-President**. The nomination was seconded by Marsha-Ann

Both positions were voted on unanimously with abstentions by the nominees.

Joy will carry on Secretarial duties and Marsha-Ann Scott will continue in the role of Finance Officer/Treasurer.

Colin and Mona-Lisa were voted in as members-at-large.

The Future of ACHSA

It was recognised that since a new African students' club has been formed, ACHSA needed to be restructured and possibly repositioned and neither are we getting the support from the African students' community. What this move has done is further divide the African descent community – the Africans on one side and everyone else out in the cold. Would it make sense if the club is repositioned as a Caribbean students' association? A major concern was that whatever direction is taken, the club needs to remain inclusive, so that no student or staff feels excluded, which is exactly what the new African Students' Association has done – the name and the mandate is welcoming to only persons who are Africans.

It was felt that there has been so much effort, energy and time that have gone into making ACHSA into the club that it was up to 1 year ago, only for it to now be put in a position like this; not getting the support of the African community to even think of including them. However, the need to "take the higher road" and be the better person was first and foremost, especially since there are a few African students who are our allies – they have consistently supported the club.

Lamar pointed out that it was really hard to see everybody uniting because everyone wants to do their own thing. Everyone is more selective of the people they meet and talk to, thus making the club a bit more exclusive would tighten the circle. A name change would be one way to make it exclusive and possible having a club that is more based on bonds of friendship - acknowledging that we are different and build bonds based on that; tailoring it so that it meets the needs of the community. It was agreed that this may be a possibility, however, as Marsha-Ann queried, "how do we go about creating this environment?" Mona-Lisa, then wanted to know what would be the purpose of the club? To be a safe

space for people of like interests? She further pointed out that while she is totally in agreement with the idea that personal connection is important, she also feels like our events in the past have done that; games nights, movie nights, etc., she is therefore confused as to how this new idea would be different because the events we did in the past were geared towards bringing together likeminded persons. Joy echoed Mona-Lisa's concern in that all of ACHSA's events have always reflected that. So, the execs may have to sit down and think about the direction and future of the club, if at all, we are interested in the continuity of the club. It makes no sense that we go about planning events without sorting this out. It may be a difficult and time consuming process, so let us think about it individually for a little while and meet again to discuss it. A doodle poll will be done up to get everyone's availability.

Rat Invasion in the club room

It was advised that Robyn speak with Lawrence at SFSS and get advice on how to go about requesting facilities to assist in the termination and clean up.