

Students of Caribbean & African Ancestry
RM 1430 (Student Union Building)
Simon Fraser University
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, B.C V5A 1S6



SFU Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry (SOCA)
[NOV 22nd] at []

ATTENDEES: Adanna, Nandi, Anne-Marie, Naomi, Ruki, Trixie, Nobuhle, Vivian, Emmanuel, Alison, Bam, Kerlinda, Dunstin, Laurretta, Yinka,

MEETING AGENDA: TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

SOCA recognizes we are situated on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish, the Musqueam, Kwikwetlem, Squamish, Tseil-waututh, and Katzie 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. You can see who's land your on using an app called <https://native-land.ca/> which is a map of Indigenous lands

ROUNDS.

(Name, Pronouns, access needs, What is your favorite color)

Adanna she her red

Nandi, she her, blue and yellow

Anne Marie she her access needs met, purple

Naomi she her, navy blue

Nobu she her access needs met purple

Vivian she her access needs metno color

Trixie she her, purple

Alson he him access needs met blue

Bam he him, access needs met red

Emmanuel he him access net red

Ruki he him access needs met green

Liya she her access met green

Wai she her access needs met green

APPROVE MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

- **Approved**

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-  **NOV 16th 2024 Meeting MinutesAgenda SFU SOCA**

REPORT OF OFFICERS

- **President**

- Attended BHM committee meeting
- Attended info session on YMAU
- Placing food orders
- organizing/attending exec workshop with Peer net
- Drafting and submitting cheque recs for DJ's, food vendors, performers photographers
- Creating Exec action item
- Email Correspondance
- Forwarded opportunity sent in to soca for general members
- Attended BCCA gala - British Columbia Community Alliance
- Prepared meeting minutes
- Meeting with Shelley
- Went shopping to purchase drinks for cultural night
- Depositing afroween profits and cheques in the bank account
- Finance tracking + Cheque Requisition

- **Vice President**

- Attended BHM committee meeting
- Connected with SFPIRG on the fee levy campaign
- Attended BCCA gala
- Connected with a couple vendors for cultural night, decorations - got quotes
- Peer net meeting
- Purchased refreshments for the men's mental health workshop
- Coordinated Cheque req to soca from past events to be submitted
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- **External Relations officer**

- Attended BCCA gala
- Helped with refreshments for men's mental health workshop
- Made draft for cultural night invitations

- **Internal Relations Officer**

- Coordinated the Black MD Information session with Donneil McNab, the Black Initiatives manager for UBC's Faculty of Medicine.
- Attended the SFSS council meetings
- Attended Council Development session
- Attended Men's talk

- **Secretary**

- Attended bcaa community gala
- Attended men's mental health meeting

- **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: \$8135.02
- Levy: \$47,697.49
- Soca CG core fund: \$1,350.00
- Staff Dept Levy: N/A
- Scotiabank (external): \$5,958.88
- Grant funding: N/A
- Cheques to be signed (include Motions Date and Number approved and person to reimburse): Reimbursement to Stacy for Caribbean Fusion
- Cheque requisitions to be done: Pizza for reimbursement, Congo Screening,
- Other: Updated the finance tracking sheet, attended men's health talk
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- **ITO:**
 - Attended black md session
 - Posted afroween video
 - Promoted cultural night
 - Making poster for the performers at cultural night
 - Posted on Instagram feed
 - Attended black medical info session
 - Made poster for community support, mens talk
 - Posted the aftoween video
 - Promoting cultural night
 - Attended peernet
 - Made google forms for cultural night performers
 - And the poster for performers
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- **Events Coordinator:**
 - Working on cultural night committee.
 - Promoting to groups around the sub
- **First Year Rep:**
 - Emailed application for catch ah vybz to be on the spring calendar
- **Grad Rep -**
 -
- **FIC Rep**
 - Attended the Yale Africa information session
- **Execs at large Mekeil:**
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- **Execs at large Naomi:**
 - Emailed Connor from cjsf to see if he'd do tech for cultural night
 - Coordinating volunteers
- **Execs at large Joanne**

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REPORT ON SPECIFIC MATTERS [Action items of execs].

- **Newsletter? - Ruki**
- Ruki says he would get it done by tomorrow.
- Updating the website with exec photos/BIO - Joanne
- Stacy to follow up with joanne.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. How was the ubc med school pathway event?

- o Gave a lot of tips, people came out, overall a good event. 8-10 people came out.
- o It could be a good idea to have similar events, but focused on different majors
- o An idea could be the national society for black engineers
- o Marie mentioned during her time that black physicians of bc reached out, but the event did not materialize, so we could also reach out to them

2. Addressing Instances of Unwelcoming Language in SOCA Spaces.

- Instances of Homophobic and Misogynist Comments made in SOCA
 - Recent incidents involving comments that contradict SOCA's values of inclusivity and community building have come to our attention. These instances harm our community and compromise the safe and welcoming space we strive to create. SOCA has a zero-tolerance policy for discrimination and oppression in any form
 - Members should be mindful of the atmosphere they bring in to soca and ensure they are contributing to creating a space that accommodates everyone and is inclusive.
 - Soca has our values and reminds us of a space that is accomodative for everyone. This is not the place to have conversations that may make people feel unsafe, otherwise we may be forced to shut you down.. This is crucial particularly because there seems to be a mistaken idea that we are a welcome space for such behavior
 - As a marginalized community, it's also crucial that we take a stand in support of other marginalized communities. To that end, we will take steps to remove anyone who is not considerate of others from the space

3. Reitaring SOCA's inclusivity values

- SOCA's mission statement/ values to be printed and put up in the space
- **Inclusivity:** We are committed to ensuring no one feels excluded or condemned based on their gender, sexual orientation, or identity. These comments are harmful and violate that commitment.
- **Community Building:** A strong community thrives on respect and mutual support. Comments like these threaten the foundation of togetherness we aim to uphold

4. Having quiet hours during last week of classes

- o Morning, leading into the afternoon, and late evening could be a suggestion, 10-1 and after 6 . Just to accommodate the social hours at the space (usually in the afternoons)
- o Adanna will make the poster on canva

5. BHM PLANNING

- Soca attended a session with student services where we agreed on coming up with a theme and events.
- There will likely be a flood of requests for collaborations starting January , we have to be selective about squat events we have, we're aiming to have panel discussions, game and movie nights, as well as a celebratory dinner, although we're open to suggestions.
- Last year was focused on African American history, we're looking to pivot this year and focus on African and Canadian African history this year.
- Kerlinda suggested we invite Parker Johnson and Ndidi cascade
- Liya suggested doing something to support black owned businesses, if we have capacity, or start collaborating with some black organizations in Vancouver
- Laury and past execs advise that we start planning for bum right now, just to get bookings ahead of time (the social stage also needs to be booked if we intend to use it)

6. YMAU (Yale Model African Union Conference) - Kenya

- o We were extended an invitation to attend this conference in kenya from March 14-16. Some execs attended an info session where they went over the budget and sponsorship plans if we can cover the costs. If there's interest, this could be feasible if we begin reaching out to groups for sponsorships. It's somewhat expensive because of conference fees, visa and hotel fees, and it could also be a lot of work, so we need to decide if it's something we will be looking into.
- o Laury mentioned she wasn't able to get the most of the event because she was jet lagged and tired from black history month. It's also towards the beginning of exam season and is much farther away than when she attended, so it's would be more difficult. Adanna is beginning to lose interest, but other execs could surely step up

7. Potential Collaboration with global connect during black history month

- They've asked us to spearhead an event with them, membership is split on the idea
- Soca might not have capacity during BHM

8. Wisdom wants to have more financial literacy workshops

- o He wants a return of the financial workshops, and membership is in favor. He's like to do a series of 6 workshops, and membership if thinking of having two a semester, starting in January. Resounding yes from membership

9. African food in the dining commons

- o We're worried that the quality of food will be sub par, as we've had this experience before and have seen that there's a lack of care and attention paid towards cooking african food in the dining commons. We could ask for a meeting to discuss these concerns with dining commons.
- o Naomi, Ruki, Nengi, Stacy, Nobu, Trixie, Vivian are open to attending the meeting

10. Cord guard.

- o Call the front desk, to ask for assistance with the lab cable, or connecting our tv wirelessly to the internet to solve our cable problem

11. Letter of support for Anthony Brown

- "My name is Anthony Brown (7th generation canadian black person) and I'm an Independent filmmaker who is currently putting a proposal together in producing a short documentary called: Trailblazers: The Galvanizing of the Black Community and beyond in

the 1950's. This documentary is about the BCAACP: The British Columbia Association For the Advancement of Colored People. It was the first organization to tackle issues on systemic racism, housing and education here in Vancouver during the upheaval of Civil Rights Movement in America. **Your organization SOCA carries the weight of a new generation of Black Achievers** - to help recognize the contributions of this pioneer forgotten organization.”

- . “I’m looking for a letter of support from SOCA so I’m able to propel this documentary forward to educate the general public on the contributions of this organization.”
- **Secret Victoria Rush For Freedom**
- We might sent to watch the movie as well to get a sense of what it’s about, so we can make an informed decision on whether to put our support behind him or not

12. Cultural Night

- o Meeting on saturday at 1pm to discuss progress and finalize agenda.
- o Shelley mentioned we need to be out by 10pm as their staff are unionized workers and can’t stay after hours. We shouldn’t wash any dishes in the bathroom sink, and can use the kitchenette on the 1st floor for that purpose. We won’t have much clean up to do, and we’ll ask people to begin clearing up around 9. It’s a ticketed event, but tickets are free. We’ll likely underestimate the number of tickets to give ourselves some headroom
- o We thought of ordering Ethiopian food, but the restaurants are being unresponsive
- o Shelley said we can’t have the 360 booth because it might be disruptive to people studying for finals
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Motions

1. **Catch Ah Vybz Spring 2025**

Whereas Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry is having a spring Catch Ah Vybz

Whereas the SOCA line item #31 “Catch Ah Vybz Spring Icebreaker” in Account #795/45 is designated for the Catch Ah Vybz event.

Be it resolved that SOCA uses up to \$3,500 from the SOCA line item #31 in Account #795/45 to purchase food and drinks for the event.

**Moved by [Anne marie] / seconded by [Naomi]
CARRIED unanimously**

2. **Black History Month 2025**

Whereas SOCA is organizing a series of events for the 2025 Black History Month (BHM) celebration,

Whereas these events will be centered around building a stronger black community and taking up space constantly

Be it resolved that SOCA approves a total amount of \$4,050 from the SOCA Black Student Support Fund for all the BHM related activities - Opening Ceremony, Panel Discussion, movie & games night, gala night etc..

Be it further resolved that this amount be taken out of line item; 33, 34, 35, 36 Account 795/45

Be it further resolved that the amount of \$4,000 from the trust account, making it a total amount of \$ 8,050.00

**Moved by (Nobu) / Seconded by (kerlinda)
Carried Unanimously**

3. Motion to reimburse Trixie Munyambu for meeting refreshments

Whereas Soca conducted a General meeting on Nov 22nd 2024 and refreshments were needed to be bought for general members and executives.

Whereas Trixie Munyambu purchased pizza for members.

Be it resolved to reimburse \$56.80 the amount of from Acct:[886/45]Line item: #81 - Meetings Vouchers and Snacks.

**Moved by (Nobu) / Seconded by (Laury)
Carried Unanimously**

4. Motion to reimburse Emmanuel Anthony-Onuigbo for Black MD information session refreshments

Whereas Soca conducted an MD information session on Nov 21st and refreshments were needed to be bought for attendees.

Whereas Emmanuel Anthony-Onuigbo purchased hot chocolate for attendees.

Be it resolved to reimburse Emmanuel Anthony-Onuigbo the amount of \$26.24 from Acct:[886/45]Line item: #81 - Meetings Vouchers and Snacks.

**Moved by (Alson) / Seconded by (Anne Marie)
Carried Unanimously**

5. SOCA Executive Retreat

Whereas the SOCA executives are hosting an executive retreat on December, 7th 2024 (tentative)

Whereas the SOCA line item #71 titled, “Exec stipend ” in Account #815/45 is designated for any Executive internal activities

Be it resolved that SOCA uses up to \$1,000 from the SOCA line item #71 in Account #815/45 for their executive retreat.

Moved by [Nobu] / seconded by [Laury]

6. Approval of Honorarium for Kerlinda Chatwin and Connor Ashton

Whereas SOCA’s Cultural Night event will be held on November 30, 2024;

Whereas Kerlinda Chatwin has volunteered to MC the event, and Connor Ashton from CJSF has agreed to be the tech rider for the event;

Be it resolved that SOCA allocate an honorarium of \$200 to Kerlinda Chatwin from the "Volunteer Stipend" line item (#76, Account: [815/45]);

Be it further resolved that SOCA allocate an honorarium of \$250 to Connor Ashton from the "Honoraria Pool" line item (#72, Account: [815/45]).

Moved by [Naomi] / seconded by [Anne Marie]

Carried unanimously

COMMITTEE AND SUB-ASSOCIATIONS UPDATE

- **Social Justice and Advocacy Committee**
 - Nothing to report
- **Cultural Events Committee.**
 - Planning cultural night update: so far, we have placed food orders, purchased drinks. Still waiting for confirmation on decor, photo booth, and creating the agenda for the night.
- **BSSC and Space Committee.**
- **Food Justice.**
- **NSA**
- **SSA**

ACTION ITEMS FOR EXEC

- Anne-Marie - uploading meeting minutes to website, making a post for performers
- Joanne & (Anne-marie assisting) - uploading exec bios on website, posting on our IG. (Stacy to follow with Joanne)

- Cultural night planning (everyone. Adanna will be sending out the program/action items soon)
- BHM committee (SOCA)
 - (Adanna, Naomi, Liya, Kerlinda, Waithera, Trixie, Nandi, Ruki, Daniel)
- Sending out invites for cultural night. (Waithera and Nobu) - send an invite Dr. Yabome,
- (Liya)- Adding accessibility needs to eventbrite ticket link.
- Alison - sending invoices to Sindhu, submitting any outstanding cheque recs, getting Ayo to sign reimbursement agreement.

OPEN ISSUES OR CONCERNS.

Meeting Adjourned at [7:02]

Moved by (Adanna) /seconded by (kerlinda)