

Memorandum of Understanding on Collaboration and Partnership
Between
SFU Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry
and
SFU African Students Association

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth terms to increase Collaboration and Partnership between the **SFU Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry** (SOCA) and **SFU African Students Association** (ASA) and sustaining a relationship recognizing and strengthening the diversity and unity amongst members and constituents.

Background

SFU Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry and The African Students Association are two associations at SFU that represent collectives of students within and for the Black community on campus.

Purpose

This MOU will enhance the relationships among Black, African and Caribbean students on campus and provides a framework for the **African Students Association** and the **Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry** to continue to work together in a long term, sustainable and systemic manner. As well, ASA members will also be able to access the camaraderie between other Students of Black, African and Caribbean Ancestry on Campus and sustainably develop this relationship through collaborating with SOCA or any of its sub-associations and other partners. This MOU shall also provide clarity on SOCA and ASA's relationship as separate associations, but collaborative and partner associations, that serve similar mandates and may share members on campus. This will also serve as a long-lasting guide for future generations of ASA and SOCA.

Definitions

"Sub Association" is describing a relationship between SOCA and respective groups as outlined in the that result in automatic membership and resources sharing between SOCA and the student groups defined as such. Each Sub-Association has a Memorandum of Understanding with SOCA and that association.

"Constituency group" as outlined in the SFSS Bylaws to be the recognized group serve its members who share an experience or condition of oppression and systemic discrimination and/or barriers such as, but not limited to: homophobia, sexism, racism, classism, colonialism, ableism or ageism.

"Club" is an organized body or student group that has a mandate to pursue social, activism, professional, academic, or interdisciplinary goals that get club funding and recognition under the SFSS Member Services and Groups policies.

About ASA:

SFU ASA is a student club under the SFSS that seeks to advocate and create a relationship among African Students on campus with a particular interest on issues and the progress on the African continent, engaging students of African descent and all those interested in positive discourse on Africa.

The African students association was founded in September 2012 by a group of aspiring African students at Simon Fraser University seeking to promote the beauty and diversity of Africa. Our objective is to celebrate Africa and share our cultural values by promoting the spirit of Ubuntu within the SFU community. The growing need to promote the presence of African Students on campus and beyond and to reshape the prejudices that the vast majority of people have of Africa have motivated us to create a platform for SFU students.

<https://go.sfss.ca/clubs/298/info> | <https://www.facebook.com/SfuAfricanStudentsAssociation/>

About SOCA:

SOCA is a SFSS constituency group seeking to initiate and maintain fellowship between students who self-identify as Black or African descent, and allies who are interested in the varied African/Caribbean descendant cultures; promoting and raising awareness of the social, cultural and political issues significant to African and Caribbean descendants. We focus on centering the Black Community in our effort to create a safe space for its constituents Black, African and Caribbean students. Nigerian Students Association (NSA) and Somali Students Association (SSA) are Sub-Associations where members become automatic members of SOCA and have automatic privileges within the governance of SOCA.

SOCA was founded in 1994 and has had space on campus since 1997 to serve its constituents - Black African and Caribbean students on campus. To become a registered member, folks can sign up to be a part of the membership mailing list and attend meetings, which are open to all. If Black, African or Caribbean student group or community group at SFU, or externally, and want to partner with SOCA, an email can be sent to SOCA email at sfusoca@gmail.com or SOCA Black Student Support Coordinator at bssc.coord@sfss.ca, or any staff support hired at the SFSS or SOCA, when such exists staff exist.

<https://www.sfusoca.ca/> | <https://www.facebook.com/SFUSOCA> | <https://go.sfss.ca/unions/66/info>

The above goals will be accomplished by:

- **Joint Advocacy:** In the past, ASA and SOCA have jointly advocated for more funding from SFU for Black groups on campus, Black mental Health Resources, Black Student Center, and multiple other resources and support for Black Students, African and Caribbean students on campus. Successful financial advocacy for Black student group funding for both ASA and SOCA was successful in 2020, and both student groups get funding of \$5000 per year for two years or more, and this is disbursed to the respective Trust accounts for ASA and SOCA stored at SFSS. The spirit of joint advocacy shall continue for Black student supports and resources for both parties.

- **Collaboration on Events:** SOCA and ASA jointly acknowledge the respectful, collaborative and mutually beneficial partnership between each other and shall strive to have joint collaborative events, campaigns and activities at least once per semester to display the spirit of camaraderie that already exists between the organisations.
- **Sharing of Each others Events, Advocacy and Services:** SOCA and ASA shall frequently, in their respective mailing lists, meetings and and social media, encourage members of each association to attend each other's events, support each other's services, as well as, where applicable, support each other's advocacy if their membership and/or leadership agrees.
- **Using SOCA Space and Center Resources:** SOCA currently is allocated space in the Student Union Building. ASA executives can be and shall be encouraged to be added to the volunteer list of SOCA and therefore have access to the code for the SOCA Black Student Support Center (SOCA SUB RM 1430). Where possible, the space, once available, the ASA, as a collaboration and partner organization, may have privileged and prioritized access to its usage from time to time for events and meetings. The SOCA President, Vice-President Internal Relations Officer, Secretary or staff support may be contacted to facilitate this space usage. Higher priority will be given to the Sub-Associations. Members of ASA, as constituents of SOCA, shall also have access to the space as available when free. Both organizations shall encourage the use of the space and the resources afforded by the SOCA Organizational Suite in the SUB (The BSSC or any of the other Rooms) to both their memberships.
- **Involvement in SFU Student Services - Black Student Center:** Both Parties shall strive to create and encourage memberships and/or executives to sit on the steering/advisory committees for the SFU Black Student Center. This, as well as encourage Members at large from and within the organizations, and other Black organizations on campus in a collaborative manner. Both parties shall strive to encourage their memberships and their executives to get involved with any other SFU institutional and SFU related opportunities for Black student involvement, or where Black students are being sought for their advice and direction, including with SFU Student Services, and EDI at large.
- **Involvement in SFU Black Caucus** - Both parties shall strive to encourage their memberships and their executives to get involved with the SFU Black Caucus and to sit on the Steering committee of the Caucus, or the Black Caucus' council, and to encourage their respective memberships to sign up to be on the SFU Black Caucus mailing lists.
- Any other methods as agreed upon by both the parties thereafter through motion passed at both SOCA General Meetings and ASA Meetings.

Funding

- **SFSS Club and Constituency Group Funding:** Both organizations believe that the SFSS (in addition to SFU) has a responsibility to adequately fund and support the respective organizations, as well as provide opportunities to the members they serve. Regardless of overlapping membership from time to time, both groups shall assert that

they retain the right to submit grant requests for respective events, activities, services and should not be negatively penalized by the SFSS for close collaboration and partnership including regarding use of funds. If a dedicated SOCA levy is created to support SOCA's constituents as allowed for by the SFSS bylaws and the BC Societies Act, SOCA shall endeavour to increase collaboration with partner and sub-associations so that those have increased access to space and funding of events and activities in a collaborative spirit.

- **Joint advocacy for funding:** Each group shall continue to push for funding from SFU and SFSS for each of the respective groups, or both groups, where applicable. This shall be encouraged.
- **Inter-group funding and relations:** One party may, on request of the other party, or vice versa, grant some of its funding or allocate some of its funding as a 0% interest loan, or as a grant/donation through a written check if the the group approves at a one of their General Membership meetings (or in the case of ASA - Executive meetings), of the giving party, whether the grant/donation/loan is as a result of a a joint event or a single-party planned event. As long as a SOCA Black Student Support levy fund is established and this MOU agreement is in effect, SOCA shall allocate and disburse annually, at least \$3000 of the levy fund, towards the ASA trust account at the SFSS.
- **Approval of Funds and Encouragement of Access:** This MOU is not a commitment of funds. However, where feasible, if a dedicated fee levy for SOCA (ie a SOCA Black Student Support Levy) is established by SFSS membership through referendum, SOCA shall strive to provide for a mechanism for partner access to gain funds, and the Executives shall encourage the SOCA membership, who has power to approve the use of funds, to approve joint or single events and activities, in the form of grants, donations or loans where applicable.
- **Joint Grant Requests where beneficial:** SOCA and ASA may decide to submit joint grant requests for events depending on the particular event and if both organizations see that it fits for that particular event to SFU, SFSS or any other funding organization, from time to time.

Differences from that of a Sub-Association MOU - No Automatic Membership

- Without there being a sub-association relationship, there is no automatic membership (as there would be in a Sub-Association Memorandum of Understanding), ASA members will not automatically be members of SOCA, nor will SOCA members be automatically members of ASA. However, both parties acknowledge that their membership overlap and shall encourage each other's members to sign up to each other's members lists. It is acknowledged that as a Constituency group, SOCA constituents as Black, African and Caribbean students on campus and have a responsibility to provide access to services and resources, regardless of membership.
- Without there being a sub-association relationship, there is no automatic sharing and website access to each other's resources, but both parties acknowledge the need to include each other on the respective parties' websites (and other locations) as partner organizations where applicable.

- Without there being a sub-association relationship there is no automatic assistance with Elections support, but both parties acknowledge the need to encourage each other's members to run in both of the organizations respective elections.
- Without there being a sub-association relationship, there is no automatic permanent or privileged access to borrowing equipment nor for equipment storage, but both organizations acknowledge that from time to time, depending on each of their executive teams, temporary arrangements may be made.
- Without there being a sub-association relationship, there is no automatic access to being on meeting agenda items, but both parties acknowledge the need to bring each other's and items of concern to each other's meetings and attend meetings of each parties as necessary. It is also recognized that shared memberships should attend both meetings.

In the event of a future request for Sub-Association Agreement, or of future Merger

- If one organization wishes to become a sub-association, a request must be made after a vote of the requesting party. All assets would remain as is, but the requesting party and the parent party go into a new MOU enables automatic access to resources as outlined in that new MOU and this MOU will cease to be in effect when the new one is signed
- Both Organizations may create a process on how to go about a merger if they mutually agree to do such in the future, and such a merger should preserve the assets of both organizations which will be now jointly held under the newly merged organization

Duration

This MOU may be modified by mutual consent of authorized officials from SFU **Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry** and the **African Students Association** if and only if directed by their Members or their Executives respectively. This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the authorized officials from **SFU Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry** and the **African Students Association** and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual consent.

If one party wishes to terminate upon being directed by their authorized representatives (their Members in the case of SOCA, and their Executives in the case of ASA), and there is an absence of mutual agreement by the authorized representatives from SOCA and ASA, a joint meeting shall be held to discuss and attempt to come to a resolution. More meetings may be held as the groups agree. If the dispute is not resolved after a month, or a longer time if agreed upon at these joint meetings, then the association that wishes to terminate the agreement may give 3 months notice of termination of the agreement.

This SOCA x ASA Collaboration and Partnership MOU should be stated and read to the first membership meeting during each Fall and Spring term in the semester for each of the respective parties to clarify the relationship of partnership and collaborations for their members.

SOCA x ASA Collaboration and Partnership MOU Signing

Contact Information:

SFU Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry

Balqees Jama

President

SUB RM 1430 | 8888 University Drive | Simon Fraser University

sfusoca@gmail.com

SFU African Students Association

Salwa Abdi

President

8888 University Drive | Simon Fraser University

africanstudentsassociationsfu@gmail.com

SFU African Students Association

Name	<u>Salwa Abdirahman</u>
Position	<u>President</u>
Email	<u>Salwaabdi12@gmail.com</u>
Date	<u>2022/05/01</u>
Signature	<u></u>

SFU Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry

Name	<u>Sophonie Priebe</u>
Position	<u>President</u>
Email	<u>SophoniePriebe@gmail.com</u>
Date	<u>2022/04/28</u>
Signature	<u></u>