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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate	DATE	April 10, 2024	
FROM	Dilson Rassier, Provost and Vice-President Academic, and Chair, SCUP	PAGES	1/1	
RE:	Reconstitution and Renewal of the Institute for Black and African Diaspora Research and Engagement (IBADRE) (SCUP)			

At its meeting on April 10, 2024, SCUP reviewed and approved under delegated authority the renewal of the Institute for Black and African Diaspora Research and Engagement (IBADRE) for a five-year term.

C: Valorie Crooks, Associate Vice-President, Research

Memorandum

From: Valorie Crooks, Associate Vice-President, Research *pro tem* Date: March 26, 2024
Re: Reconstitution of Institute for Black and African Diaspora Research and Engagement (IBADRE)
To: Dilson Rassier, Chair, *Ex-officio*, Senate Committee on University Planning (SCUP)

Attached is a proposal from Dr. June Francis, Dr. James Busumtwi-sam and Adjua Akinwumi for the refocusing and changing in scope of the Institute for Black and African Diaspora Research and Engagement (IBADRE), formerly named the Institute for Diaspora Research and Engagement (IDRE). The IDRE was approved by SCUP under the terms of Policy R40.01 in January 2013.

The attached proposal provides rationale for changes to the Institute to better reflect its intended purpose and activities. The proposal is aligned with SFU priorities, including the University's commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), as well as with the Strategic Research Plan, particularly Challenge 2, "Understanding our Origins" and Research Cluster 4, "Community-Based Research". Its revised constitution, attached for reference, has been updated to be consistent with the current Policy R40.01.

I recommend approval of the proposed changes in scope of the IBADRE and renewal for a 5-year term.

Motion: That SCUP approve the reconstitution of the IBADRE and renewal for a 5-year term.

Valorie Crooks

Attachments:

- Proposal to reconstitute the Institute for Black & African Diaspora Research and Engagement (IBADRE)_March 25, 2024
- New constitution for the Institute for Black & African Diaspora Research & Engagement (IBADRE)_March 25, 2024_changes highlighted
- Summary of changes to IBADRE Constitution_March 25, 2024
- Original proposal to establish the IDRE_Dec 12, 2012

Proposal to Reconstitute the Institute for Black and African Diaspora Research and Engagement (IBADRE)

The *Institute for Diaspora Research and Engagement* (hereinafter referred to as IDRE) was constituted as a research institute at Simon Fraser University under the terms of SFU Policy R 40.01 (Research Centres and Institutes) in January 2013. The name of the Institute has formally been changed from Institute for Diaspora Research and Engagement (IDRE) to Institute for Black and African Diaspora Research and Engagement (IBADRE)¹.

We propose to reconstitute the *Institute for Black and African Diaspora Research and Engagement* (hereinafter referred to as IBADRE) as specified below.

A. Rationale for Change

- a. The IDRE’s primary purpose was to integrate “leading-edge interdisciplinary research on diaspora with innovative, responsive programming and collaborative dialogue, exchange and partnership with the wider community”. To achieve this purpose the IDRE conducted research, organized and hosted workshops, and initiated community engagement activities covering a wide range of diasporic communities from all over the world.

Since 2016, however, the IDRE has focused its research and engagement activities on the Black and African Diaspora in the Greater Vancouver area, in Canada, as well as in Africa and internationally. This reflects the research interests of SFU faculty and graduate students, and strong historical collaborations between SFU and members of the African/black community outside SFU.² Since 2020, there has been a significant increase in interest from the academic and wider community in Black Diaspora issues following the Black Lives Matter protests and subsequent movements. The proposed reconstitution of the IBADRE thus reflects the current concentration of research and community engagement activities on Black/African diaspora-related issues, and responsiveness to the emerging needs in these areas.

- b. The reconstitution of the IBADRE is also in response to the United Nations’ (UN) *International Decade for Peoples of African Descent* (2015 – 2024), the main theme of which is “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development”.³ The Canadian government has formally recognized this UN initiative⁴, with the cities of

¹ The name change of the reconstitution process was approved by SCUP on July 13th 2022.

² The strong collaborations between SFU and African/Black communities outside SFU dates back to the formation of the Africa Focus Group at SFU in 2004, which organized a series of five conferences/workshops held between 2004 and 2009, including a very successful ‘*Africa and its Diasporas*’ conference in 2009.

³ See UN General Assembly Resolutions A/68/237 (Feb 2014) and A/Res/69/16 (Dec 2014).

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/decade-people-african-descent/programme-activities#:~:text=The%20UN%20General%20Assembly%20proclaimed,rights%20by%20people%20of%20African>

⁴ See <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/anti-racism-engagement/anti-racism-strategy/international-decade-african-descent.html>

Burnaby and Vancouver and the BC provincial government acknowledging and proclaiming this declaration⁵.

- c. Reconstituting the IBADRE aligns with several SFU priorities, including the University's commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI). It also aligns with SFU Strategic Challenge 2: 'Understanding Our Origins–Society, Culture, Knowledge Systems and History' and Research Cluster 4: 'Community-Based Research', contained in the University's 2016-2022 *Strategic Research Plan*.⁶
- d. The focus on the African/Black diaspora also aligns with recent commitments made by SFU, including the *Scarborough Charter*⁷ signed by SFU, and recent votes by SFU's Senate to hire 15 Black faculty members among other commitments⁸.

B. Purposes & Goals

1. The main purposes and goals of the IBADRE include:
 - a. To facilitate collaborative multi- and -interdisciplinary research on Black and African diaspora among different units and faculties within SFU, and/or multi-university initiatives nationally and internationally.
 - b. To coordinate University-wide initiatives on integrating the commitments of the *Scarborough Charter* into University Strategic Plans.
 - c. To conduct and coordinate community-based research on Black and African diaspora, and provide research-related and research-informed services to Black/African diasporic communities and others interested in such diaspora.⁹
 - d. To generate knowledge about the Black and African Diaspora through organizing and supporting conferences, seminars, workshops, and colloquia.
 - e. To nurture an intellectually rich and supportive environment for sharing historical and contemporary knowledge about the cultures, arts, practices, and technologies of Black and African diaspora worldwide.
 - f. To promote and support the production of scholarly, cultural, creative, and innovative work related to the experiences of peoples of African descent throughout the world.

⁵ See <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/black-history-month-proclamation.pdf>; <https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/proclamations/proclamations/BlkHistMnth2020>; <https://pub-burnaby.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=50995>;

⁶ See SFU *Strategic Research Plan*, 2016-2022.

⁷ See <https://www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2021/11/sfu-signs-onto-the-scarborough-charter-on-anti-black-racism-and-.html>; <https://www.sfu.ca/edi/updates/news/2021/a-road-map-for-flourishing--reflections-on-sfu-signing-the-scarb.html>

⁸ See <https://the-peak.ca/2021/11/organizers-and-allies-respond-to-sfu-decision-to-hire-15-more-black-faculty/> and

⁹ Examples of such research-related and research-informed services include:

- a) Research undertaken into the history and legacies Hogan's Alley in Vancouver by current IDRE director.
- b) Research and capacity-building services provided by former IDRE Director to assist Ghana's Ministry of Foreign Affairs develop a new diaspora engagement policy.

- g. To connect and facilitate communication between Black and African diaspora individuals, communities, organizations, and researchers, including graduate and undergraduate student researchers, and to exchange knowledge and research.
- h. To engage members of the Black and Africa diaspora outside SFU with programming of interest and relevance to them.
- i. To serve as a hub to link Black and African diaspora to innovation in diaspora-driven initiatives and to funding/project opportunities.
- j. To engage and collaborate with similar initiatives in Canada and internationally including with international organizations and bodies with mandates that focus on, or include, the Black/African diaspora.

C. Membership

Membership in the IBADRE is open to all SFU faculty, graduate students, and staff with an interest in Black and African Diaspora-related issues locally, nationally, and internationally, who share the vision and mission of the Institute. The IBADRE has *full* and *associate* members who are approved by the Steering Committee. SFU Alumni may become associate members. Detailed information on membership is provided in a separate document – the *Constitution* of the IBADRE.

D. Governance

1. The Institute

The IBADRE is governed by a Steering Committee, two Co-Directors, Plenary Membership Meetings, and an External Advisory Board.

Steering Committee

- a. The Steering Committee consists of at least 8 SFU faculty members drawn from various Faculties and academic-administrative departments/units in the University. No academic-administrative unit shall have more than one representative on the steering committee.
- b. The Steering Committee shall also have at least one and not more than three graduate student members, and at least one and not more than three SFU staff members.
- c. The Steering Committee shall set overall priorities, direction, and strategic planning for the IBADRE, and together with the co-Directors, oversee the management of its operations.
- d. Further details on the mandate, functions, and operations of the Steering Committee are specified in a separate document – the *Constitution* of the IBADRE.

Director(s)

- e. The IBADRE shall have two co-Directors, who are its principal administrators/managers.
- f. The co-Directors are continuing SFU faculty members selected by the Steering Committee and appointed by the VPRI. The co-Directors serve renewable three-year terms up to a maximum of two consecutive terms.

- g. The co-Directors are voting members of the Steering Committee.
- h. Further details on the mandate, functions, and operations of the co-Directors are specified in a separate document – the *Constitution* of the IBADRE.

Plenary Meetings

- i. Plenary (or General Membership) meetings, where all IBADRE members partake, shall be held at least three times annually (i.e., at least one plenary meeting per semester).
- j. Plenary meetings shall approve the priorities, direction, and strategic plans for the Institute devised by the Steering Committee.
- k. Further details on the mandate, functions, and operations of the Plenary Meetings are specified in a separate document – the *Constitution* of the IBADRE

External Advisory Board

- l. The External Advisory Board shall be the principal liaison between the IBADRE and the wider Black and African diaspora communities outside SFU. It shall provide advice and information to the co-Directors and Steering Committee on important diaspora-related issues. The External Advisory Board may make (non-binding) recommendations to the Directors and Steering Committee.
- m. The External Advisory Board Consists of 8-10 representatives of diaspora-related community organizations/associations and NGOs/businesses, as well as prominent diasporic individuals.
- n. At least one of the co-Directors and at least one member of the Steering Committee shall sit on the External Advisory Board.

E. Communication Plan

- a. The IBADRE will provide information on its purposes/goals, governance, and membership, its affiliations/collaborations, its research, community engagement and other activities, as well as information on topics/issues of interest to Black/African diaspora within and outside SFU.
- b. The principal audience is the Black/African diaspora community within SFU and the wider SFU community, Black/African diaspora communities outside SFU/in Canada, international Black/African diaspora, as well as other entities within and outside SFU with which the Institute affiliates/collaborates.
- c. The main tools that deliver what the Institute communicates to its principal audience include an up-to-date website and social media presence, and hosting public dissemination, exchange, and engagement events.

Appendices

Appendix 1

Steering Committee of the IBADRE

James Busumtwi-Sam (Pol Sci, FASS)
Henry Daniel (Cont. Arts, FCAT)
June Francis (Beedie, Business)
Angela Kaida (Health Sci)
Maureen Kihika (Soc/Labour studies, FASS)
Ebony Magnus (Bennet Lib, Ass Dean)
Joel Akinwumi (French)
Prof-Collins Ifeonu (Soc, FASS)
Graduate Student Rep(s)

Appendix 2

List of SFU-based Groups, Institutes, Centres, Programs, and Offices for Collaboration/Affiliation

- SFU Black Caucus
- African Studies Working Group
- African Studies Certificate Program
- Office for Aboriginal Peoples
- Centre for the Comparative Study of Muslim Societies and Cultures
- Centre for Global Political Economy
- Centre for Public Opinion and Political Representation
- Centre for Sustainable Development
- David Lam Centre for International Education
- Indigenous Studies Program
- Institute of Governance Studies
- Latin American Studies Program
- Office of Francophone and Francophile Affairs

Appendix 3

List of Black and African Studies Research Centres and Programs at other Canadian Universities¹⁰

- Black Studies Research Institute, Dalhousie Univ.
(https://www.dal.ca/news/2021/12/16/dalhousie-embraces-black-studies-research-with-new-university-wi.html#disqus_thread)

¹⁰ See “Wave of Black studies programs at Canadian universities...” CBC News (October 31, 2021)
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-black-studies-curriculums-1.6229321>

- Black & African Diaspora Studies, Dalhousie Univ. (<https://www.dal.ca/academics/programs/undergraduate/black-african-diaspora1/program-overview.html>)
- Institute of African Studies, Carleton Univ. (<https://carleton.ca/africanstudies/>)
- African Studies, York Univ. (<https://www.yorku.ca/laps/sosc/afrs/>)
- African & Diaspora Studies Program, McMaster Univ. (<https://aads.humanities.mcmaster.ca/>)
- Centre for the Study of Black Canadian Diaspora, OCAD Univ. (Ontario College of Art & Design) (<https://www.ocadu.ca/news/ocad-university-launches-centre-examine-contemporary-black-visual-artists>)
- Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies, U of T (<https://www.cdts.utoronto.ca/>)
- Centre for Integrative Anti-Racism Studies, U of T (<https://www.oise.utoronto.ca/ciars/>)

Appendix 4

External Allies, Sponsors, and Friends of The Institute

- African Canadian Social Development Council
- CUSO International
- International Development Research Council (IDRC)
- Maytree Foundation
- MOSAIC Institute, Toronto
- Umoja Compassion Society
- WUSC

Contact Person(s):

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James Busumtwi-Sam, Political Science, SFU (jbusumtw@sfu.ca)

Institute for Black and African Diaspora Research and Engagement (IBADRE)

CONSTITUTION

1. Preamble

- a. The *Institute for Black and African Diaspora Research & Engagement* (hereinafter, ‘Institute’) is constituted as a research institute at Simon Fraser University under the terms of SFU Policy R 40.01 – *Research Centres and Institutes*.¹
- b. The Institute is part of Simon Fraser University, and is a formally designated non-departmental unit that facilitates extensive multi-Faculty collaborative research within the University, and fosters research relationships with other universities and/or other stakeholders (e.g., government, community or private sector affiliates).²
- c. The Institute operates under the authority of the Vice President Research and International (VPRI) and the Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP), and conducts its affairs in accordance with University policies. The term of the Institute is five years.
- d. This *Constitution* is in accordance with section 4.1 of SFU Procedures R 40.01 – *Research Institutes Procedure*.
- e. In furthering its mandate to facilitate collaborative multidisciplinary research, the Institute may:
 - i. Establish collaborations and affiliations with academic-administrative units and Faculties in the University, with other universities, and with public and private sector entities outside the University.
 - ii. Pursue funding opportunities from external agencies as per section 7.0 of SFU Policy R 40.1.
- f. In so doing, and with respect to its purposes, governance, membership, activities and reporting as described in sections 2-7 below, the Institute shall at all times maintain its independence from any academic/administrative/research or other entity with which it may collaborate/affiliate.

2. Purposes and Goals

The Institute has the following core purposes and goals:

¹ Version 3.0, September 26, 2019.

² Section 4.6 of *Research Institutes Procedure* R40.01.

- a. To facilitate collaborative multi- and -interdisciplinary research on Black and African diaspora among different units and Faculties within SFU, and/or multi-university initiatives nationally and internationally.
- b. To coordinate University-wide initiatives on integrating the commitments of the *Scarborough Charter* into University Strategic Plans.
- c. To conduct and coordinate community-based research on Black and African diaspora, and provide research-related and research-informed services to Black/African diasporic communities and others interested in such diaspora.
- d. To generate knowledge about the Black and African Diaspora through organizing and supporting conferences, seminars, workshops, and colloquia.
- e. To nurture an intellectually rich and supportive environment for sharing historical and contemporary knowledge about the cultures, arts, practices, and technologies of Black and African diaspora worldwide.
- f. To promote and support the production of scholarly, cultural, creative, and innovative work related to the experiences of peoples of African descent throughout the world.
- g. To connect, and facilitate communication between, Black and African diaspora individuals, communities, organizations, and researchers, including graduate and undergraduate student researchers, and to exchange knowledge and research.
- h. To engage members of the Black and Africa diaspora outside SFU with programing of interest and relevance to them.
- i. To serve as a hub to link Black and African diaspora to innovation in diaspora-driven initiatives and to funding/project opportunities.
- j. To engage and collaborate with similar initiatives in Canada and internationally including with international organizations and bodies with mandates that focus on, or include, the Black/African diaspora.

3. Governance

The Institute is governed by a Steering Committee, two co-Directors, Plenary Membership Meetings, and an External Advisory Board.

3.1 Steering Committee

- a. The Institute Steering Committee consists of at least 8 SFU faculty members drawn from various Faculties and academic-administrative departments/units in the University. No academic-administrative unit shall have more than one representative on the steering committee.
- b. The Institute Steering Committee shall also have at least one and not more than three graduate student members, and at least one and not more than three SFU staff members.
- c. Faculty and staff members of the Steering Committee serve three-year renewable terms. Graduate student members serve one-year renewable terms.
- d. The Steering Committee shall have the following main responsibilities and functions:
 - Set overall priorities, direction, and strategic planning for the Institute in consultation with the co-Directors, subject to approval at Plenary Meetings of Institute Members.

- Together with the two co-Directors, oversee the administration/management of the Institute's operations.
 - Approve membership in the Institute.
 - Approve the Institute's budget, in consultation with the two co-Directors.
 - In consultation with the two co-Directors, establish various ad hoc committees consisting of the members of the Institute, members of SFU-based groups with which the Institute affiliates/collaborates, and external organizations, to carry out specific functions of the Institute. These committees shall be advisory in nature.
 - Approve strategic affiliations, partnerships, collaborations, and alliances with SFU-based research centres/institutes, programs, and groups, as well as with external agencies and groups.
- e. Decisions made by the Steering Committee are binding on all members of the Institute including the co-Directors.
- f. While it shall normally operate by consensus, when necessary the Steering Committee shall make decisions by simple majority vote, including appointment of new members of the Steering Committee.

3.2 Directors

- a. The Institute shall have two co-Directors, who are its principal administrators/managers.
- b. The Institute and co-Directors assume the rights and responsibilities specified in section 2.1 and 2.2 of SFU Procedures R 40.01.
- c. The Institute's co-Directors are continuing SFU faculty members selected by the Steering Committee and appointed by the VPRI.
- d. The Institute's co-Directors report to the VPRI.
- e. The co-Directors serve renewable three-year terms, up to a maximum of two consecutive terms.
- f. The co-Directors are voting members of the Institute Steering Committee.
- g. The co-Directors have the following responsibilities and functions, which they may share or delegate but not abrogate:
- Chair the Steering Committee.
 - Consult with Steering Committee to set the Institute's overall priorities, strategic plans and direction.
 - Oversee Institute operations, activities, and meetings.
 - Solicit research funding agreements and collaborations in the University's name as per section 2.1.2 of SFU Procedures R.40.01 and section 7.2 of SFU Policy R.40.01, and ensure that such funding agreements adhere to SFU Policy R.10.01 – *Research Funding Agreements*.
 - Oversee Institute finances and approve contracts signed in the Institute's name.
 - Recruit and nominate Institute members for approval by the Steering Committee.
 - Appoint and direct requisite Institute personnel, including Support Staff and Research Associates, and Research Assistants, using the resources of SFU Human Resources where necessary.

- Recommend, for approval by the Steering Committee, the establishment of strategic partnerships, collaborations, affiliations, and alliances with SFU-based research centres/institutes, programs, and groups, and with external agencies.
 - Create and maintain an up-to-date web/social media presence that includes a list of members and research/community engagement activities.
 - Prepare annual reports and renewal reports (when applicable) to the VPRI as per section 3.1 and 5.0 of SFU Procedures R40.1.
- h. Once appointed, the two co-directors shall decide how to divide or share the responsibilities/functions listed in paragraph 3.2.g between them. Once a decision is made, it shall be approved by the Steering Committee.
- i. The co-Directors, by virtue of their occupancy of that position, are the only persons with authority to:
- Use the University's name, address, and symbols in connection with Institute activities.
 - Speak/act on behalf of the Institute vis-à-vis other SFU academic/research/administrative units, SFU senior administration, and the wider communities within and outside SFU.

3.3 Membership and Plenary Membership Meetings

- a. Membership in the Institute is open to all SFU faculty, staff, and graduate students with an interest in Black and African Diaspora-related issues locally, nationally, and internationally, who share the vision and mission of the Institute.
- b. The Institute has two types of members:
- *Full Members*: SFU faculty members, staff, and graduate students from various disciplines/academic/administrative units.
 - *Associate Members*: Non-SFU Black/African diasporic individuals, representatives of Black and Africa diaspora community organizations and associations, as well as representatives of diaspora-related civil society organizations.
- c. Prospective full and associate members shall apply directly to the co-Directors. The Institute's Steering Committee shall determine eligibility and approve membership.
- d. Plenary (or General Membership) Meetings, where all Full Members partake, shall be held at least three times annually (i.e., at least one plenary meeting per semester). Only Full Members are eligible to vote at Plenary Meetings. Associate Members may be invited to Plenary Meetings in a non-voting capacity.
- e. Plenary Meetings shall approve the priorities, direction, and strategic plans for the Institute devised by the Institute Steering Committee and co-Directors..
- f. Decisions at Plenary Meetings shall normally be based on consensus; failing that, decisions shall pass by a 2/3 majority vote.
- g. The Institute's Steering Committee and co-Directors shall ensure that all relevant information is made available to Institute members in a timely and accessible manner prior to each tri-annual Plenary Membership Meeting.

3.4 External Advisory Board

- a. Consists of 8-10 representatives of non-SFU diaspora-related community organizations and associations, NGOs/businesses, and diasporic individuals. At least one of the **Institute's co-Directors** and at least one member of the Steering Committee sit on the External Advisory Board.
- b. The External Advisory Board shall be the principal liaison between the Institute and the wider Black and African diaspora communities outside SFU.
- c. The External Advisory Board has the following main responsibilities and functions:
 - Provide advice and information to the co-Directors and Steering Committee on important Black and African diaspora-related issues relevant to the Institute.
 - Make (non-binding) recommendations to the co-Directors and Steering Committee.

4. Support Staff

As per section 3.2.g of this Constitution, the co-Directors shall appoint the requisite staff to assist in the operation and administration of the Institute.

5. Research Associates & Research Assistants

- a. The co-Directors shall approve/appoint Research Associates of the Institute. Research Associates are researchers from inside or outside SFU conducting diaspora-related research who are temporarily affiliated with the Institute.
- b. The co-Directors shall approve/appoint Research Assistants, who are SFU graduate and undergraduate students conducting research under Institute auspices.
- c. Research Associates and Research Assistants shall have the status, and enjoy the privileges, of associate membership in the Institute (as per section 3.3) for the duration of their affiliation with, or appointment to, the Institute.

6. Training and Mentorship Opportunities for Students

The Institute shall provide the following Training and Mentorship Opportunities for SFU Students:

- a. Provide internships and co-op opportunities for Black/African students and others interested in Black and African Diaspora issues.
- b. Create opportunities for students to research Black and African Diaspora through Research Assistantships, symposia, etc.
- c. In consultation with students' home units, provide support (including supervisory support) for graduate and undergraduate students undertaking research on Black/African Diaspora issues as part of their degree/program requirements.
- d. Involve students in grant applications, conference organizing, etc.
- e. Facilitate experiential learning and other initiatives to support Black and African studies programs at SFU.

7. Reporting

- a. In accordance with section 5.6 of SFU Policy R 40.01, the co-Directors report to the VPRI in matters relating to the Institute.
- b. An annual report on the Institute's activities from April 1 to March 31, including the current membership of the Institute, Steering Committee, External Advisory Board, Support Personnel, Research Associates and Research Assistants shall be submitted by the co-Directors to the VPRI by June 30th each year.
- c. An annual Financial Statement showing revenues and expenditures for the twelve months ending March 31 of each year shall be submitted by the co-Directors to the VPRI by June 30 each year.
- d. The activities of the Institute shall be reviewed by the VPRI or designate.

8. Other SFU Collaborations/Affiliations

- a. The Institute shall collaborate with all SFU Faculties and academic/administrative units to facilitate the flourishing of Black/African research and scholarship (including the scholarship of teaching and learning).
- b. The Institute shall affiliate with the SFU Black Caucus to address issues of mutual interest and concern to the Institute and Caucus, and advance their interests to the wider University community.
- c. The Institute shall collaborate with and support Indigenous Peoples' initiatives at SFU through the Office for Aboriginal Peoples.

9. Ratification & Revisions

- a. Ratification of this *Constitution* requires a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Institute Steering Committee.
- b. Any revisions to this *Constitution*, regarding the Institute's purposes, governance, membership, operations, and collaborations/affiliations (subject to the terms of SFU Policies and Procedures), shall also require a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Institute Steering Committee.

Summary of changes to IBADRE Constitution (Compared to IDRE Constitution)

The main differences between the new IBADRE Constitution and the IDRE Constitution are highlighted (in yellow) in the text of the new Constitution document.

The main changes are summarized below.

Section 2 (Purposes & Goals)

The IBADRE Constitution sharpens the focus of, and elaborates on, the goals specified in the IDRE Constitution, reflecting the reconstitution of the latter. These new goals are specified in section 2a, 2b, and 2d –2h.

Section 3 (Governance)

The IBADRE Constitution has new governance arrangements including Steering Committee (section 3.1, a –f); co-Directors (section 3.2, a–i); Membership (section 3.3, c-g); External Advisory Board (section 3.4, a).

Sections 4, 5 and 6

The IBADRE Constitution provides for Support Staff (section 4), Research Associates & Research Assistants (section 5, a–c), and Training & Mentorship for Students (section 6, a–e).

Section 8

The new Constitution specifies that the IBADRE will affiliate with the SFU Black Caucus (section 8 b) and collaborate with the Office for Indigenous Affairs (section 8 c).

Institute for Diaspora Research and Engagement (IDRE)

Search VP Research

Search

Director:

James Busumtwi-Sam

Chair, Department of Political Science

Chair, Senate Committee on International Activities (SCIA)

BA (Ghana), MA (Brock), PhD (Tor)

Tel: 778.782.3729

jbusumtw@sfu.ca

The Institute's primary purpose is to be an internationally recognized institute that integrates leading-edge interdisciplinary research on diaspora with innovative, responsive programming and collaborative dialogue, exchange and partnership with the wider community.

The Institute's activities are primarily intended to forge closer links between scholarly research and policy/practice – such that the knowledge gained from research helps inform policy and practice, and the latter helps inform research. The premise is that university-based researchers have as much to learn from practitioners and policymakers as the latter have to learn from researchers; and that these exchanges could in turn inform the work of future actors. The Institute will serve as a node where academic researchers, students, diasporic community leaders and groups, government officials, leaders in the non-profit and for-profit sectors, and others exchange knowledge and resources.

The Institute will carry out three main functions:

Conduct and coordinate interdisciplinary scholarly and community-based research on diaspora, and provide research-related and research-informed services to diasporic communities and others interested in diaspora. Research will be structured around four thematic areas listed in appendix

Incubate diaspora-driven projects by offering two core services: capacity-building programs to develop skills and sustainable project concepts/proposals, and channeling funding to seed or scale-up diaspora-driven projects. International projects selected for support by the Institute will be fully consistent with the University's mission, institutional values and practices, as per SFU Policy on International Activities (GP 23). [Appendix 2 provides examples of these incubation activities]

Serve as a hub to connect diaspora individuals, communities, organizations and researchers and to exchange knowledge and research with one another, the Canadian public, and organizations; and to link diaspora to funding and project opportunities, to research and expertise, and to innovation in diaspora-driven initiatives.



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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate
FROM Jon Driver, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, and Chair, SCUP
RE: Institute for Diaspora Research and Engagement (IDRE) (SCUP 12-49)

DATE December 12, 2012
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At its December 5, 2012 meeting SCUP reviewed and approved the proposal for the establishment of the Institute for Diaspora Research and Engagement (IDRE).

Motion:

That Senate approve the proposal for the establishment of the Institute for Diaspora Research and Engagement as an Institute for a five year term.

encl.

c: J. Busumtwi-Sam
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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Sarah Dench, Secretary
Senate Committee on University Planning
(SCUP)

DATE November 20, 2012

FROM Norbert H. Haunerland

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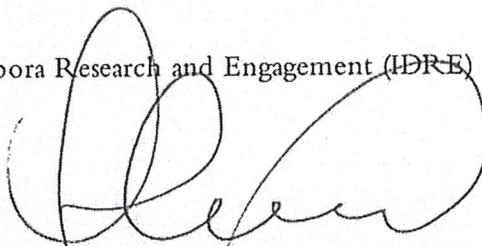
RE: Institute for Diaspora Research and Engagement (IDRE)

Attached is a proposal from Dr. James Busumtwi-Sam, Chair Department of Political Science for the establishment of the Institute for Diaspora Research and Engagement (IDRE).

I recommend approval as a research Institute according to Policy 40.01. Once approved by SCUP the proposal should be sent to Senate and the Board of Governors for information.

Motion:

That SCUP approves the Institute for Diaspora Research and Engagement (IDRE) as an Institute for a 5 year term.



Dr. Norbert Haunerland
Associate Vice-President, Research

Attachment

C: Dr. James Busumtwi-Sam, Chair, Department of Political Science

INSTITUTE FOR DIASPORA RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT (IDRE)

Proposal (November 7, 2012)

PREAMBLE

Simon Fraser University's current Strategic Research Plan guides the University "in responding effectively to the changing environment in research opportunities... and promotes SFU's research strengths to government, community partners, and funding organizations". SFU's Strategic Vision is "to be the leading engaged university defined by its dynamic integration of innovative education, cutting-edge research and far-reaching community engagement." This commitment to responding to new research opportunities, promoting research to wider audiences, and linking research, community engagement and education provides a platform for the proposed Institute for Diaspora Research and Engagement.

CONTEXT

Diaspora literally means a dispersal of peoples. The Institute's working understanding of the concept includes individuals and groups whose attachment to two or more locations within and across national boundaries is expressed through organized activities, connections and networks.

The past decade or so has witnessed a burgeoning of interest in diaspora in academia and in public policy, philanthropy, and business. Within the academy, research into diaspora has become truly multidisciplinary. Once almost exclusively the purview of anthropologists and historians, today scholars from a wide range of disciplines at SFU and elsewhere are conducting research into diaspora. Policymakers and practitioners in government and major international organizations, as well as some of the major national and international NGOs and corporations, are paying increased attention to diaspora, and establishing programs and offices dedicated to engaging diaspora. Several universities in Canada and abroad have established programs, centres and institutes devoted to the study of diaspora including the University of Toronto and Carleton University in Canada, and Oxford University in the UK.

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The Institute's primary purpose is to be an internationally recognized institute that integrates leading-edge interdisciplinary research on diaspora with innovative, responsive programming and collaborative dialogue, exchange and partnership with the wider community.
- 1.2 The Institute is affiliated with Simon Fraser University and conducts its activities in such a way as to enhance the reputation and the programs of the University.

2. ACTIVITIES

- 2.1 The Institute's activities are primarily intended to forge closer links between scholarly research and policy/practice – such that the knowledge gained from research helps inform policy and practice, and the latter helps inform research. The premise is that university-based researchers have as much to learn from practitioners and policymakers as the latter have to learn from researchers; and that these exchanges could in turn inform the work of future actors. The Institute will serve as a node where academic researchers, students, diasporic community leaders and groups, government officials, leaders in the non-profit and for-profit sectors, and others exchange knowledge and resources.

3. FUNCTIONS

The Institute will carry out three main functions:

3.1 *Conduct and coordinate interdisciplinary scholarly and community-based research on diaspora, and provide research-related and research-informed services to diasporic communities and others interested in diaspora. Research will be structured around four thematic areas listed in appendix 1.*

3.2 *Incubate diaspora-driven projects by offering two core services: capacity-building programs to develop skills and sustainable project concepts/proposals, and channeling funding to seed or scale-up diaspora-driven projects. International projects selected for support by the Institute will be fully consistent with the University's mission, institutional values and practices, as per SFU Policy on International Activities (GP 23). [Appendix 2 provides examples of these incubation activities]*

3.3 *Serve as a hub to connect diaspora individuals, communities, organizations and researchers and to exchange knowledge and research with one another, the Canadian public, and organizations; and to link diaspora to funding and project opportunities, to research and expertise, and to innovation in diaspora-driven initiatives.*

4. GOVERNANCE:

4.1 The Institute is constituted as a research institute at Simon Fraser University under the terms of SFU Policy R 40.01, comes under the authority of the Vice President Research, and conducts its affairs in accordance with all other University policies. The term of the Institute is five years as per SFU Policy R 40.01.

4.2 An annual report on the Institute's activities and financial status from April 1 to March 31, including the current membership of the Institute, *Steering Committee and Advisory Board*, will be submitted to the Vice President Research by June 30th of each year.

4.3 Membership: The Institute has two types of members:

Full members: Full members are SFU faculty members, staff, and graduate students from various disciplines/academic units actively involved in diaspora-related research and engagement. Full membership will also include at least one representative from the office of the Vice-President, External Relations.

Associate Members: These are representatives of various diaspora-related community organizations and associations, as well as representatives of organizational partners.

Prospective members (full and associate) will apply directly to the Institute's steering committee, which will determine and approve eligibility for membership.

4.4 The Institute is governed by a Steering Committee and headed by a Director. There is also an Advisory Board.

4.5 The Director of the Institute is an SFU faculty member nominated by the Steering Committee and appointed by the Vice President Research. The Director serves a renewable three-year term.

4.6 The Director's tasks include the following responsibility, which he/she may delegate but not abrogate.

- Chair the steering committee
- Oversee Institute activities and meetings
- Oversee finances and approve contracts
- Recruit members
- Hire requisite personnel, including support staff and research assistants
- Prepare annual reports to the VP Research.

4.7 Steering Committee

- Consists of at least 6 faculty members, one graduate student, one staff member, and a representative of the VP External Relations office.
- Members of the Steering Committee serve three-year renewable terms.

- The steering committee will be responsible for setting overall priorities, direction and strategic planning for the Institute and oversee the management of its operations. It will support the development of linkages between community stakeholders and funders of the Institute. It is also responsible for approving membership in the Institute. Decisions made by the steering committee are binding on the Director. While it will normally operate by consensus, when necessary it can make decisions by majority vote, including appointment of new members of the steering committee.
- The steering committee may choose to establish various ad hoc committees consisting of the members of the Institute, members of diaspora communities, and partner organizations in order to carry out specific functions of the Institute. These committees will be advisory in nature.
- Initial Steering Committee members are listed in appendix 2.

4.8 Advisory Board

- Consists of 8-10 representatives of diaspora-related community organizations and associations and NGO/business organizational partners who are associate Institute members. Specific criteria for selection of advisory board membership will be developed. The Institute's Director and at least one member of the steering committee sit on the advisory committee.
- Membership is from diverse sectors including: business and finance, health, arts/culture, education, technology, green economy/sustainability, governance/public policy, information and communications, indigenous affairs.
- Its main functions are to serve as the principal liaison between the Institute and the wider communities it serves, and provide advice and information to the Director and Steering Committee on important diaspora-related issues. It may make (non-binding) recommendations to the Director and steering committee.

5. FUNDING

- 5.1 Initial funding for the establishment of the Institute will be provided by External Relations and other sources.
- 5.2 Additional and ongoing funding will be secured from sources external to the university.

PARTNERS

Partners of the Institute will include representatives of faculties engaged in diaspora research at SFU, national and international academic institutional partners, diaspora organizations, non-governmental organizations, funders, and public/government agencies. A list of potential partners is outlined in Appendix 3.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact:

James Busumtwi-Sam, Political Science – 778.782.3729 or ibusumtw@sfu.ca

Shaheen Nanji, External Relations – 778.782.5576 or nanji@sfu.ca

APPENDIX I: PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

1. Interdisciplinary Research

The Institute will undertake two broad types of research: The first will be the more 'traditional' scholarly research geared primarily towards academic and/or policy audiences. The second will be 'non-traditional' community-based or 'action' research geared towards serving diaspora communities and other stakeholders. The Institute will seek to develop innovative ways to tie the two types of research closer together.

The Institute will bring together researchers and graduate students from various academic units and faculties within SFU, as well as link SFU researchers with researchers in other academic institutions, research organizations and think tanks.

The institute will also serve as a centre for the collection, collation and exchange of information on diaspora. Research findings will be distributed and exchanged through established scholarly avenues (peer reviewed books, journals, etc) and newer avenues including social media via the 'diaspora hub'.

Institute research will be structured around four thematic areas:¹

- Research on the nature of diaspora and the conditions that affect diaspora formation in Canada and around the world.
- Research on diaspora activities across a range of substantive issue-areas at various scales (local to global) of concern to public and private agencies, and on the impact of diaspora on processes and outcomes in these issue-areas. A non-exhaustive list of these issues include: peace and security; development (poverty, inequality, growth, etc.); environment and sustainability; public health; food and nutrition; human/civil rights and gender equality; indigenous rights; arts and culture; technology and energy; trade, investment, and entrepreneurship.
- Research on the challenges to, opportunities for, and strategies of enhanced engagement of diaspora by public and private agencies.
- Research on the relationship between 'diasporism' and other important normative-ideational and policy frameworks of importance to Canada and many other countries around the world, including the relationship between diasporism and multiculturalism; diasporism and pluralism; diasporism and national identity/cohesion; diasporism and democratic citizenship; and diasporism and cosmopolitanism.

2. Project Incubator

Many diaspora-driven projects would benefit from ongoing support, mentoring, research, project design and planning as well as financing to seed new ideas or scale-up existing projects. The incubator focuses on diaspora-driven international development initiatives consistent with current development priorities and practices, and offers two core services: capacity-building programs to develop skills and sustainable project concepts/proposals, through knowledge exchange, mentorship, and advisory services to selected projects; and an investment fund to seed or scale-up diaspora-driven projects. Project leads that meet the Institute criteria would be provided with access to the resources of the university – the library, a workspace, and student research assistants in accordance with SFU Policy GP 36: Use of University Space. Selected projects would be supported technically and financially to the point in their development when they can operate independently and sustainably. The incubator will be operated using external funds raised in accordance with SFU Policy GP 03: Donations, and managed in accordance with SFU Policy GP 20: Service Contracts.

¹These research areas are relevant to several of the integrative research themes identified in SFU's current Strategic Research Plan including, but not limited to, 'Culture, Society and Human Behaviour'; 'Economic Organization, Public Policy and Global Community'; and 'Environment, Resources and Conservation'

Strategies for funding this component might include:

- Create and manage a fund that supports diaspora programming at SFU through a partnership agreement with a donor (private or public sector). Conceivably, such a partnership might have benefit to an organization that is either charged with serving diaspora populations or relies on diaspora clientele, thus creating an opportunity for mutual benefit from such a fund. In addition to financing start-up projects, the funding would support the capacity-building programming component of the Institute.
- Develop an angel investment network² in partnership with a donor and other investors to incubate diaspora-driven development initiatives, social enterprises, and innovations.
- Work collaboratively with other organizations or institutions to develop and support diaspora-based development initiatives that meet the Institute's core mandate.

3. Diaspora Hub

The diaspora hub will connect diaspora individuals, communities, organizations and researchers with one another; and distribute and exchange knowledge and research to stakeholders and the general public. The hub will develop networks and exchange information through the use of databases, social media, a website, listservs, and public engagement activities, such as a community-based dialogue series.

² Angel investors often make investments in people rather than the viability of the initiative. In many cases they contribute their expertise to the venture to help ensure success. Angel investment networks generally pool their investments to help absorb the risk. For the purpose of the institute the network would be focussed on development initiatives and social ventures.

APPENDIX 2: STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Steering Committee

Robert Anderson, DEVS Program (FENV) & School of Communications (FCAT)
James Busumtwi-Sam, Political Science (FASS)
Alexander Dawson, Latin American Studies & History (FASS)
June Francis, Beedie School of Business
Huamei Han, Faculty of Education
Shaheen Nanji, International Development, External Relations
Ash Parmeswaran, Engineering Science (FAS)
Paul Crowe, David Lam Centre International Communication (FASS)
Joanna Ashworth, Centre for Sustainable Community Development (FENV)
Habiba Zaman, Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies (FASS)

APPENDIX 2: SFU PARTNERS (Centres, Institutes & Programs)

Centre for the Comparative Study of Muslim Societies and Cultures
Centre for Global Political Economy
Centre for Public Opinion and Political Representation
Centre for Sustainable Community Development
David Lam Centre for International Education
Development and Sustainability Program
Hellenic Studies Program
Institute of Governance Studies
Latin American Studies Program
Office of Francophone and Francophile Affairs

APPENDIX 3: POTENTIAL EXTERNAL PARTNERS

Academic Institutions/Research Institutes

Carleton University, Diaspora and Migration Studies
International Diaspora Engagement Agency (IDEA), USAID
Mosaic Institute, Toronto
Oxford University, Oxford Diaspora Programme
University of Ottawa, School for International Development and Global Studies, Dr. Carlo Dade
University of Toronto, Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies

Non-Governmental Organizations

British Columbia Council for International Cooperation
CUSO International
Engineers Without Borders
Free the Children
International Centre for Sustainable Cities
MOSAIC
Oxfam Canada
Save the Children
S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
UNICEF Canada
World Vision

WUSC
YMCA Canada

Diaspora Organizations/NGOs

African Canadian Social Development Council
BC Young Afghans
Dr. Njenga Foundation for Sustainable HIV/AIDS Projects (Kenya)
Education without Borders (South Africa)
Empire Foundation (Philippines)
LatinCouver
Maria-Helena Foundation (Pakistan)
Nepal Cultural Society (Nepal)
Peace It Together Society (Israel/Middle East)
Point Youth Media (East Africa)
Ugandan Cultural Association of BC (Uganda)
Umoja Compassion Society (Africa)
Youth Initiative Canada (Kenya)

Government (Canada)

BC Ministry for Jobs, Tourism and Innovation (includes immigration)
BC Advance Education (includes multiculturalism)
Canadian International Development Agency
Human Resources and Development Canada
Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism

Government (International)

International Diaspora Engagement Alliance, US State Department
USAID
Diaspora ministries in various countries

Private Sector

MentorCloud

Funding Partners

International Development Research Council
Maytree Foundation
S-Vox
This Global Village/Love Global
UN Family of Agencies
Vancouver Foundation
World Bank
(Other foundations, individual and corporate donors to be identified)