



President's Action Committee on Anti-Racism (PACAR)

DRAFT Minutes

December 11, 2024

4:00-5:30 pm

TEAMS

Attendees:

Amanda Cockshutt, Megan Fogarty, Cindy MacKenzie, Blair Maltby, Jane McMillan, Sabina Skinner, Ann Sylliboy, Elizabeth Yeo, and *Jennifer Sylvester (Recording)*

Regrets

Marcel Desmond, Jennifer Desmond, Gord Gallimore, Ornella, Kerry Prosper, Tara Reddick, Kaisan Stevens, Robert Upshaw

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement was offered by E. Yeo.

J. McMillan motioned to accept the agenda as presented, motion seconded by A. Cockshutt.

Co-Chair E. Yeo shared the summary of recommendations stemming from the Annual General Meeting to guide next steps. Discussions following the review of next steps.

Areas of emphasis and development for the coming year:

- 1) Advance Reconciliation and Decolonization as its own area of focus

Faculty Committee on Reconciliation and Decolonization has been reactivated, Dean Morten is chair. Will focus on mobilizing activities to support research, teaching, science, land-based learning. **Action: Elizabeth/Amanda- discuss ways for PACAR to support this committee to stay connected and aligned with PACAR**

- 2) Strengthen communications about the work happening at the University both internally and externally. In addition to the community updates and AGM, there is a need for additional tools to inform community and key stakeholders. **Action: Cindy to bring back a plan for strengthening communications to include tools such as website updates, social media, news releases, an email newsletter, extend the community contacts list to include community leaders and leverage existing communications such as Seniors Action Community Newsletter in Guysborough.** Focus on sharing information about key developments and upcoming events and activities such as the establishment and work underway in the Deveau Centre for Indigenous Governance and Social Justice, the establishment and opening of the Agnes Calliste Academic and Cultural Centre and two



new positions to support recruitment and retention of African NS/Black students, the securing ongoing funding and two new positions to support pathways to education and career/employment transition for African NS and Mi'kmaq students (BOLD project).

- 3) Strengthen outreach and work within the community and in bringing the community into StFX

Working Group Updates:

The Religious Inclusion Working Group Progressing well with an inclusive communication plan. Adjustments to include the Kwanzaa candle lighting and menorah lighting to the annual holiday tree ceremony took place on November 29th.

In discussions with key stakeholders on more inclusive ceremonies on campus and ways to extend the multifaith aspects of the services for students.

M. Fogarty shared that Leadership Council Professional Development on Anti-Islamophobia is scheduled for January 2025 to guide team implementation.

The Agnus Calliste Centre is serving as a hub for faculty, staff, and student engagement with community outreach. There are several events planned for early 2025.

Ongoing discussions on addressing difficulties in facilitating community engagement and participation by addressing available transportation options in the rural communities.

First Year Experience and Transition is focusing on preparing grant applications to support recruitment, retention, and completion strategies and initiating the work of projects that have been funded such as the **BOLD** career development and employment transition project noted above.

The next PACAR meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.