



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

Minutes

May 7, 2025

4:00-5:00 pm

TEAMS

Attendees:

Megan Fogarty, Ornella Nzindukiyimana, Akua Amankwah- Poku, Ann Sylliboy, Robert Upshaw, Sabrina Skinner, Elizabeth Yeo, and *Jennifer Sylvester (Recording)*

Regrets:

Amanda Cockshutt, Cindy MacKenzie, Gord Gallimore, Jennifer Desmond, Kaisan Stevens, Kerry Prosper, Jane McMillan, Marcel Desmond, Tara Reddick.

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement was offered by R. Upshaw.

E. Yeo motioned to accept the agenda as presented, motion seconded by O. Nzindukiyimana. No additions or corrections were made therefore the motion carried.

M. Fogarty motioned to accept the minutes as presented, motioned by A. Amankwah-Poku. No additions or corrections were made therefore the motion to move the minutes carried.

Co-Chairs

R. Upshaw shared that the Black Student Success Centre, the Dr. Agnes Calliste Academic and Cultural Centre Calliste Centre provided their year-end update and will be working in the a more structured plan for next year plan with emphasis on experiential learning.

The **International Youth Internship Program (IYIP)** will soon be accepting applications for its third cohort! Jointly implemented by the Atlantic Council for International Cooperation (ACIC) and the Marine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador, the program offers youth the opportunity to gain **valuable international work experience** through 4-month internship placements with partner organizations in **Africa, the Caribbean, Asia, and Central America**.

Indigenous Education cohort is open to educators who are teaching First Nations, Metis or Inuit students. Currently there are both Indigenous and non-Indigenous educators participating from across the country (Nova Scotia, Nunavik, Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Northern Alberta and Northern Manitoba) bringing a great deal of richness to our learning conversations.

Exciting enhancements to St. Francis Xavier University Convocation Ceremonies



StFX is pleased to announce new meaningful and significant additions to convocation ceremonies. In response to the PACAR Action Items regarding ceremony, Spring Convocation 2025 began recognizing the important role Black and Indigenous students play in the campus community. An African drum processional played by Dr. Agnes Calliste Academic and Cultural Centre staff and StFX students kicked off convocation ceremonies. Indigenous stoles designed specifically for Indigenous students were also worn by graduates.

The Indigenous stoles were a project spearheaded by the Indigenous Students' Society and endorsed by the Convocation Committee. A design contest was held, and the chosen design was incorporated into the stoles, which were produced by an Indigenous fabric artist based in New Brunswick.

The African drumming was incorporated into the academic procession as a response to the President's Action Committee on Anti-Racism (PACAR) recommendation about incorporating a ceremonial element that represents the history of peoples of African descent into convocation. After consultation with the Agnes Calliste Centre, it was determined that drumming was the most inclusive way of representing African history and identity during this important moment in a student's academic career.

Moving forward these elements will play a significant role in convocation ceremonies.

The search for a new Indigenous Student Advisor is underway. The Coordinator of Indigenous Student Affairs is committed to enhancing Indigenous student experience by providing support, guidance and encouragement in the pursuit of educational success.

The Coordinator of Indigenous Student Affairs also advocates on behalf of Indigenous students at StFX and assists with many aspects of student life through the following services:

Religious Inclusion Working Group

We are ready to document a draft action plan. PACAR will have an opportunity to review and provide feedback.

A Post-Secondary framework will create a council comprised of members working on the framework and we would urge all to participate for an inclusive curriculum. The final details that are being prepared for Advanced Education will include a 2 hour consultation to be submitted to the provincial council.

Next Steps

StFX Communications to share the new inclusive measures offered at the Spring Convocation ceremonies with community to celebrate the advancement of more inclusive events.



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Meeting adjourned at 5:03 pm