



President's Action Committee on Anti-Racism (PACAR)
Religious Inclusion Working Group
Minutes
July 8, 2025
4:00-5:00 pm
Teams

Attendees

Barry MacKenzie, Sara Parks, Sylvie Brazeau, Donna Trembinski, Donald MacGillivray, Muffy McIntyre, and Elizabeth Yeo (Chair)

Regrets

Islam Ahmed, Jamie Levin, Abby Hopkins, Caspian Tohidian, Moran Wortman, and Hailey Qualizza

Sylvie Brazeau moved to approve the agenda for today's meeting. Muffy McIntyre seconded the motion. The agenda was approved as presented.

The minutes of the May 29th meeting were accepted as presented.

The revised draft Report of the RIWG, including the Action Plan, had been shared for review. Members were invited to provide comments and edits, with particular attention to the following areas:

- Page 14 – Action Item 8: Enhance Multifaith and Secular Support
- Page 24 – Appendix 1: DRAFT Framework for Religious and Spiritual Services and Programming
- Page 16 – Action Item 10: Document a StFX Ceremonial Policy
- Page 18 – Reflections on the University Motto and University Ceremony

It was noted that the RIWG's mandate is guided by the University Act, the By-Laws and a new document for our consideration is the position description of the Vicar of the Founder as established by the Board in March 2015. These documents underscore the importance of upholding Catholic heritage while creating a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere for all members of the university community. StFX is unique among institutions in having the preservation of its Catholic heritage enshrined in the Act.

The working group members provided updates on their research concerning how other regional universities integrate religious heritage into official ceremonial events. It was noted that some



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schools with religious roots preserve core ceremonial elements such as an opening or closing prayer while others have moved away from that practice and provide information or symbolic representation of religious heritage through descriptions in programs, or via symbolism such as a ceremonial mace. Chapel services that mark key points in the academic calendar are normally held as an optional event outside of the ceremonial event. A summary of the schools researched is attached. Discussion ensued concerning the merit of different approaches StFX could consider.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm