



President's Action Committee on Anti-Racism (PACAR)
Religious Inclusion Working Group
DRAFT Minutes
February 26, 2025
9:00-10:00 am

TEAMS

Attendees:

Sylvia Brazeau, Abby Hopkins, Donald MacGillivray, Sara Parks, Donna Trembinski, Elizabeth Yeo, and Jennifer Sylvester (*Recording*)

Regrets

Islam Ahmed, Jamie Levin, Muffy McIntyre, Barry MacKenzie, Caspian Tohidian, Moran Wortman

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement was offered by E. Yeo.

S. Parks motioned to accept the agenda as presented, motion seconded by A. Hopkins.

Group discussions surrounding heritage, cultural inclusion, and institutional identity within a diverse student community. The committee agree, people's perceptions of heritage are shaped by their personal backgrounds, cultural upbringing, and lived experiences. What one person sees as valuable heritage might not hold the same significance for someone from a different cultural or historical perspective.

Last year's convocation was highlighted as a ceremonial example of recognizing and protecting diverse cultural heritage, in addition to recognizing and celebrating marginalized communities. Committee members at the ceremony felt it was a balance of past and present. As we move forward in our ceremonies, we will continue to give intentional thought to the program to ensure we are successful in our efforts for celebration and belonging.

The group discussed the importance of making students feel genuinely included rather than tokenized. The institution, rooted in Catholic traditions, must also recognize the diversity of beliefs and practices on campus.

The impact of religious symbols and potential trauma for some students was acknowledged. The model in Student Services and the diverse residence team are continually working to create an inclusive environment.

The Catholic Church's historical role in shaping the institution was noted, with its lasting influence on architecture, teachings, and traditions. Our institution and the Antigonish



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Movement are known worldwide, and we continue to be an institution committed to social justice, experiential learning, and community service.

The goal is to create an environment where all students feel welcome, included, and as a place for them to be themselves which includes at ceremonial and cultural events.

We will continue discussions on heritage, ceremonial celebrations, and how to further develop our multifaith model on campus.

The next PACAR Religious Inclusion Working Group meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 am.