

ATLANTIC CANADA ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION (ACEA)

Annual General Meeting

Agenda

Sunday, October 19, 2025 11:00am-12:30pm
Core Science Facility 1302, Memorial University

1. Call to Order
 - 11:10am Newfoundland Time
 - 15 members in attendance (quorum present; 15/60 members = 25%)
2. Approval of Agenda
 - Motion to adopt agenda by Burç Kayahan, seconded by Rober Martínez-Espiñeira, no discussion, all approve
3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting (October 27, 2024)
 - Available Online: <https://economics.acadiau.ca/annual-general-meeting.html>
 - Motion to adopt minutes by Burç Kayahan, seconded by Didier Tatoutchoup, no discussion, all approve
4. 51st Annual Conference hosted by Memorial University October 17-19, 2025 – Derek Messacar
 - Derek reported that the conference was successful by all accounts. He thanked conference participants for travelling to St. John's, and for engaging with each other throughout the weekend. He also acknowledged the conference sponsors and members of the organizing committee: Lynn Gambin, Tony Fang and Blair Long. The assembly echoed Derek's thanks and further acknowledged his leadership of the organizing committee in planning and executing an excellent conference.
5. Student Prizes
 - In addition to student travel grants, which will be paid after the conference, the ACEA offers prizes for the best presentations by a junior and senior student, respectively. There were no undergraduate presentations at this conference, so Master's students are considered junior and Ph.D. students are considered senior. The winners will receive a nominal cash prize (\$100 for each category to be paid after the conference), as well as the opportunity to publish their abstract or preprint in ACER/RECA.
 - Rober Martínez-Espiñeira announced the winners on behalf of the judging panel: Xiaoling Zhang, Saint Mary's University (Junior) and Chika Agbo, Toronto Metropolitan University (Senior).

- The assembly thanked the following people for serving as judges for the student prizes: Rober Martínez-Espiñeira (Memorial University); Kam Hon Chu (Memorial University); George Jia (University of Prince Edward Island); and Cory Langlais (Mount Allison University). A special thanks to Cory for coordinating the judging panel.
6. 2026 Conference at Acadia University
- Next year's conference will be hosted by Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Andrew Davis (Department Head) thanked the conference organizers at Memorial University for this year's conference and looks forward to welcoming everyone to Acadia next year. If anyone has questions or suggestions for the conference, they can reach out to Andrew directly.
7. Incorporation of ACEA – Didier Tatoutchoup
- The filing of our incorporation documents went smoothly, and the process is now complete. As a reminder, incorporation was done in New Brunswick. The signatories were Didier Tatoutchoup, Alan Chan and Rob Moir. The assembly thanked the signatories, as well as others who helped with the incorporation process. This includes Secretary-Treasurer Burç Kayahan who worked with H&R Block to file our tax return for the first time as an incorporated entity.
8. ACEA Finances – Burç Kayahan
- We filed taxes for the first time as an incorporated entity using H&R Block. It was a seamless process, and Burç thinks we may be able to do it in-house going forward.
 - The ACEA is in good shape financially. We have \$25,230.35 in investments (\$5,036.38 in cashable GICs and \$20,193.97 in non-redeemable GICs, both of which will mature in June 2026).
 - The day-to-day accounts are currently in flux due to conference revenues and expenses. The ACEA does not expect a net profit from the conference as we have directed any expected conference surplus to supporting student travel. The forecasted balance at the end of October is \$5,624.02
 - The assembly thanked Burç for his time and effort as Secretary-Treasurer.
9. ACEA Website – Burç Kayahan
- The ACEA website is hosted at Acadia University. Burç keeps the website up to date and welcomes suggestions going forward.
10. Atlantic Canada Economic Review/Revue d'Économie du Canada Atlantique (ACER/RECA) – George Jia
- The journal has experienced a healthier stream of submissions in the past year (seven submissions resulting in four publications and two papers still in the review process).

- The journal has a new, cleaner template and website.
- ACER/RECA will again invite student prize winners to publish their abstract or preprint in the journal.
- George asks that everyone respond in a timely manner to reviewer requests, even if they're unable to do so. This will help expedite the review process.
- The journal is awarding a 'best paper prize' for the first time this year (\$500), as voted by conference participants. The winner of the inaugural prize is 'Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Field of Economics in Atlantic Canada' by Angela Daley, Nazanin Behzadan and Lynn Gambin. Congratulations!
- The Executive thanks George for his time and effort in revitalizing the journal.

11. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee – James Sawler

- The Committee is continuing its conference-related initiatives, including the mentoring workshop for students and early-career faculty, as well as liaising with the organizing committee to ensure that the mandate of the committee is reflected in the conference program. Conference organizer Derek Messacar suggested that ACEA consider providing dedicated funding for a keynote speaker on DEI-related topics.
- The Committee is planning to move ahead with its study on culturally responsive teaching. After completing the research ethics process, we will contact ACEA members and other faculty throughout the Atlantic region about participating in the study. The Committee asks that faculty strongly consider participating in this study, along with their students in introductory courses. There will be incentives for student participation (e.g., raffles for gift cards).
- The Committee is open to ideas for new initiatives and welcomes new members if anyone is interested in joining.
- The assembly thanked the Committee for its continued commitment to these initiatives in support of diversity, equity and inclusion in the economics profession in Atlantic Canada.

12. Nominations and Elections for ACEA President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, ACER/RECA Chief Editor and Co-Editor

- Angela reviewed the process for nominations and elections per our constitution.
- The Executive put forward a slate of candidates. With no nominations submitted in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer and no nominations from the floor, the nominations were considered closed. There was no vote required, with just one nominee per vacant position. Thus, the following people have been elected to serve in ACEA leadership positions: Alan Chan (President); Maryam Dilmaghani (Vice President); Burç Kayahan (Secretary-Treasurer until May 2026); ACER/RECA Chief Editor (George Jia); and ACER/RECA Co-Editor (Barry Watson). Thank you and congratulations!

- We will need a new Secretary-Treasurer by May 2026, at which point Burç will take a leadership role in organizing the next annual conference at Acadia University. There was some discussion about whether Burç could serve in both roles, but the consensus is that they should be separate. Burç notes that the Secretary-Treasurer position would be a good service and networking opportunity for an early-career faculty member.

13. Other Business, Announcements

- On behalf of David Chaundy, Angela Daley announced that the Student Panel of the Atlantic Association of Applied Economists will be held in early March to avoid conflicts with term projects and exams. It will continue to be a hybrid event. There will be up to three undergraduate presentations, and the session will conclude with one graduate student presentation. All participants will receive a certificate of participation and membership in the Atlantic Association of Applied Economists. There will also be cash prizes for undergraduate students (\$250 for first place, \$100 for second place and \$75 for third place). Angela encouraged faculty members to publicize this event to their students, and for students to participate in the event.

14. Adjournment

- 12:00pm Newfoundland Time

Minutes prepared by Angela Daley