



February 1, 2023

RESPONSE from International ACAC on Conference Planning & Recent Rejection for AP African American Studies in Florida

As we continue to plan the annual summer conference at Florida International University (FIU), International ACAC recognizes the recent ruling from the State of Florida banning AP African American Studies in schools, and other state-level legislation that impacts our members and conflicts with [International ACAC's Statement of Diversity and Inclusion](#).

FIU was selected to host the 2021 Conference in 2019 but postponed to 2023 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many factors were considered in the selection of host including the number of proposals received, efforts to rotate among regions, sites adequate facilities and staffing to support the scale of the event, and budget.

Some members have expressed the desire to avoid specific locations because of certain legislation including U.S. state policies that bans state-funded travel to certain states.

The [Executive Board](#) is in discussions on the role of local, state, and federal policies in planning and selecting host sites for events. As this work continues, here is what we can commit to you now and moving forward.

Short-Term

- International ACAC has already contacted [NACAC](#) for their next steps to address the ruling with its general membership. Note: International ACAC is an affiliate association with the National Association of College Admission Counseling.
- The Executive Board will communicate your concerns to the FIU Conference Planning Committee.
- Members can dialogue with the International ACAC Presidential team by emailing admin@internationalacac.org.

Longer-Term

- Continuing to dialogue and discuss the annual conference with a broader and inclusive view to align with International ACAC's Mission and Values.
- Commitment to International ACAC's strategic priorities which also includes reimagining events with opportunities for members to engage in this process.

[AP African American Studies](#) is currently in a pilot phase, and already, more than 200 higher education institutions have committed support through credit and placement policies. Resources and contacts are available on the College Board website for additional information, including how institutions can pledge support.

FIU's lead conference organizer, Jody Glassman, Assistant Vice President of Enrollment shares, *FIU is committed to diversity and inclusion. We have built an academic community whose members represent and embrace diverse cultures, backgrounds and life experiences that shape not only South Florida but our global society. The university is looking forward to hosting the annual summer conference, where participants from around the world can, and are encouraged to, engage in healthy debate around a range of issues affecting higher education today.*