



ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Overview

The Advocacy and Outreach Committee acts as an external voice for International ACAC in issues of student advocacy and builds partnerships with other relevant organizations. A&O informs the membership about issues regarding postsecondary education, particularly as they relate to international students. The committee also helps to plan and execute International ACAC Regional Institutes across the globe.

Responsibilities

The Committee monitors issues related to postsecondary education at the local, national, and international levels and is responsible for keeping membership apprised of such issues. The Committee tracks and announces important legislative and government-related updates, and facilitates global education opportunities by researching and identifying viable sites and project managers for the International ACAC Regional Institutes. Committee membership does not necessitate travel to regional institutes; all work is done within the committee meetings and during individual assignments. Committee members take on individual roles such as acting as a regional representative for a part of the world, developing communications for members, and liaising with relevant organizations. A&O committee members assemble subcommittees and advise Project Managers to support Regional Institutes, research and write reports for government organizations, develop key contacts for amplifying International ACAC's advocacy voice, write blog updates for membership, and may even develop ad hoc advocacy committees comprised of non-A&O committee members.

Level of Commitment

The Committee typically holds one hour-long meeting via GoToMeeting approximately every two to four months; the frequency of meetings depends on the time of year and issues of significance. Committee input and progress on projects in between meetings is maintained through the annual summer conference, regular email communication, and use of WhatsApp. Time commitment averages three to five hours per month.

Necessary Traits or Qualities

Members should have a desire and an ability to understand legislative processes and how they may impact postsecondary education. The ability to work independently on projects or in teams, respond to inquiries in a timely manner, and possess creative

energy to contribute to the goals and mission of the committee will be highly valued. Strong written and verbal communication skills are desirable. Other helpful, but not required, traits include regional knowledge of particular geographic areas and educational landscapes that can be used to help plan International ACAC's Regional Institutes.

Challenges and Growth Areas

An area of particular interest to the committee and the International ACAC organization is the growth of local professional development opportunities through expansion of the International ACAC Regional Institutes. Additionally, committee members will likely spend an increasing amount of time interpreting and communicating about various legislative topics, such as changes in world immigration and visa policies, college application systems, or initiatives from constant geopolitical changes. The committee is currently well-provisioned and determined to increase advocacy opportunities by developing relationships with other relevant organizations. At this time, A&O is eager to increase advocacy, outreach and regional awareness in growing membership regions such as Asia, continental Europe, and Africa.

Term Length

Each Committee member actively serves a term of three years, with the term beginning on July 1 of the first year and ending on July 31 of the third year.

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