



## ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

### Overview

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

### Responsibilities

The Committee monitors issues related to postsecondary education and college access 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 various individual roles such as being a regional representative for a part of the world, communications management, liaison to relevant organizations, A&O may assemble local Sub-Committees and advise Project Managers, research and write reports for government organizations, develop key contacts for amplifying International ACAC's advocacy voice, write blog updates for membership, or 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 and college access. 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 like Asia, continental Europe, and Africa.

### **Term Length**

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

*November 2018*