

OACAC Responds to NACAC Assembly Decision on International Recruitment

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For Immediate Release

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(Toronto, Canada) The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) has adopted new language in its Statement of Principles of Good Practice (SPGP) concerning the use of commissioned agents. Universities and colleges now will be permitted to use commissioned agents outside of the United States, provided they follow guidelines to ensure accountability, integrity, and transparency. Rewards or remuneration for agents acting to recruit students in the United States is prohibited under the same statement, adopted at the 69th National Conference in Toronto, Canada.

These changes were taken in response to NACAC's Commission on International Student Recruitment and reflect a significant discussion that is occurring in the profession regarding the use of agents in international Student Recruitment. It is an issue that impacts not only NACAC's members in the United States, but the hundreds of universities that are members outside of the U.S. and students in nearly every country of the world.

While the Overseas Association for College Admission Counseling (OACAC) commends NACAC for taking this issue seriously, supports the work of the Commission on International Student Recruitment and the overall efforts to propose changes to the SPGP that will provide guidance to its membership, it is this association's belief that NACAC needs to seriously consider how this new mandatory practice will affect their own members and students around the world.

At the NACAC Assembly, a governing body of approximately 200 delegates representing the association's 13,000 members, OACAC presented an alternative motion to the proposed SPGP changes. OACAC's motion proposed language that was not specific to the U.S. in order to acknowledge and reflect the international members of NACAC. Presented by Ray Marx, Chief Delegate and Past OACAC President, OACAC's motion would have permitted a member

institution to use commission-based agents outside of their "domestic market". "Our language is inclusive" said Marx, one of several OACAC delegates that spoke in favour of the proposal at The Assembly. OACAC's motion was designed to not discriminate based on nationality, and to protect international and US students equally. The motion that was passed introduces "United States" into NACAC's Mandatory Practices of its SPGP for the first time, thereby creating inequality in standards for recruitment based on citizenship

OACAC's motion was voted on and committed to discussion, which results in the language being reviewed by the Admission Practices Committee over the course of the next year. OACAC is ready to work with the AP committee in developing language that honours the principles of the mandatory practices, but urges NACAC that it must recognize the growing international constituency of its membership and make changes to the language that was passed at the 69th National Conference.

ABOUT OACAC

Founded in 1993, the Overseas Association for College Admission Counseling is NACAC's affiliate association representing over 1600 members from universities, high schools and organizations in more than 95 countries. Its mission is to facilitate global interaction among counselors and institutions in support of secondary students transitioning to higher education, while promoting professional standards that foster ethical and social responsibility.