



## 2021 Executive Board Election Candidate

### Delegate to the NACAC Assembly Application

**Name:** Liam McCartney

**Title:** Senior Assistant Director

**Institution:** Boston University

**Location/Region:** Massachusetts/Canada&US

**Member Group:** Higher Education

### Background and Experience

**Years of experience in post-secondary admissions counseling or related fields?** 8-10 years

**Please describe any professional or volunteer experience you feel would be relevant for serving on the International ACAC Executive Board.**

I have experience working within the volunteer leadership of International ACAC, as I previously served on the Advocacy & Outreach Committee. At my institution (Boston University), I am currently serving on an Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Committee focusing on Human Resources, which seeks to improve hiring, training, and retention within the staff of the Enrollment & Student Administration Unit. These two committee assignments have both provided me with the opportunity to work collaboratively with others on projects outside of my daily routine. I have thoroughly enjoyed working as a part of a team on issues that I care deeply about, and find that this type of work is incredibly rewarding and invigorating. In addition to my communication and organization skills, another attribute that I would bring to the International ACAC Board is a motivating attitude. In the International Admissions Office at Boston University, I encourage my team to set ambitious, yet achievable, goals, and lead each day with a cheerful attitude as we complete our work. I believe that a successful Board needs members that not only align with its goals, but also know how to encourage other members across the organization to accomplish its work.

**Please describe how you have engaged in the international community, and the impact this has had on your professional life. Describe any International ACAC Committee experience you have.**

I have been a member of International ACAC since 2013 and have attended four in-person Summer Conferences, plus the Virtual Conference in Summer 2020, and presented at the 2018 Summer Conference. I also served on the Advocacy & Outreach Committee from 2016-2019, as International ACAC began introducing Regional Institutes to members. I was able to serve on the planning committee for the Latin America Regional Institute in 2018, where I assisted with the review of grants for counselors to attend and later served on faculty. In 2019-2020, I served as the Project Manager for the East Asia & Pacific Regional Institute, which was originally scheduled to be held in Hong Kong and later Singapore before being cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the past few months, I served as a facilitator twice during International ACAC Virtual Programming, both at the Virtual Summer Conference and during the President's Listening Tour.

**Please describe your affiliation with NACAC, if any. How long have you been a member of NACAC? Do you have any volunteer or committee work or experience with NACAC?**

I am a new member of NACAC as of November 2020, and do not have previous experience with this organization. I have been proud of International ACAC's impact on NACAC in recent years, particularly with the work done by the Ad Hoc Committee that focused on the role of Standardized Testing in Admissions Practices. I think this is one example of how the global voices of our organization can have a great impact on the work of NACAC, and I would look forward to adding my voice as a Delegate if elected.

## **Delegate Specific Questions**

**Please list any relevant experience you have as a delegate, or in working with political assemblies. Also, if you have any relevant work with governance issues or with bylaws, be sure to mention those as well.**

As a university student, I served on the Executive Board of my music fraternity (Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia). During that time, I became moderately familiar with Robert's Rules of Order and oversaw several bylaw changes in my role as Secretary.

**Each Delegate is assigned to work alongside a Vice President. Which area(s) would be most interested in and why? Describe your work style.**

There are several areas within the organization that I would be interested in working with. The two areas that most pique my interest are the Advocacy & Outreach Committee and the Inclusion, Access and Success Committee. My term on the AOC is one of the highlights of my membership in International ACAC. Through this committee, I became involved with the Regional Institutes, which I think have been an excellent way that International ACAC can continue to grow and actively engage membership. These Institutes allow our members to engage more frequently throughout the year and in ways that allow unique regional issues to be discussed. Their physical proximity to members who work with students in the region also increases attendance by new International ACAC members or those who, due to funding or

other concerns, may not be able to attend the summer conference. I believe that the networking and professional development opportunities within the International ACAC community have the potential to allow professionals in region to continue to do the work of advancing their students. This is where my interests in AOC and the IAS Committees meet. I would be very interested in helping the Inclusion, Access, and Success Committee continue the great work of the Scholars program, and to consider how new innovations can help this program continue to be successful in our constantly changing landscape. I thrive in a setting that combines independent work grounded in the efforts of a collaborative team. I work best with direct communication from all involved to ensure success for the entire group.

**How would you advance the conversation around diversity and inclusion within International ACAC? How do you believe the Executive Board should function in this capacity?**

Conversations surrounding diversity and inclusion are of the utmost importance to all organizations, particularly one as global as International ACAC. The Executive Board, as the governing body of the organization, needs to ensure that they are listening to the voices of all members, especially those that have not been elevated or represented in the past. The Executive Board needs to ensure that they are constantly listening and doing so proactively. This means taking the step to talk to members throughout the year and find out what their individual concerns are to ensure that we are bringing all of the voices of our membership forward when making decisions for the organization. I believe that the conversations around diversity and inclusion need to be included in all other conversations and decisions that are made. Diversity and inclusion are not isolated goals that we need to achieve but rather values that need to be infused into all of the work that we do. As a member of the Executive Board, I would commit to raising concerns when appropriate and to reflect on my own implicit biases before making decisions. As we all continue to work towards the goal of permeating diversity and inclusion into all aspects of our lives, it is important to think inwardly and remain open to constructive criticism from others when necessary. Our collective approach towards the values of diversity and inclusion will allow International ACAC to remain a strong and antiracist organization in the future.

**Please provide a maximum 250 word statement of why you wish to run for the International ACAC Board, and other relevant information you would like members to know about you that you have not previously shared in this application.**

I am excited to be running for one of the NACAC Delegate positions to join the Executive Board of International ACAC. For both International ACAC and NACAC, the next few years will undoubtedly be transformative as our students, schools, and universities adapt to various challenges stemming from the Covid-19 pandemic. I am eager to be a representative on the Executive Board to ensure that the decisions made by International ACAC both reflect the will of the membership and benefit our students. I hope to continue the ongoing work that International ACAC has done to infuse the values of diversity and inclusion into our work, and am committed to ensuring that these principles are not forgotten or abandoned. The collective community and resources of International ACAC have been an important part of my career in international admissions, and I want to be a part of leadership for the important work that this organization does to support educators and students around the world. As a Delegate to the

NACAC Assembly, I pledge to ensure that the unique experiences of international students in the college admissions process are elevated in the dialogue as new procedures and policies are debated. Education continues to be incredibly important and, as we all know, has the power to open minds, provide opportunity, and change the world. I am looking forward to the opportunity to join the Executive Board of International ACAC as a NACAC Delegate and humbly ask for your vote.