

Position: Delegate to the NACAC Assembly

Anna Boyd

Counselor and University Advisor

Frankfurt International School

Germany

Member Type: College/University

Background & Experience

Years of experience in college admissions counseling or related fields: 10+ years

Previous professional or volunteer experience:

I have not served on a board as such but was the co-chair for the Mentor Committee for the past 2 years. This provided insights in the board work and different challenges faced by the organisation, its members and the community we server. I worked on both sides of the admissions process, first in international admissions now in college counseling, as well as being an event manager for Higher Ed recruitment fairs and tours where I worked closely with governmental educational institutions and agents. While based in Europe, I have worked with colleagues and students from all corners of the world, from a range of cultures, social-economical backgrounds and educational systems. I value this voice and strength of diversity knowing the challenges that come with it. This is why I want to serve on the International ACAC board as a Delegate to NACAC to have more voices heard and diversity celebrated. I feel I can bring a wide range of insights from different perspectives of the industry to the table. Growing up as the oldest of four siblings, I have always been known as the mitigator as I listen to all perspectives and try to make people see and understand the other's side. To me communication is what is most important in any organisation and therefore I think it is essential to bring the different committee chairs together to share ideas and passions to drive our organisation forward to best serve our communities globally, regionally and locally.

International community engagement:

My first then OACAC conference was 2009 at Chapman, where due to my mentor and former boss Marie Vivas, former OACAC president, I was introduce to so many people who became colleagues, role models, and more importantly friends. I since have attended 7 conference and presented at all of them. In 2015 I also nominated Ed Tourle as a Scholar which got me involved in the Scholars program and the following year I was a scholar mentor. In spring 2016, after I had just switched sides to be a college counselor from former admissions, I was asked to be a panelist on the Financial Aid session at the OACAC Regional Institute in London. In 2016 I was selected for the Mentor Committee and had to step up on day one with running the First Timer Session as the then chairs were unable to attend the conference last minute. I enjoyed the involvement and when asked if I would be chair of the committee, I did not hesitate (though without getting a handover from the former chair). The co-chair and committee was enhanced when Wilson Lee joined as delegate co-chair and provided more insights, ideas and became the

direct-line to the board. While before I worked closely with the presidents, Theresa and team, I feel like the delegate co-chair role provided more of an opportunity to have the committee's concerns/ideas heard on the board. I enjoyed working with my committee members, identifying strength and delegating tasks accordingly, providing motivation where needed. As part of the committee work I have led and run the webinar for first timers each year. I have also led a webinar on financial aid in 2018. For the past three years, I have also been a constant with two presentations on the Pre-Conference Counselor stream faculty, a role I particularly enjoyed as I was not only able to share my knowledge with a clear target audience but also learn more from amazing co-faculty members.

NACAC affiliation:

I attended the NACAC conference in 2010. Then I also participated in the Admissions Middle Management Institute (AMMI) pre-NACAC in St. Louis, MO. In addition, I have represented Jacobs University at several NACAC university fairs in the US between 2010-2013. I met Nancy Bean, former NACAC president, in 2016 and was inspired by the work done on the national and regional level in the US.

Delegate to the NACAC Assembly 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.

At this point my experience as a delegate is limited, one of my personal strength is to listen, see the bigger picture and connections, have empathy, be positive and to win people over to support what needs support. When welcoming First Timers to the summer conferences over the past years, I always made sure our committee members and mentors knew the range of backgrounds of First Timers as I think it is important to understand the diversity of the International ACAC membership. To me it would be important to represent this membership on the NACAC level. Recent Department of Justice issues with the NACAC CEPP on Early Decision, recruiting first-year undergraduates who have committed elsewhere, and recruiting transfer students, might have a big impact also on international students. Ironically for many International ACAC members the admissions timelines are completely different possibly creating unforeseen issues for International ACAC members. This also makes it harder for our international students to feel treated fairly. In our community in recent years, we have seen unfair access of testing for international students, promised but not kept scholarship offers to Nepali students and politics changing immigration laws making access for international students harder to and from many countries. Being an International ACAC Delegate to the NACAC Assembly would allow me to raise the voice of the international community we represent and to identify and share NACAC issues with our community.

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

Having been a co-chair to the Mentor Committee for the past years, I was able to gain insights into a range of other committees. While I would be happy to be assigned and support any committee, I would very much like to support projects that go across committees - such as regional outreach and mentorship or diversity - making sure that all those involved have the required knowledge, voice and empowerment to move forward. I also see that with the year rotations of our volunteering roles, certain aspects of our summer conference get re-invented every year and would like to possibly provide committees and chairs with tools to keep track of previous year's actions and ideas to make handovers in committees more smoothly. My personal strengths are positivity, communication, empathy and organisational skills which I would like to use to make a difference where needed. That being said, to answer the above question: The Mentor Committee is dear to my heart as I believe that the first timers could be the future leaders of our industry and I want to make them feel as welcome and part of the family as I do. Having been a Scholars Mentor and attending the scholars' presentation every year, I appreciate the work and effort put into this by the team and similarly to the First Timers but even more so due to the communities our scholars work in, I know how big the impact can be. The Committee on Issues of Diversity does wonderful work and to me the challenge of truly representing diversity in all its facets within our membership and the communities we serve is one I feel strongly about. In the past I presented at the conference on the advantages and challenges when facing diversity in admissions, a session I have been meaning to repeat. The Professional Development Committee which runs amongst other aspects the Pre-Conference to me is an essential part of integrating scholars, new members and creating a level-playing field to those new to the industry. Having been a faculty member for the past three years, to me the attendees of the Counselor stream gain invaluable insights. On the Admissions stream I have loved to see the more advanced personal development and would love to see this also for counselors in the future.

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?

Having attended the Diversity Training at the summer conference, I think this initiative is a great way to make members more aware of how to handle diversity of our members and student bodies. I think it is important to raise awareness of the issue of diversity and how to handle stereotypes and prejudices but also to keep in mind that in different cultural context things might or might not be acceptable and not to condemn them because of views of ethics from one country. Therefore, in the International ACAC context what might cause major uproar in one country might be considered the right way of doing things, and therefore, this is delicate to handle. Another aspect is the definition of diversity - are we looking at nationalities, race, gender, sexual orientation, political views, social-economic backgrounds....? I think to me it would be important for the Board to provide clear guidelines on the selection of committee members, volunteers for different events, panelists for sessions as well as session topics to foster diversity. This summer's Training provided a start but maybe starting all sessions with a context in which it is presented and who it is aimed at, might be useful to set the mindset of the attendees. I love projects like the scholars program, opportunity grants, and regional conferences which reach out to communities to widen the diversity of our membership in all different aspects.