



Mission Statement

Government Relations Committee

October 2018

Regarding the PCACAC position, as an affiliate of NACAC, on political issues, it is particularly tempting in this current presidential cycle for some of us to become extremely political. In so doing, we need to remember that our membership is comprised of many different views on a wide range of issues. While individuals are free to be advocates for strongly held views, the affiliate as a whole is charged with advocating on behalf of NACAC with regard to national issues while staying CEPP based. Weighing in on legislation or nominations is not political, but rather mission driven. We need to continue to determine if and when to weigh in on issues without becoming political. Affiliates can also weigh in on state issues as long as their views are grounded in the policy framework, core values, or CEPP as established by NACAC. Generally speaking and certainly in my time as Chair since December, 2015, our affiliate has reflected the NACAC position. As an affiliate, an independent entity, could remain neutral on an issue, but would be discouraged from taking a position opposite from that of NACAC.

As Government Relations Committee members, we are trained to represent NACAC's position to support our mission to "Advocate for the rights of students in the college admission process," definitely not to represent our own political views. Our individual political views, however, may align nicely with those of NACAC, even though there remain many different views on how best to advocate for the rights of students. We have been trained and encouraged but not required to post NACAC views and answer Action Alerts as an affiliate. We take our lead from our lobbyist on issues as we have been doing in Anchor Splash and on our website. In this capacity of being advocates, we are encouraged to share our own counseling experiences and to find common ground with our legislators. Therefore, as Chair, I recommend we continue to approach our work with the goal of informing our membership through summaries of our meetings and Anchor Splash with the position suggested by NACAC. Times will change over the course of history, and we want to position ourselves for each historical era while encouraging discussion about issues uppermost on our minds at any given time. We want to consider and incorporate all views to find common ground so the we can be as effective as possible in our lobbying efforts and also continue to build a broadly-based and expanded membership. Additionally, NACAC and affiliate positions may change, but our policy positions are based upon NACAC's mission and the CEPP. Thus, we minimize changes in positions over time derived from NACAC members.

As Chair, I have chosen sometimes to comment on a view and to encourage discussion. While it makes perfect sense to add our mission statement to the bottom of our postings, I caution us about representing points of view beyond our agreed upon advocacy stance as directed by NACAC. To this end, I recommend continuing to post most NACAC statements, perhaps adding a comment to significant ones, with the statement at the bottom of all of these postings reading, "PCACAC, an affiliate of NACAC, is committed to its mission of access and advocacy for all students."

Finally, according to NACAC's Mike Rose, our current lobbyist, "PCACAC is a 501(c)(3) organization and is prohibited from engaging in political activities. That means supporting or opposing a candidate for elected office, using PCACAC funds to donate to a political party, candidate or cause and/or using PCACAC resources to support a political activity (for example, computers, listserv or office space)."

Thank you for engaging as an active PCACAC member.

Sincerely,

Ginger Miller
Government Relations Chair