

This term is for three years. All members may apply.

Government Relations Chair Responsibilities

PNACAC's government relations effort is threefold: monitoring federal and state legislation that affects admission and counseling professionals and the students they serve; coordinating with NACAC in providing analysis and guidance to PNACAC members on such legislation; and facilitating communication between PNACAC members and government officials at the federal and state levels.

The Government Relations Committee sets annual goals and objectives to guide these efforts. Activities focus on the following issues: access to higher education for all students, affordability of higher education, diversity as a factor in college admission, and support for the professional work of school counselors and admission officers. NACAC's government relations goals are achieved through the work of NACAC staff and members, and through collaborative efforts with partner organizations (including regional affiliate organizations like PNACAC).

Legislative Conference

The NACAC annual legislative meeting is held in late February or early March in Washington, DC in conjunction with LDI/Presidents' Council. The PNACAC Government Relations Chair and other representatives from the region are encouraged to attend the two-day event for governance and government relations activities. Participants attend legislative process and issue-based sessions and are trained to meet with members of the legislature and spend part of a day advocating for issues in line with PNACAC and NACACs' mission.

NACAC's policy priorities are determined each year by the NACAC Government Relations Committee. The national committee relies on input from affiliate government relations chairs and committees to develop its annual priorities. Priorities generally consist of support for: counselors and other admission professionals, need-based financial aid for students, early college awareness, access to a high-quality education for all students, and diversity in higher education.

Government Relations Chair Responsibilities

The Government Relations Chair is expected to:

- Maintain contact with state legislators and watch bills affecting PNACAC priorities when they are introduced into the state legislature. They prepare testimony or comments on pending legislation and regularly report the status of legislation to members.
- Propose a government relations budget. The following factors need to be considered:
 - Travel expenses to the NACAC legislative meeting in Washington, D.C., including, but not limited to:
 - The government relations' chairperson
 - Other PNACAC GR Committee Members (as determined by the Chair with the guidance and approval of the Executive Board)

- Recipients of the PNACAC Legislative Meeting Scholarship (administered by the PNACAC Government Relations Chair with the guidance of the Presidential Trifecta)
- Chairpersons and other advocates may need to travel to the state capital at times.
- While NACAC provides S/R government relations chairs with their primary lobbying tool (see description of the Legislative Action Center below), consider allocating dollars for printing of letters and brochures, telephone calls, and other advocacy tools.
- If planning to conduct a state legislative conference, allocations should be made to cover the cost of such events (e.g. meetings, travel).
- Establish a government relations network within PNACAC to create an opportunity for involvement and a telephone/email/letter writing network when it comes time to notify legislators of the association's stance on a particular issue.
- Maintain a communication network (via email, telephone, letters, newsletter articles, workshop sessions) to inform members of upcoming issues
- Become knowledgeable about NACAC resources:
 - NACAC provides an online Legislative Action Center that can be the primary tool for getting members involved in advocacy efforts. NACAC's action center allows the chair to post state action alerts and track state legislation and develop action lists through one central Web resource. NACAC staff can assist in setting up sites.
- Work closely with the NACAC staff and the national Government Relations Committee (GRAC).