**Preamble**

As a member-based nonprofit advocacy association, AACRAO has the right – and the responsibility – to help shape public policies and programs that recognize and support higher education as a positive force in ensuring the nation’s economic competitiveness, its cultural and intellectual strength, and the quality of life of all of its citizens.

AACRAO is the public voice expressing the views and concerns of its members. It supports policies and practices that advance access to post-secondary education for students from all socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds, while also strongly asserting the primacy of each institution of higher education in defining its mission and governing itself in order to best serve the pursuit and promotion of learning.

AACRAO is a strictly non-partisan association that advocates for its members and higher education overall by:

- Working closely with policymakers, regardless of their political affiliation, to serve its members and help the nation’s students
- Taking positions on public policy issues, including those that may be or become contested issues among political groups
- Encouraging its members, as campus professionals who work with faculty, administrators and students every day, to share their valuable insights on policy issues related to their work with local, state and national policymakers.

AACRAO does not:

- Favor or oppose political candidates, groups of candidates, or political parties and, as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt association, is legally prohibited from doing so
- Participate in fundraising for candidates or political parties
- Support, oppose, or participate in any candidate’s campaign
- Share contact information of its members with any political party or candidate.