PROPOSED BY: ACAPT Board of Directors

TITLE: Amend Admissions Traffic Rules for Applicants

MOTION:

That the Admissions Traffic Rules for Applicants be amended by striking the following rules:

6. Applicants holding multiple acceptances are expected to immediately withdraw their application from those programs they are no longer considering attending.

7. Following the start of classes, each student should immediately withdraw his or her application from all other programs at which he or she remains under consideration.

SUPPORT STATEMENT:

This motion is related to a motion to amend the Admissions Traffic Rules for Programs. The rationale for this motion relates to a decision in 2019 by the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) to remove the following items from its Code of Ethics and Professional Practice in response to concerns about possible violations of antitrust laws:

"Colleges must not offer incentives exclusive to students applying or admitted under an early decision application plan. Examples of incentives include the promise of special housing, enhanced financial aid packages, and special scholarships for early decision admits. Colleges may, however, disclose how admission rates for early decision differ from those for other admission plans."

"College choices should be informed, well-considered, and free from coercion. Students require a reasonable amount of time to identify their college choices; complete applications for admission, financial aid, and scholarships; and decide which offer of admission to accept. Once students have committed themselves to a college, other colleges must respect that choice and cease recruiting them."

"Colleges will not knowingly recruit or offer enrollment incentives to students who are already enrolled, registered, have declared their intent, or submitted contractual deposits to other institutions. May 1 is the point at which commitments to enroll become final, and colleges must respect that. The recognized exceptions are when students are admitted from a wait list, students initiate inquiries themselves, or cooperation is sought by institutions that provide transfer programs."

"Colleges must not solicit transfer applications from a previous year’s applicant or prospect pool unless the students have themselves initiated a transfer inquiry or the college has verified prior to contacting the students..."
that they are either enrolled at a college that allows transfer recruitment from other colleges or are not currently enrolled in a college.”

The concerns relate to limiting student choice. The recent action by PTCAS to eliminate the early decision process is related to the same antitrust concern. While this issue is currently playing out in the undergraduate admissions world, ACAPT’s legal counsel has advised that we take proactive action on this matter sooner than later by removing this rule.

CURRENT POSITION/STANDARD/GUIDELINE/POLICY/PROCEDURE:
ACAPT does not presently have a position on this issue

RELATED POSITION/STANDARD/GUIDELINE/POLICY/PROCEDURE:
There are currently no related positions, standards, guidelines, or policy/procedures on this issue