

Candidate for Board Member:

Richard Shadick, Ph.D., Pace University - NYC
Director



Prior Engagement / Involvement with AUCCCD:

In 2022 I was elected to the Board and over the last year I served as the Chair of the Communications Committee. Prior to serving on the Board I have served as a member on Communications Committee of AUCCCD for 7 years, been on the editorial board for the Journal for College Student Psychotherapy for 4 and as an ad hoc reviewer for many more, a conference connector for new directors for over a decade, and presented frequently at the annual conference. I have worked to strengthen our relationship with our AUCCCD colleagues in Japan including as visiting faculty at Nagoya University, partnered on presentations with our Japanese colleagues, and most recently am participating in an international research project with Kyoto University of the Arts on retention and mental health issues.

Candidate Statement:

Hello and thank you for taking some time out of your busy schedule to learn about my application for the Board of AUCCCD. In 2022 I was elected to the Board and I serve as the Chair of the Communications Committee (yes, I am that guy who sends out emails about media opportunities, awards, and “backchanneling”). With the help of fellow Board and AUCCCD members, we have been able to develop a media kit for the membership to respond to media requests (come to the presentation in Nashville to learn more!), re-launch the AUCCCD newsletter, help publicize AUCCCD’s amazing efforts, and work on myriad other issues related to the governance of AUCCCD. My time on the Board has flown by and there is plenty more to accomplish for you and the organization. I hope you will support me in continuing the work I have been doing.

Prior to serving on the Board I served as a member on Communications Committee of AUCCCD for 7 years, been on the editorial board for the Journal for College Student Psychotherapy for 4 and as an ad hoc reviewer for many more, and a conference connector for new directors. I have worked to strengthen our relationship with our AUCCCD colleagues in Japan including as visiting faculty at Nagoya University, partnering on presentations with our Japanese colleagues, and most recently participating in an international research project with Kyoto University of the Arts on retention and mental health issues.

I have been a Director of the Counseling Center and adjunct faculty in the Psychology Department at Pace University in New York City since 2003. Prior to that I worked as the Training Director and then prior the Coordinator for Disability Service. Pace is an urban, private school in lower Manhattan with the motto “Opportunitas” , whereby we provide opportunity for all. The Counseling Center reflects that motto, as we are a vibrant and diverse staff

Stability is key during these tumultuous times-colleagues leaving the field in droves and director positions disappearing, funding upheavals at our home institutions, never ending discrimination and violence to folx of varied sociocultural identities, and large increases in the number of students who

come to our centers have made this a very challenging and stressful job. Consistency in our organization and in our jobs is important but it is not enough. We, and our students, need and deserve, more. It is essential that our organization stays ahead of issues, “drive the narrative” on trends in college mental health, and play a significant role in these national trends. In the coming term my hope would be to change the narrative of college mental health *from crisis to capability*. I believe it is in our collective best interest to demonstrate what we have to offer. One good example of that strength-based approach is the recent AUCCCD position paper – “Navigating a Path Forward for Mental Health Services in Higher Education”.

It is also crucial to represent our diverse and vibrant AUCCCD constituency with fidelity and my commitment is to listen to the voices of the membership. As I noted above, Pace University is an institution with a diverse student body. I believe my work as one of the leads on our campus in partnering with organizations like the Steve Fund, Born This Way Foundation, the Jed Foundation and the US Health Promoting Campus Network (aka the Okanagan charter group), as a recipient of multiple federal, state, and foundational grants to promote wellness with our students of color, an author of articles examining the wellbeing of LGBTQ and BIPOC students, and my previous media work, uniquely positions me to serve as a forward-thinking, progressive board member who understands and can represent all of our colleagues. I believe that social justice is a central aspect of our work and, in my role as a Board member, I will continue the work to create a socially just, fair, and equitable community.

I thank you for your consideration of my candidacy to continue to serve you and AUCCCD and hope that you have a smooth semester.

With gratitude,

Richard Shadick