June 5, 2020

Sarah Brady Clark
Decennial Census Management Division
U.S. Census Bureau

Dear Ms. Clark,

Thank you for the U.S. Census Bureau’s participation in the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers’ (AACRAO) webinar on May 28 with the higher education community. During the webinar, we learned that the Census Bureau will be contacting institutions in the coming weeks requesting that they provide the Bureau with certain directory information about their students living off-campus.

As membership organizations representing public and private nonprofit institutions of higher education across the country, our goal is to provide information to our members so that they can comply with new Census Bureau requests and to help ensure an accurate Census count during these difficult times. Toward this end, we have listed questions below. Providing on-the-record answers to these questions will offer the clarity required to prepare our membership for the next steps.

1. Will there be formal guidance issued by the Census Bureau articulating the request for off-campus enumeration collection? If so, when and where will it be posted?
2. Who on our campuses will the Census Bureau contact for off-campus student data?
3. How should universities submit off-campus information to the Census? Will there be a new online system for submission?
4. What allowable directory information items will the Census Bureau be requesting from universities for individuals that are deemed off-campus housing? It would be helpful for the Bureau to state these allowable data points in its formal request for this new information.
5. What will the deadline be for campuses to submit off-campus student information? Should colleges and universities follow the same deadlines as the ones listed for group housing?
6. If institutions have questions regarding off-campus enumeration, who should they contact at the Census Bureau?

Thank you for considering our questions. We look forward to our continued partnership as we work to ensure an accurate Census for this year. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these questions with you further during a phone call with the undersigned stakeholders.

Sincerely,

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
Association of American Universities
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities