

The Advisor Relationship

Center for Student Leadership Resources

Benefits for the Organization:

- Support
- Advice
- Connections (on campus, in career, in community)
- References

Benefits for the Advisor:

- Working with students – making a contribution
- Sharing knowledge and expertise
- Recognition

The Role Of An Adviser Is To:

- Serve as a "sounding board" off which you can bounce new ideas
- Support your group
- Intervene in conflicts between group members and/or officers
- Be knowledgeable of policies that may impact on your organization's decisions, programs, etc.
- Provide continuity and stability as student leadership changes
- Provide your group with connections
- Serve as mediator during an organizational crisis
- Give honest feedback to group members
- Point out new perspectives and directions to the group and introduce new program ideas

The Responsibilities of Group Members to Their Adviser Are:

- Discuss your expectations of the adviser's role with your adviser from the beginning.
- Notify the adviser of all meetings.
- Send the adviser a copy of all minutes and other information. Too much information is better than too little.
- The President/ Committee Chair/ Executive Board should meet regularly with the adviser probably better than too little! to discuss organizational matters and to relay and update information.
- Consult with the adviser before any changes in the structure or policies of the organization (committee) are made and before major projects are undertaken.
- Remember that the responsibility for the success or failure of a group project rests ultimately with the group, not the adviser.
- Conduct annual adviser and organization evaluations. This allows for developing an ongoing and effective adviser relationship.