

The Advisor Relationship

Center for Student Involvement 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 Advisor 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 Advisor Are:

- 👤 Discuss your expectations of the adviser's role with your advisor from the beginning.
- 👤 Notify the advisor of all meetings.
- 👤 Send the advisor 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 advisor to discuss organizational matters and to relay and update information.
- 👤 Consult with the advisor 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 advisor.
- 👤 Conduct annual advisor and organization evaluations. This allows for developing an ongoing and effective adviser relationship.