**Advising Student Organizations**

The role you play as an advisor to your student organization very much depends on the skills, interest, and personalities of those students involved. The dynamics will change year to year, so it is important to approach each year as a new start.

Primarily, the role of the Advisor is one that is not supervisory in nature. You will need to offer your organization autonomy, coupled with a sense of direction and motivation. Tactful intervention, sound guidance, and an objective perspective are all necessary for positive and successful Advising.

**The Advisor…**

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| Should | Should Not |
| Develop a good rapport with the executive board and larger membership group. | Single out only select members to develop relationships with, thus losing an objective view. |
| Suggest | Executive Decision |
| Work closely with Executive Board | Do the work of the Executive Board |
| Ensure the group examines all sides of an issue | Choose the sides for the group to examine |
| Help develop team spirit and cooperation | Allow the organization to be a one person operation. |
| Encourage the group to take pride. | Accept passive and/or lazy work. |
| Have a relationship with the group that allows growth and development. | Play the role of parent or overbearing administrator. |
| Attend all meetings that were agreed upon with group leadership | Assume they can handle everything without you. |
| Treat all members as individuals. | Assume that the attitudes, character, personalities, and motivation of the groups will remain the same from year to year. |
| Initiate periodic conversation. | Assume everything is running fine. |
| Support and advocate group events and major projects. | Be a non-existing advisor. (Students think it’s great when you show up!) |
| Recognize efforts of your group. | Reward only your closest relationships within the group. |
| Develop relationships with young leaders in the group. | Only work with students you have known and are comfortable with. |
| Communicate needs and questions to Student Activities. | Give out information that may not be correct. |