



Role of the Advisor

Advisors are responsible for filling a variety of functions in student organizations. As no two advisors are the same, no two organizations or student leaders are the same. Therefore, it is important to clarify and outline these functions with each new group of officers because each group of students may desire different things of the advisor. So in order to be a helpful and beneficial advisor, flexibility, good communication, and motivation are key.

- A liaison between the organization and the administration/faculty/university
- An interpreter of policy
- An information resource regarding organizational procedures, group processes and programming concerns
- A teacher of programming skills
- A presenter of philosophical ideas and concepts of leadership
- A counselor, mentor, consultant, sounding board, and friend
- A resource providing history and continuity during changes in organizational leadership
- A member of the organization without the privileges of voting and holding office
- A mediator with interpersonal conflicts that may arise
- An exemplifying leader, student's follow by example and if the advisor is leading appropriately the students then develop their own leadership skills via their advisor
- An open, honest, and unbiased opinion within the organization
- A committed individual giving of themselves and of their time
- A cheerleader of the groups activities and events-always supporting the organization
- A networking resource for students interested in internships, jobs, and other opportunities

[Adapted from: Dunkel, N. W. & Schuh, J.H. (1998). Advising Student Groups and Organizations. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers.]

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

~Margaret Mead

