

Advising

Advising is a very personal experience. Advisors will get back what they put in. However, there are many benefits in advising a student organization –

- Satisfaction of seeing students work together, learn, and grow
- Watching a group come together to complete a task or work towards a common goal while learning about each other and working as a team
- Developing personal relationships with students
- Learning more about things you are interested in by choosing to advise a group that interest you
- Sharing your knowledge with other's

A student-made list of advising do's and don'ts...

Do—

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| • Allow group to succeed | • Allow group to fail |
| • Know group's limits | • Know your limits |
| • Be visible | • Teach leadership |
| • Keep your sense of humor | • Inform group of policies |
| • Be consistent with your actions | • Learn when/when not to speak |

Don't—

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| • Control the group | • Manipulate the group |
| • Miss group meetings or functions | • Take ownership of the group |
| • Know it all | • Close communication |
| • Be afraid to let group try new ideas | • Take everything so seriously |
| • Say "I told you so..." | • Be the leader |

The specific roles and responsibilities of an advisor will vary from organization to organization, but here are a few general responsibilities an advisor may have

- Leadership Development
 - Through interactions with organization members, the advisor plays a role in developing leadership and personal growth of members. They may also see new leaders emerge from the organization.
- Consultation
 - Advisors could and should make an effort to meet with the organization members, especially officers, on a regular basis. They should also be kept up to date with the programs and events taking place in the organization.
- Personal Assistance
 - In most cases an advisor has been at an institution longer then the students in the organization. With that in mind advisors can make recommendations about who students need to contact for what when they are in the planning stages.
- Supervision
 - While advisors are not meant to be in place to be parents for the organization it is important for them to keep an eye out to make sure everything is running smoothly. Advisors should make sure there are no policies being violated and the organization is following its mission.
- Social Activity
 - Advisors should make it to the organization's social activities. This will show continuing interest in the organization but having an advisor present can help on-the-spot problem solving and making sure everything is happening correctly.
- Meetings
 - Advisors should attend the business meetings for the organization to keep up-to-date with events going on. One-on-one's with the advisor and group officers are a good way to make sure each member is doing what they should be and helping the organization stay on track.