

THE STUDENT ORGANIZATION ADVISOR

All registered Student Organizations are required to have a full-time faculty (or staff) advisor. As a general rule, advisors are chosen by the group that is organizing the student organization because of their interest in the organization's mission.

There are many benefits which can result from a good advising relationship. Developing a relationship of open and honest communication, sincerity, professional effectiveness and personal approachability provides the advisor and the organization leaders with a chance to grow and succeed.

ADVISING DEFINED

The basic purpose of the advisor is to work with the designated leaders and members of a functioning student organization with the intent of:

- Providing a sense of "continuity" for the organization especially during officer transition
- Being a resource person with a knowledge base for institutional policies, etc;
- Assisting the leaders and members to fulfill their responsibilities;
- Aiding the organization to define and achieve its goals and objectives;
- Integrating the organizational activity with the overall purpose of the educational setting.

THE ROLE OF THE ADVISOR

Advisors may be responsible for filling a variety of roles - it is important to clarify and outline these with each new group of officers:

- liaison between the organization, administration and faculty;
- an interpreter of policy;
- an information resource regarding organizational procedures, group process and programming concerns;
- a resource providing history and continuity between changing organization leadership;
- a teacher of programming skills;
- presenter of philosophical ideas and concepts of leadership;
- a counselor, mediator, consultant, sounding board, and friend.

A "good" advisor usually will:

- be vocal, provide their own leadership. (NOTE: a strong advisor usually is not a

"controlling" advisor);