



INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON

Advisers

Advising philosophy

A variety of advisers are available to student groups to help organizations maintain consistency from year to year and to offer advice on organizational decisions. Advisers typically take on one or a combination of these roles:

- **Adviser**— as an adviser, the faculty/staff member works to maintain the organization and delegate tasks with the executive board members.
- **Coach**— as a coach, the faculty/staff member can work to improve the effectiveness of an organization and assist them in reaching organizational goals. In this role he or she will spend more time sharing a vision for the organization rather than maintaining the organization.
- **Educator**— as an educator, the faculty/staff member will spend more time as a —sounding board|| with students. This role serves to provide students with an educational experience that will complement or supplement their education. Our hope is that you will reach a place where you are not giving students too many answers, but asking them questions that will teach them how to think through situations, therefore supporting them in their creation of the bigger picture for the organization.

Adapted from Bloland, P.A. (1967). Student group advising in higher education (Student Personnel Series No. 8). Washington, DC: American Personnel and Guidance Association.

In addition to serving as an adviser, coach, and/or educator, your Student Organization's Adviser might assist your organization in general, financial, web/email, and other decisions.

Financial advising

Any group applying for a Student Organization Account is required to have an advisor to approve financial decisions. A financial advisor in this capacity **MUST** be a full-time faculty or staff member at the Indiana University - Bloomington campus. For more information on the financial advisor, see the SOA application form or contact the Office of Student Organization Accounts at IUSOA@indiana.edu or at 855-8517.

General student organization advising

It is a good idea to choose an adviser who counsels your organization on the structure, practices, and other matters raised by the group. Even though such an adviser is not required, it is strongly recommended. Guidelines for helping choose an adviser include:

- Oftentimes your adviser will be someone in the department sponsoring the organization that has an interest in the group's purpose. For example, an English professor might serve as an advisor to a literary organization.
- Think about professors or administrators with whom you have formed a positive relationship. Consider asking any of these people to serve as your group's adviser.
- The advisor/organization relationship can be as complex or simple as you want. Be sure to maintain a high level of communication with your adviser; he or she should know what you expect from the adviser role and you want to understand the adviser's expectations of the group.

Student organization drop-in advising

Student Activities also offers organizational advising on a drop-in basis. In addition to your faculty adviser, you can meet one-on-one to discuss organizational issues and to receive advice on maximizing your organization's potential. The Student Activities Drop-in Adviser does not replace your group's faculty or staff adviser for your Student Organization Account!

Student Activities offers support to organizational advisers, including providing the Advisor Handbook. Please contact Student Activities at 855-4311 for more information or to make an appointment with the Student Organizations Coordinator.

Student Activities

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