How to Effectively Work with Advisors

CDI RSO Retreat
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Student Activities
The Basics

• Who am I?

• Who are you?

• Why are you here today?
Your Advisor(s)

• Who are your advisors?
  – Assigned to you?
  – Up to you to find them?
  – 1 Advisor vs. multiple?
  – On-campus vs. off-campus?
What Do You Want?

- What do you WANT from your advisors?
  - Have you made this clear?
  - Time to reflect...

- What can you come up with?
Got Your List... Check!

- You have your list developed, now what?
  - Should I go list my demands now?
  - Things to consider?
  - How are they written?
  - How will you deliver?
  - One sided talk, or a true discussion?
  - ARE THEY REALISTIC?
  - Accountability?
Be Realistic – THINK!

• Who runs/is responsible for the student organization?

• What are some qualities of an AMAZING Advisor?
  – Do these match up with your EXPECTATIONS?
  – Is it possible we don’t always align our expectations with what we know makes the most effective advisor?
  – Do you encourage being challenged?
  – Don’t mix wants with expectations!
What About You?

• Are you ready for, and anticipating, your advisor’s expectations of you?

  – “But my advisor doesn’t have expectations of me!”

    • May not always be written, but they are there.
    • You may need to help facilitate this.
Another Advisor

• Need another or a new advisor?
  – What are resources you know of?

  – Student Activities
    • Maryann Wilcox (106 MUB)
    • Advisors (Academic) and Faculty
    • New Staff!!! (They should be swooped in on early!)
    • Current Advisors
• How to Approach a Potential New Advisor
  – Let’s do some acting!!!

  – What are the points we’re trying to get across here?
  – Be clear about what you’re looking for in the advisor role!
Tips

• Do your homework first. Is this the right person?
• Sit down and TALK.
• Do they share the same interests as you?
• Clear understanding of the role and your org.
• Share the time commitment.
• Don’t expect an answer right away.
Who Is Eligible?

• To be an advisor:
  – Each org. must have a full-time Michigan Tech faculty/staff member as their primary advisor.
  – Can I have someone advise who is not a Tech staff member?
    • Yes, but be careful!
    • Conflict of interest, time commitments, past experience advising?
    • Is your advisor(s) assigned? Can you have another advisor?
What We Tell Advisors

• We’ll let you in on the secrets...

Over Involvement | Balance | Under Involvement
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An Advisor is NOT:

- Member
- Friend
- Party Liaison
- Treasurer
- Doer
- Decision maker
An Advisor IS:

• Advisor
• Mentor
• Supporter
• Gentle guider
• Challenger
• Teacher
• Historian
• Reflector

• Motivator
• Resource connector
• Advocate
• Conscience
• Role model
“Budget your time wisely. If there are times you have family commitments or other obligations, make it clear right away.”

“Advisor’s don’t have to do a lot, just mostly be available, so please get involved. Students need “adult” input from time to time.”
True or False?

- If my Advisor goes to every meeting/event we have, they are an effective advisor.
  - True or False?
  - Why or Why Not?

- *Effort that goes into an organization is not always measured in time.*

- Have high expectations of your advisor, but be reasonable. Advising is often “extra” for those of us who do it... (Extra time/care, not extra $)
Vision

• Who holds the vision for your org?

• Who is here longer? Student or Advisor?

“Growth takes time. Sometimes it seems like things don’t change (fast enough), but that’s again part of the Advisor seeing the bigger picture and the students beginning to learn the big picture.”

• Do you, as leaders, understand your “big picture?” How do you form this?
WE INSPIRE COMMUNITY
We inspire an engaged community that actively seeks improvement through acceptance and understanding.

WE INSPIRE SCHOLARSHIP
We inspire students to achieve world-class scholarship through academics, research, and continued learning.

WE INSPIRE POSSIBILITIES
We inspire the exploration and creation of all possibilities through innovative use of our skills and knowledge.

WE INSPIRE ACCOUNTABILITY
We inspire individuals to hold themselves accountable, and to act with integrity, honesty, and diligence.

WE INSPIRE TENACITY
We inspire the tenacity required to make ethical choices and to persevere through all obstacles.

Michigan Tech
Create the Future
Grow Together

• As your organization grows, so do the people involved.

“Advising has allowed me to interact with different groups of students I wouldn’t have had contact with, so it’s helped me to see things from a different perspective.”
Resources!

• HuskyLEAD
  – Fall Topics Include:
    • Incorporating the Michigan Tech Values Into Your Organization
    • Utilizing Creative Marketing & Multimedia Techniques
    • Robert’s Rules of Order / How to Run a Meeting
    • E-Board Blitz
    • Campus Resources You’re Not Using
    • Hosting Large Scale Events
Resources

There are resources for you and your Advisor...

- Advisor Training
- Planning an Event
- Risk Management
- Sources of Funding
- Development Opportunities
- University Procedures
- Involvement Link
- Recruitment Events
Remember...

You are responsible for your garbage.
Questions?

• Thank you for being the student leaders that you are!