

MichiganTech

ADVISOR STATEMENT

A Michigan Technological University registered student organization advisor's primary role is to provide overall guidance and support to the registered student organization. Advisors should encourage, consult, and/or mentor the organization in carrying out its purpose as defined by the organization's constitution.

Specific responsibilities of an advisor shall be to:

- Work with the officers to promote the effective administration of the organization by attending meetings and advising the group as appropriate.
- Provide guidance to the organization regarding the formulation and revision of the organizations' constitutions and by-laws.
- Connect students with resources to ensure compliance with University policies and procedures, including use of the University's name, logo, facilities, and/or vehicles.
- Intervene when necessary and alert the organization to the risks of injury and liability in connection with their activities.
- Advise and emphasize that officers lead in an ethical manner.
- Report any concerns regarding the organization and/or its events to Student Activities staff members.
- Review budgets and financial statements/transactions and emphasize the importance of fiscal responsibility to all officers.
- Motivate and challenge officers and members to achieve academic success and ensure that all officers maintain a minimum semester and cumulative GPA of 2.25 per registered student organization requirements.
- Recognize organization achievements.
- Provide consultation and feedback concerning membership recruitment and officer selection procedures and responsibilities.
- Attend an advisor training session and sign the organization's registration form annually.

University policies provide for indemnification by the University against claims and liabilities provided the advisor is acting in good faith. Indemnification means that the University will, in case of a lawsuit, provide a legal defense to the advisor and any money damages if the advisor is found by the court or administrative agency to be at fault. (The University does not indemnify the registered student organization itself.) The University generally will not indemnify the University advisor for the following activities because they will be seen as acts taken outside the scope of the advisor's University employment.

Specific responsibilities of an advisor shall NOT be to:

- Purchase alcohol for the registered student organization or its members.
- Sign contracts for the registered student organization.
- Serve as the organization's treasurer, bookkeeper, accountant, or auditor.
- Supervise trips taken by the organization's members or arrange travel plans.
- Pledge financial backing for the organization's debts.

- Run the organization and approve/control its decisions and activities.

Examples of some situations where the University will usually NOT indemnify a University advisor are listed below:

- Alcohol related activity if the University advisor provided the alcohol and/or was aware of it being consumed at a registered student organization activity.
- Violation of motor vehicle laws (Example: Speeding, driving while intoxicated, etc.)
- Assaults.
- Defamation.
- Misappropriation of registered student organization funds by the University advisor.
- Injuries to members or guests of registered student organizations while riding in advisor's automobile.
- Injuries to members or guests of registered student organizations on property of advisor. (Example: Injuries sustained to student(s) during event at home of advisor.)

A University advisor for registered student organizations must be a full-time employee of Michigan Technological University. As stated in the Board of Control Policy 2010, student organizations shall *appoint one or more advisors from persons affiliated with the University for each organization that receives funds directly from the University or from an allocation by the Undergraduate Student Government of the University*. The University will not provide indemnification for someone that is not a University employee that is serving as advisor for a registered student organization. (Example: Alumni or community member) If it is necessary for an advisor to resign his or her position as advisor, he or she should notify the organization as well as Student Activities staff.