

# advisors!

Adapted from Bowling Green University - Office of Campus Involvement

## What is an advisor?

A full time faculty or staff member at UNT who gives advice or makes a recommendation as to a decision or course of action.

In a university setting this definition is expanded to often include a role model, teacher, confidant, resource person and more.

\*\*\*The role of the advisor will vary in each student organization and is often dependent upon the personalities of every person involved. Primarily, the role of the advisor is not parental. He/She needs to establish a good working relationship with the group based on respect and genuine caring. Appropriate intervention, sound guidance and an objective perspective are all necessary for good advising.\*\*\*

### Positive and Negative Roles of the Advisor

#### Positive

Mediator, Encourager, Teacher, Ally, Motivator, Communicator, Listener, Diplomat, Devil's Advocate, Processor, Confronter, Innovator, Conscience, Goal Setter

#### Negative

Nag, Titan, Worry Wart, Boss, Parent, Pseudo-Intellectual, Guest Speaker, Warden Critic, Egoist, Follower, Prom Queen, Bore, Preacher, Manipulator, Tourist

### 10 Guidelines for Effective Advising...

1. Be an educator/a challenger
2. Know or help develop the goals of the group
3. Know the members of the organization and their needs
4. Be sincerely committed to the organization
5. Be available and approachable
6. Provide appropriate feedback
7. Guide the group to success—share in successes/failures
8. Be open to learning yourself
9. Know resources available
10. Have FUN!

### Advisors SHOULD NOT...

1. Impose
2. Do the work of the president
3. Miss major functions
4. Say "I told you so..."
5. Manipulate the group
6. Just sign papers for the group
7. Take ownership of the group
8. Take everything so seriously
9. Be afraid to let the group try new ideas
10. Be the parent or smothering
11. Assume they can handle everything without you
12. Be open to new leadership
13. Be a bleeding heart

### Advisors SHOULD...

1. Develop a good rapport with the student group.
2. Suggest
3. Work with the executive
4. Keep your sense of humor
5. Learn to speak/when not to speak
6. Know your limits
7. Know your group's limits
8. Serve as a resource
9. Treat members as individuals
10. Help develop team spirit and cooperation
11. Be available in emergency situations
12. Have a relationship with the group that allows for growth and development
13. Be visible
14. Be consistent in emergency situations

**Questions?  
Visit the Student  
Activities Office  
(Union 320) or call  
940.565.3807**