



## THE OFFICER-ADVISOR RELATIONSHIP

### *Organization officers may expect an advisor to:*

- Assist the group in formulating long-range goals and in planning and initiating short-term projects.
- Provide resource information pertaining to the goals and purpose of the organization.
- Suggest ways that meetings of the organization can be improved.
- Assist the officers in evaluating projects, performances and progress.
- Suggest ways that will increase the officers' leadership skills.
- Participate in social events.
- Be available when emergencies or problems arise.
- Attend meetings and programs.

### *An advisor may expect student officers to:*

- Keep the advisor informed of all organizational activities, meetings, issues and agendas, and send the advisor minutes of all meetings, especially those he/she was unable to attend.
- Meet regularly with the advisor to discuss organizational challenges.
- Inform the advisor of any potential problems or concerns.
- Inform the advisor of programs and services sponsored by the organization.

Building an open and honest relationship between your organization and an advisor requires considerable effort and time. How do you as an organization leader build an open and honest relationship that affords you the opportunity to share ideas and receive feedback from your advisor? You may find the following statements helpful when building that relationship with your organization advisor.

- The responsibility for building the relationship must be shared between advisor and student.
- The relationship must be based upon open and direct communication.
- Both must recognize their various roles and responsibilities in and outside of their activities position.
- Both advisor and student are human beings who make mistakes, follow their own values systems and work in individual professional and personal styles.
- Both advisor and student are continually growing, changing, and learning, each within their own unique stages of development.