

Tips for Student Group Advisors

Read through the group's constitution. If the group doesn't have a constitution, help them develop one.

Take time to learn the name and story of the group's membership through informal meetings, lunches, or visits. An established relationship built on trust makes it easier on the advisor when difficult situations arise.

Consider the identity of students and how it impacts their experience.

Be open to the experience and willing to share yourself with the group just as we are asking them to do the same.

Have a planning session at the beginning of the semester. Set goals for the year and clarify or define the roles of the executive board.

Have exit meetings so students can reflect on their experiences and so that you can make sure transition is properly occurring.

Learn the culture and context of the group prior to attempting to make change.

Share upcoming leadership and identity development opportunities.

Stay involved with the group at the level set during group expectations. It's hard to advise when you aren't aware of or present at activities.

Stay positive.

Challenge yourself to read further on leadership, group development, and any topics that your student group focuses on.

Help students manage their expectations of what their group is capable of. Be realistic without discouraging the belief that positive change can happen in big ways.