

# THE ROLE OF THE ADVISOR

All campus clubs must have a faculty member to serve as an advisor. The advisor's job is to ensure that the college fulfills its obligations to its students and that the activities of the club conform to the California Education Code, the policies of the Citrus Community College District and the constitutions of the Inter-Club Council and the Associated Students of Citrus College.

In order to be an effective club advisor there are several things an advisor should do. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- To be present at all meetings when official business is being discussed and/or voted upon, (e.g. planning activities or fundraisers or deciding how to spend club money) and to provide guidance as to policies and procedures.
- To serve as the official representative of the college to the club.
- To work closely with the club to ensure a cooperative relationship between the advisor and the club members.
- To help the club officers understand their roles and duties.
- To help students understand and apply democratic principles within their own organizations and in working with others.
- To read and understand the policies and regulations of the college and Associated Students as they pertain to student organizations.
- To represent the club's interests to various campus groups or individuals.
- Give advice based on their expertise or academic discipline.
- To be present at all off-campus and weekend activities.
- To give particular attention to the financial activities of the club. Specifically, to prevent it from incurring debts it is unable to pay and will become the responsibility of subsequent members. *Note: Advisors must sign all check requests.*
- Facilitate leadership transition within the club. Since dynamics change with the coming and going of student leaders, you help maintain the continuity.
- Assume the roles of cheerleader, mentor, planner, and friend.
- To communicate with the office of student life and leadership development (ext. 6444) when I need additional support in advising my club.

- ENJOY YOURSELF AND GROW FROM YOUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE STUDENTS!!!

There are also a number of things that an advisor should not do in advising a club. These include, but are not limited to:

- Run the club for an extended period of time.
- Allow the club and its activities to keep you from your assigned job duties.
- Do the major share of work in getting activities going. This is not to say that you shouldn't do any work to support them.
- Hesitate to provide constructive criticism when deemed necessary, nor should you withhold praise and acknowledgment for accomplishments.
- Finance the club. Advancing money is OK, but make sure you will be reimbursed soon.
- Be a "buddy" to the students. It is important to maintain some distance from students. Professionalism first.
- Do everything yourself or try to navigate your way through uncharted waters alone. The office of student life and leadership staff are here to help you whenever and however needed.

### **Some Other Basic Guidelines**

- Advisors have the capability to ignite interest, imagination, and enthusiasm in all club members.
- An individual assumes the advisor's role voluntarily; however, even though serving as a volunteer, they are expected to uphold the best interests of the college.
- The voluntary association between advisors and their respective organizations should continue as long as both parties believe the relationship is productive and mutually satisfactory. When such a relationship no longer exists, the advisor should resign.
- Advisors should realize that students often may not accept their advice and will challenge it; this should not be interpreted as an indication that their services are no longer needed.
- Advisors should expect to be approached by club members for help or advice with personal problems which are unrelated to their organization. Advisors should be conscious of what is beyond their role as an advisor and should be comfortable referring students to the appropriate resources on campus.

### **How Can the Advisor Help the Club Leaders?**

Sit down at an informal conference where you will not be interrupted and talk over their plans. Explain your responsibility and privilege as an advisor and resource person responsible to the college for the activities of the

group. Ask that you be sought for opinion before important decisions as to group action are made, in order to avoid possible difficulties. Explain that talking things over before a meeting will enable the advisor to stay out of the discussions during the meeting.

- Awaken within the student leader an awareness of certain factors within the group:
  - The varying needs, interests, attitudes and sensitivities
  - The sub-groups, loyalties, antagonisms and relationships between members
  - The social, ethical and religious backgrounds of the group members
- Established customs
- Help them know what to do when certain group responses occur, such as lapse of interest, griping, antagonism and selfish minority demands
- Help them to develop certain traits:
  - Objectivity
  - Impartiality
  - Diplomacy
  - Open-mindedness
  - Restraint
  - Sense of humor
  - Friendliness and warmth towards others
  - Sensitivity to needs of the group and individual members
  - Freedom from desire to dominate
  - Imagination resourcefulness
  - Enthusiasm
- Teach the theory of leadership and authority:
  - The individual decides obedience, acceptance grants authority
  - Decision for authority rests with those who receive it
  - Communication must be understood
  - Must be compatible with personal interests
  - Must show full knowledge
  - Receiver must be able to comply physically and mentally
  - Receiver must believe in its worth and its consistency with the purposes of the organization
- Teach them certain techniques and skills in working with groups:
  - Getting the group to make decisions, based on all factors and considering all viewpoints
  - Maintaining friendly relationships in spite of disagreement
  - Showing appreciation for contributions
  - Being aware of individual motives as well as group needs
  - “Listening” well
  - Helping members become free from idea-possessiveness
  - Meeting opposition carefully and intelligently
  - Using all the channels of communication