



# Expectations and Guidelines for Advisors

SAINT LOUIS  
UNIVERSITY

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This document was created by the Student Government Association to outline the expectations of the advisors of Chartered Student Organizations at Saint Louis University. Chartered Student Organizations (or CSOs) are important parts of the promotion of the ideals of the university, such as education and the Jesuit mission to pursue higher truth and obtain greater knowledge in service to humanity, and are thus held to certain standards of excellence. In order to help CSOs achieve this goal, they are offered many resources, one of which being the organization advisor. The Student Government Association recognizes the value of having faculty and staff advisors work with student organizations and would like to promote and foster this advisor/student organization relationship to reach its full potential. Advising for a Chartered Student Organization at Saint Louis University can take many forms. Each CSO is different from other groups, and the leadership of the groups often varies from year to year, so each individual advisor may have to take a different approach to advising. Nevertheless, the following items are roles that all CSO advisors should assume.

## A Liaison

- between the organization and the administration, such that the advisor should be involved in any conflicts or concerns of the administration to the organization, and vice versa.
- between the organization and the faculty, which includes addressing faculty concerns with the organization and any conflicts the organization may have with university employees.
- between the organization and the university at large.

## A General Educator/Resource

- A resource for organizational procedures, group processes, and programming concerns.
- A resource providing history and continuity during changes in organizational leadership.
- A networking resource for students interested in internships, jobs, and other opportunities.

## An Overseer

- Familiar with SGA and university policies and procedures regarding the various obligations and functions of the organization, including the Presentation, Performance, and Speaker Policy, event registration procedures, and posting regulations. (see [Student Handbook Here](#) for resources regarding this point)

- Conscious of the state of the organization's finances and able to assist with financial matters when needed
  - If necessary, help provide continuity by acting as steward of the organization's paraphernalia, records, etc, during the summer and/or officer transitions.
- A Member of the Organization
- Behave as an active member of the organization by regularly attending group meetings and events and showing dedication to the group.
- A Reflective Agent
- Helps the executive board and members of the organization reflect on their purpose and goals and see how these goals align with their actions and with the mission of Saint Louis University
  - Provide alternative thoughts or contributions to help students see both sides of an issue
  - Mediates interpersonal conflicts that may arise.
- A Servant Leader
- Students follow the example of the advisor, so if the advisor is leading appropriately, then the students develop their own leadership skills via their advisor.
- A Mentor
- Allow the students to make some mistakes and do things the hard way.
  - Helps the organization to be inclusive to all and respect others of different backgrounds and opinions.
  - Set the expectations early for what you are able and willing to do, and listen to what the group desires for you.
  - Be a supporter of the organization, its activities, and its events.
  - Help to keep students motivated to accomplish group goals.
  - Works with students during event planning to discuss goals of event and guide efforts to have a productive event.

All CSO Advisors are expected to meet these standards of involvement and quality for their organizations. Following these guidelines for advising is essential if the CSOs at SLU are to be successful, so if an advisor does not meet the standards outlined above, he or she faces the possibility of losing their role as an advisor. In order to achieve the level of excellence expected of CSO advisors, several resources are available to advisors, including the CSO Handbook and literature from the Student Involvement Center (i.e. resources for student organizations and advisors)

For more information  
contact the Student  
Involvement Center by  
visiting the Busch  
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