Finding the Right Connection:

- Meet with your adviser at the beginning of the year to talk about his/her perceptions of the role of the adviser. Negotiate a role you both agree on and clarify any other expectations at this time.
- Continue to meet with your adviser at least bi-weekly to touch base and keep informed what is happening with the organization, projects or programs.
- Develop an orientation/retreat for the organization
- Discuss your group’s history, traditions, major accomplishments, fundraisers, programs, etc.
- Explore the relationship your group might have with others (ideas for co-sponsorship, recruitment, etc.)
- Review your budget
- Discuss general goals for the organization to share with group members and receive input.

The Role of the Advisor

**Appropriate Roles**

- To be a resource.
- To share specific knowledge in the development and implementation of programs.
- To attend programs of the organization.
- To interpret/clarify university policy and procedure to student organizations.
- To attend organization meetings.
- To suggest program ideas
- To provide historical continuity for the organization.
- To provide ideas and guidelines for the recruitment of new members.
- To be a personal role model.
- To be a problem-solving agent.
- To provide guidelines for programs.
- To advise officers about meeting agendas.

**Inappropriate Roles**

- To run the student organization meetings.
- To take care of last-minute program details.
- To be ultimately responsible for program problems or failures.
- To help clean up after programs.
- To respond only when asked by members.
- To be ultimately responsible for the group’s organization and decisions.
- To be responsible for content and ideas expressed in programs.
- To recruit new members for the organization.