

Finding, Involving and Keeping Your Advisor (continued)

Involving: Beyond the Signature

Every advisor is different, and is volunteering his time to an organization for various reasons. But there is no doubt that many advisors are untapped by the student leaders they work with. Most advisors would like to provide more than their signature! So, what exactly is the appropriate level of involvement you should expect from your advisor?

Did you know that an advisor can:

- ✓ Serve as a campus resource
- ✓ Help you think outside the box
- ✓ Answer your questions...sometimes with other questions
- ✓ Help mediate internal conflicts
- ✓ Provide referrals
- ✓ Facilitate training
- ✓ Provide new ideas
- ✓ Be a great model of leadership

Keeping: Building the Relationship

Advisors are like team coaches, focused on the good of the whole while also placing a great deal of importance on working with you and providing opportunities for you to develop as an individual and leader. Continue to build your relationship by getting to know your team coach and let her get to know you!

What a Coach Wants and Needs

- ✓ **Wants:** You to be challenged AND rewarded through your leadership experience.
- ✓ **Needs:** You to follow through on what you agree to do.
- ✓ **Wants:** To be a full participant in the team activities and endeavors.



Take some time
to keep in Mind ...

...that as much as your advisor wants to be involved, she has additional responsibilities within and beyond the college. Similar to you she is juggling multiple balls in the air. Support her need to be away from the group at times, and communicate when her participation is most valued.

My Advisor...

What do you really know about your advisor? Can you answer the following questions?

My advisor...

- ▲ went to school at...
- ▲ likes to do... in his/her spare time
- ▲ has been at this school for... years
- ▲ gets freaked out when...
- ▲ laughs like crazy when...
- ▲ feels passionate about...
- ▲ has favorite things/experiences such as...
- ▲ decorates his/her office that way because...
- ▲ feels... about his/her family and friends
- ▲ does... really well
- ▲ is also involved with... on campus and... in the community
- ▲ chose to work with students because...

- ✓ **Needs:** Time away from the team to accomplish those “administrative” duties she still needs to get done during training and during the year.
- ✓ **Wants:** You to communicate fully—the good, the bad, and the ugly—in a respectful manner.
- ✓ **Needs:** To share information with the team that may be for your ears only and expects you to keep it in confidence.
- ✓ **Wants:** To have fun! Coaches want to work hard and then play hard in appropriate ways.
- ✓ **Needs:** You to have fun and enjoy your experience.