10 Tips for Advisors

1. Inquire the expectations the chapter has of you as an advisor. If the chapter has more expectations than you have time to commit, the fit may not be right or more than one advisor may be needed.

2. Encourage communication between yourself and the chapter. Strong communication from the beginning will make for strong communication throughout the relationship. Find the communication styles. Email, text, one on one.

3. Look into the future when helping the chapter make decisions. One idea may be a good choice for the short term goals of the group, but not for the long term goals.

4. When communicating with members of the chapter, make sure to phrase things positively rather with negativity.

5. Help the chapter create any development opportunities whenever possible. Whether it’s academic, professional or chapter development, whenever you see a way to get involved in the chapter try it!

6. Show interest in the chapter and what they do. Join them for a fun event or send them an email congratulating them on an accomplishment.

7. Be flexible with the chapter. They are students first and members second. They may not be able to give as much time as you would like. Work with them!

8. Be aware that you may fulfill multiple roles. At one time you may be a consultant and facilitator in another.

9. Make sure to take self-care seriously. Sometimes, working with a chapter can take up a lot of time. Remember to give yourself time to relax.

10. Remember that advising is an experimental practice. There is no right or wrong way to be an advisor. Be authentic.