

Campus Sponsor

Qualifications

- A campus Sponsor should be a full-time faculty or staff member at NSU. Graduate teaching assistants with a teaching load of six or more hours may qualify on a temporary basis. It is recommended that an individual serve as Campus Sponsor to no more than two organizations.

Role

- Campus Sponsors play an important role in the extracurricular experience, for it is their guidance and participation in the organization that assists and encourages the students to become involved and to gain valuable experience in how to function in an organization environment.
- The University sees the Campus Sponsor as serving a pertinent function to preserve the existence of the organization, including the following:
 - Advising the organization on university policy, including educating the members and assisting them in their work within the University structure.
 - Providing direction and planning for managing the organizational budget, e.g. approving all expenditures.
 - Attend meeting and activities involving the organization.
 - Assisting the organization to annually set realistic goals and objectives, and then keeping the group focused on these.
- There are other functions of the Campus Sponsor that include providing continuity, facilitating growth and serving as a teacher that are equally important. If any assistance is needed, please contact the Director of Student Activities, room 204 of the Administration Building or call 458-2120 or extension 2120.

Hints on Recruiting a Campus Sponsor

Before approaching a potential Campus Sponsor, keep in mind the following: (a) find someone who will have the time to devote to your organization, (b) find someone who will take the role willingly and seriously, and (c) find someone who has knowledge or skills related to the mission/purpose of the organization.

When approaching the person for the first time, make certain that he/she has a clear understanding of the organization's purpose as well as what would be required of him/her, his/her duties, and the time commitment involved. Be open and honest with the potential Campus Sponsor about the types of activities in which the organization may participate.

Allow the person a reasonable length of time to consider his/her decision.

If possible, choose someone who shares some of the same interests as the organization, and who the leadership of the organization has previously interacted with. For example, when starting a departmental club or organization, staff within that department may be a good starting point in order to identify a Campus Sponsor.

How to Work With a Campus Sponsor

It is best to meet with the Campus Sponsor at least one day before organizational meetings to go over the proposed agenda and topics to be discussed. Be open to suggestions and criticisms he/she may provide. His/her knowledge and experience will help in exploring solutions and implementing organizational procedures.

If a Campus Sponsor cannot attend the meeting, be sure to meet with him/her after the meeting to brief him/her on what happened. Campus Sponsors can be a great resource; take advantage of their experience and insight.

Academic Support

Student organizations are called upon to coordinate their activities in a manner consistent with the mission of NSU. Academic success is the foundation of the University's purpose and as such should be an integral part of the organization's operations. Creating an environment that allows members to focus on academic success is crucial. One way that this can be accomplished is by remembering to coordinate activities, meetings, and social opportunities with the academic calendar in mind. Developing relationships with faculty, both those serving as campus sponsor and those serving students in the classroom, can also assist the organization in maintaining an academic focus.

Campus sponsors often can provide insight and guidance to individual members or the group on issues related to academic success. Additionally, organizations may choose to offer academic developmental programs to their membership. The Director of Student Activities and Organizations offers professional support for students in need of academic assistance, and is available to provide organizational programs as well as assist leadership in facilitating a supportive academic environment. A variety of workshop and web-based resources on topics such as study skills for surviving college, procrastination and time management, test preparation and dealing with test anxiety, memory enhancement, and conquering finals are available for your organization.