

Building Effective Alumni Advisory Boards

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Agenda

- Why have an advisory board?
- What does it look like?
- How does it work?
- Who is a member? Where can you find them?
- What resources are available?

Why Have An Advisory Board?

- Distinct from House Corporation
 - House Corporation manages the building, advisory board works with chapter officers to support the running of the chapter
 - Allows House Corporation to focus on maintenance rather than behavior
- Benefits
 - Provide continuity to chapter leadership
 - Bring experience to the process
 - Instill importance of lifelong membership and contributions
 - More volunteer opportunities, especially for younger alumni

Who Has One At MIT?

- Fraternities
 - ΒΘΠ, ΖΒΤ, ΘΔΧ, ΘΞ, ΘΧ, ΚΣ, ΝΔ, ΣΝ, ΣΦΕ, ΣΧ, ΦΔΘ, ΦΣΚ
- Sororities
 - ΑΕΦ, ΑΦ, ΑΧΩ, ΠΒΦ, ΣΚ
- ILGs
 - None reporting

What Does An Advisory Board Look Like?

- Size will depend on the FSILG's needs and number of alumni volunteers
- Three general models
 - Subsistence: 1-3 members
 - Stable: 4-6 members
 - Thriving: 7+ members

What Does An Advisory Board Look Like?

- Model 1 – Subsistence (3 members)
 - Chapter Advisor
 - Chairs the Advisory Board
 - Advises the President and Ritual Chair
 - Risk Management Advisor
 - Participates in CARMA program
 - Resident Advisor
 - Already has extensive interaction with undergraduates

What Does An Advisory Board Look Like?

- Model 2 – Stable (5 members)
 - All Model 1 roles (Chapter Advisor, CARMA, RA)
 - Recruitment / New Member Education Advisor
 - Finance Advisor

What Does An Advisory Board Look Like?

- Model 3 – Thriving (7+ members)
 - All Model 2 Roles
 - Alumni/ae Relations Advisor
 - Can coordinate a career mentor program
 - Community Service Advisor
 - Scholarship Advisor
 - Chapter History Advisor
 - Brotherhood / Sisterhood Advisor
 - Advisors to Other Exec Board Members

How Does It Work?

- Advisors are paired with one or more individual officers to support and assist in the administration of the chapter
 - Meet with advisee at least twice each semester to set goals and evaluate progress
 - At least bi-weekly communications to check in
- Advisors attend chapter meetings, Exec board meetings, new member meetings, disciplinary / Standards meetings
- Advisory Board holds separate monthly meetings

Who Is A Member?

- Chapter alumni/ae
 - If possible, advisable to have some space between advisors and undergraduate members; recent graduates can have difficulty in mentor roles
- Alumni/ae from other chapters
 - Good opportunity for expanding horizons and reinforcing the idea of (inter)national relationships

What to Look for in Advisors

- Should have a grasp of national and local policies
- Ability to build relationships with officers
- Flexibility in advising styles
- Ability to step back and let chapter officers made their own decisions
- Understanding that change takes time
- Motivated and excited

How to Recruit Members

- Existing House Corporation Board, if large and members interested in changing roles
- Local alumni/ae chapter, if one exists
- Alumni Association Infinite Connection
- National organization, if it keeps records of alumni (good source of data for non-MIT area alumni)
- Match volunteer interests with advisory roles

How to Recruit Members

- Undergraduates may be very effective at recruiting their own advisors
- Help them identify candidates, but let them “make the ask”

Other Advisory Roles

- Faculty Advisor
- Career Advisors / Mentors

Where to Get Help

- National organization (if one exists) may have documentation for alumni/ae advisors
- FSILG Toolkit
 - <https://alum.mit.edu/volunteering/VolunteerToc>
- AILG website / members
- AILG Committee for Alumni Advising

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