

Expectations for Excellence: Chapter Advocate Roles and Responsibilities

The Fraternity/Sorority Advocates are faculty and staff members from various areas of The College including Academic Support, Admissions, Athletics, Dean of Students Office, Dean of the College's Office, and Student Activities, to name a few. Above all else, the Fraternity/Sorority Advocate will play a vital role in establishing a positive and healthy relationship between The College and its individual fraternities and sororities. An Advocate can expect this role to be both demanding and rewarding. Connecting fraternities and sororities to The College in meaningful, positive and frequent ways will serve to strengthen ties and create a sense of collaboration previously unseen in our relationship. The advocate is the important conduit between The College and its fraternity and sorority community: if functioning well, the synergy created by this connection is filled with potential. Each chapter has been matched with an advocate that will work with them throughout this inaugural year. Below is the description of the chapter advocates.

Various Roles of the Advocates

- **Coach:** perhaps the most important role of the Advocate is to strike a continuous balance with organizations regarding challenge and support. Constantly pushing organizations to achieve excellence while, at the same time, providing sufficient guidance and encouragement for group and individual efforts is at the heart of the Advocate position.
- **Advisor:** Advocates serve as the primary source of advice about how to meet the Expectations for Excellence, how to react to problem, etc. It is expected that the Advocate is the first person to whom a fraternity or sorority runs when seeking information about these expectations.
- **Referral Source:** In keeping with the role of advisor as explained above, it is not expected that an Advocate has at his or her immediate disposal all information needed to provide advice in all situations. Rather, it is expected that the Advocate provide sound information about where in The College to obtain information and resources to help with problems, plans, programs, etc.
- **Mentor:** Advocates should model the behavior they encourage in individuals. Maintaining appropriate sense of confidentiality, holding oneself accountable for one's actions, timeliness, following through on commitments and other such behavior is important for organizational members to see in an Advocate.

General Information

- There will be several points in the calendar year during which the role of an Advocate will become especially vital. One can expect to spend most time with fraternities and sororities at the end and beginning of each semester. The busiest period will be November through February, when annual reports are due and accreditation processes are conducted. The yearly plans are due on a date to be announced, and the accreditation process will begin in early November.
- Advocates are not expected to be agents of The College in discipline-related matters. However, Advocates are expected to urge organizations and the individual within them to be honest, and to take responsibility for their actions. In the event that an Advocate becomes aware of the fact that organizations or individuals present imminent danger to themselves or to others, they are expected to convey this information to appropriate University offices as quickly as possible.
- Advocates are expected to attend accreditation meetings with their respective organizations, but are not expected to play a role in presenting any materials. They will, however, be expected to answer questions from the accreditation team.
- Advocates do not write reports for their organizations, and they are not responsible for the timely submission of any materials, programs, or actions/inactions of their respective fraternities or sororities.
- Advocates must walk a fine line between their responsibilities to their respective organizations and The College. Their primary role, however is to serve as agents of The College in promoting a healthy, positive, and productive fraternity and sorority system. Primary direction, therefore, is given to the Advocates by the Dean of the College through the Dean of Students Office.