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On Saint Louis University's campus, student group advising is looked to as more hands-on and purposeful than years ago when advising held merely the responsibility of providing necessary signatures. Below are some tips for advising student groups that will hopefully help you in your role as an advisor. We first recognize that each student group at Saint Louis University is unique in their make-up and needs and will thus require different approaches from the advisor, but hopefully these general tips will help set the foundation in ultimately creating an individualistic advising approach.

Know your group

- Find a time to sit down with the president or additional members of the group to gain insight into what the group's purpose is from their word of mouth
- Check out the group's constitution to gain insight into their written purpose, etc. Talk to your group's President about getting a copy of your group's constitution.

Know yourself and your institution

- Reflect on what campus, city, etc. resources you are familiar with and would be comfortable providing information on to your group.
- If feeling a little unsure about different resources on campus, check them out online.
- Know your own limits.

Expectations

- Set clear expectations with the group both for what they can and should expect from you as well as what you expect of them. It can be helpful to have both sides help each other in creating these expectations.

Relationships

- It definitely helps to build a strong advising relationship with the President and executive board members of the group. This provides you stronger insight into how the group is doing, as well as helps your connection with the group as they will typically be your main liaisons with the larger group.

Sense of Humor

- Sometimes you just need to laugh. Sometimes they just need to laugh. Don't lose sight of the small things.

