

A Note on Adviser Terms of Service

It is customary for organizations to choose an adviser for an academic year. At the end of this time, an organization may decide to reappoint. However, an organization is free to select a new adviser if it so desires. Neither the adviser nor the organization should assume that the term of service for the adviser continues indefinitely.

There are advantages for most organizations in retaining an adviser over a period of years. An adviser can help provide continuity and stability to a group. The adviser can provide advice on organization affairs after gaining familiarity. Establishing rapport is easier for the veteran adviser and the organization. Confidence in an adviser is stronger when the organization has observed the adviser's performance over a period of time. Also, it is not always easy to find a replacement for an adviser.

Of course, there are advantages in a system that provides for rotation. This allows for more faculty members to have the opportunity to serve as advisers and allows for sharing of the advisement load. A new viewpoint, a fresh and perhaps more creative approach is possible with new advisers. There is also the possibility that some members of an organization know members of the faculty whom they would like to have involved with their organization.

The adviser's term of service should be understood by both the adviser and the organization. Each year when new officers are elected, the adviser should be selected. This will be the recommended procedure. If a new adviser is selected, a completed copy of the Faculty/ Staff Adviser Form must be submitted to the Office of Student Life and Leadership.