



BETA THETA PI
— MEN OF PRINCIPLE —

ADVISORY TEAM EXPECTATIONS

POSITION IMPACT

As Beta Theta Pi's standards increase, so does its need for talented and involved individuals to provide support at the local level. Advisors enter into a collaborative relationship with many constituencies to provide direction and consistency in operation between elected leaders. He/she makes it possible to challenge the status quo while supporting progress by building relationships and fostering trust.

THE ADVISOR'S ROLE

The role of a chapter advisor is an important and difficult one to fill. To serve the chapters needs and welfare successfully, it requires many skills. While detailed checklists for many advisory positions can be found online at www.betathetapi.org, certain suggestions seem pertinent across the spectrum regardless of the specific role each person plays on the team:

- **The goal of the advisor is to help the chapter and the individual members become maturely self-directed.** The advisor should continually promote constant improvement through the use of self-study, evaluation and reconsideration of present policies in relation to the individual, the university and General Fraternity, as well as the demands of the institution, the alumni and the public.
- **The relationship of the advisor to a chapter is that of a coach to a team.** At times, the advisor must expect student errors and hope to make them instructive for the individuals and the group. The advisor should use a positive approach; offer criticism carefully and tactfully. Perfection cannot always be demanded; however, praise for commendable performance is important.
- **The advisor must set a good example for the chapter in action and example.** The advisor should follow suggestions or directions from the General Secretary, Regional Chief, District Chief, Administrative Office and the academic institution. He should keep in close contact with the chief and be completely informed.
- **The advisor must become familiar with and interested in the members as individuals, as well as a group.** The advisor must make it easy for the chapter officers and members to contact him/her about group and individual matters.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

While the Chapter Counselor and District Chief are responsible for ensuring that each individual team member feels skilled and capable of advising in their respective positions, there are some common characteristics shared among the most successful of advisory teams in Beta Theta Pi. It is expected, therefore, that the advisory team adopt the following at a minimum and report progress on each item to the District Chief each month:

- **The advisory team will plan quarterly meetings to review the progress of the chapter.** The Chapter Counselor should lead the charge in scheduling these meetings; however, attendance is expected from all members of the team.
- **The advisory team will meet, as a whole, with the chapter's Executive Committee twice each year.** These meetings can double as one of the quarterly advisory team meetings and should focus on building a "strategic plan" detailing how to continue moving the chapter forward towards reaching a set of mutually agreeable goals.
- **A schedule will be set at the beginning of each semester outlining advisor attendance at chapter functions.** While it is not expected that each advisor is in attendance at every chapter function, there should be an advisor presence at all chapter and executive committee meetings and a number of events throughout the year. At a minimum, team members should expect to attend at least two chapter meetings and two executive committee meetings each semester.
- **Individual advisors will maintain weekly contact with their advisee.** This contact could be made in the form of a weekly one-on-one meeting, a phone call, or a brief email exchange. Doing this will build the relationship between the advisor and the student in a way that allows them to become both a friend and a mentor.
- **Advisors will attend the Keystone Regional Leadership Conference every two years.** Attending the conference will allow the advisor to experience position specific training with his/her respective officer as well as time with the chapter's new leadership team when they are setting goals for the year. At a minimum, it is expected that at least one member of the advisory team attend *Keystone* annually.
- **A General Fraternity representative will provide training to new advisory team members within a reasonable time.** Whether this comes from the District Chief, Regional Chief or a staff representative, team members can only be effective if they are acutely aware of their responsibilities and are set up for success from the beginning.