Mission Impossible

How advisors can develop and optimize chapter life

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Agenda:

- Develop a clear mission statement
- Craft an advisor job description
- Craft a chapter president job description
- Create measurable outcomes
- Assess results
- Goal: develop re-useable examples in real-time workgroups, as we try to be effective leaders, cultivate relationships, manage risk, and motivate students for success.

Mission:

- What is Alpha Chi’s mission?
  - “Promote academic excellence and exemplary character among college and university students and to honor those who achieve such distinction.”
- What is YOUR chapter’s mission?
  - “Make scholarship effective for good”?
  - Send out an emails and hope people respond?
  - Don’t have one?
- For a mission statement to be effective, it must be:
  - Disseminated, known, and appropriate
  - Reviewed regularly
  - Consistent with the mission of the institution
  - Reference student learning
- What is Shorter’s mission?
  - Provide quality higher education, enabling and encouraging student commitment to active life-long learning, personal spiritual values, responsible citizenship, and community and societal leadership in a global context.
- What is Georgia Theta’s mission?
  - As part of the mission to provide quality higher education, Georgia Theta promotes and honors academic excellence and exemplary character, providing learning opportunities for scholarship and leadership.
- What is yours?

Let’s share and compare:
• How can you disseminate this mission?
• How can you make it known?
• How can you judge if it is appropriate?
• What will the review cycle be?
• Is it consistent with your school mission?
• Is student learning emphasized?

Advisor:

• What is Alpha Chi job description of an advisor?
  o Alpha Chi says that the advisor functions as the “liaison to the Alpha Chi national office. The chapter advisor is responsible for overseeing all aspects of local chapter life.”
• What is your job description?
  o Send an occasional email?
  o Do paperwork?
  o Something to put on my annual review?
• For an advisor job description to be effective, it must:
  o Define the role
  o Define responsibilities and objectives
  o Provide clear direction and expectations
  o Designate a specific supervisor
  o List minimum requirements
• What is Georgia Theta’s advisor’s job description?
  o Act as primary liaison between Shorter and the Alpha Chi National Office
  o Function as the single point of contact for developing and disseminating information about the society and scholarship opportunities
  o Set the mission and strategic direction of the chapter
  o Select and induct new members, as well as plan the ceremony and reception
  o Have excellent communication, PR, and marketing skills to promote, motivate, and advance the chapter
  o Develop academic and service activities to retain Star status
  o Set the calendar of events
  o Supervise the chapter
  o Advise scholars, as appropriate
  o Manage the budget
  o Report to the Provost directly
  o Be a full-time faculty member in good standing
• What is yours?

Outcomes:
• Examples?
  o At least 90% of the students invited will join Alpha Chi annually
  o The chapter will at a minimum develop service and academic programs to qualify it for Star status annually
  o The chapter will be featured for at least one photo of the week on the university website to promote accomplishments annually
  o The chapter will team with at least two other organizations on campus for service and academic programs annually

Assessment:
• Assess how well you achieved your outcomes annually
• Establish expectations and maintain accountability
• Create buy-in among all stakeholders – advisors, students, upper administration – due to the rigor of assessment
• Substantiate the need for celebration of scholarship and service
• Provide a basis for fundraising
• Manage risk
• If you do not achieve your outcomes, then what?
  o Repeat the assessment to look for trends before making perhaps unnecessary adjustments
  o Adjust expectations based on this “reality check”
  o Adjust outcomes to better map to your mission and job description – or vice versa

Conclusion
• Do you have some good ideas now?
• Do you have a template for success?
• Do you have usable examples?
• Now...
  o Be more effective leaders
  o Cultivate relationships
  o Manage risk
  o Motivate students for success