Optimizing Opportunities:
Working with Other Honor Societies

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Agenda:

• Lists of Campus Organizations
• Brainstorm/Q&A
• Case Study: What Worked at Shorter

Let’s List:

• Name other organizations on your campus
  o Academic?
  o Social?
  o Honors Programs?

Q&A:

• How do you work with these organizations currently?
• Do you compete for students? Calendars? Money?
• What is the biggest competition/obstacle to win mindshare?

Shorter’s Plan:

• We wanted to mentor organizational advisors on campus
  o There were too few students and too many obligations – for students, for advisors, for everything, for anything
• So, we asked organizational advisors to meet for a 30-minute chat
  o To our surprise, they all agreed to meet
• We asked if they wanted to work together
  o Once again, to our surprise, they all said yes
• We brainstormed benefits
• We agreed to meet again after we spoke to students
• We spoke to the students and had our meeting
• We discussed the benefits from the students’ point of view
  o Respecting their time, prioritizing events, resume building
• We suggested a new plan
  o We petitioned to create a new committee: the Honors Committee
- The committee chair would be the new Honors Academy Director (promoted from within)
- Members would be the organizational advisors
- Members would be required to meet twice per semester
- During these meetings, members would work to combine efforts on academic and service projects
- The committee goes into effect Fall 2016 (officially)
- Already, however, we have reaped these benefits:
  - All advisors are aware of all honor students and their commitments for each term (next year, we hope to expand to a full academic year)
  - Students are more aware of other honor organizations
  - Alpha Chi has an even more prestigious reputation
  - The Honors Academy has grown in membership
  - Alpha Chi, Honors Academy, Center for Teaching Excellence, and QEP Taskforce are already working together on two lunch and learns for faculty and students – which counts for faculty professional development and student service!

**What Can You Do?**

- Would this type of plan be an option on your campus?
  - Obstacles?
  - How can you overcome these obstacles?
- If you are already successful, would you share your example with us now?
- What works for you?