

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
 - Academic?
 - Social?
 - 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
 - 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
 - To our surprise, they all agreed to meet
- We asked if they wanted to work together
 - 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
 - Respecting their time, prioritizing events, resume building
- We suggested a new plan
 - 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?