

WHEN CLUBS GO ROGUE.....

Frank Bryant, Robert Fabrize, Debbora Whitson, Juanita Roxas, and H. Erkan Ozkaya,
Cal Poly Pomona

Student benefits from involvement in student clubs have been well documented (Astin 1993, Foubert and Grainger 2006). Studies have found statistically significant factors that connect student involvement to student outcomes in college. Astin (1993) “reported that elected student offices, public speaking ability, leadership abilities, and interpersonal skills have statistically significant correlations with hours per week spend participating in student clubs and organizations” (Foubert and Grainger 2006). Student clubs provide a vital lifeline between students and academic departments, in many cases, bringing the academic aspects of their education to life with activities that bridge the gap between theory and practice.

For all the benefits of participation in student clubs to students, this special session addresses issues dealing with faculty advisers and the administration. In “Risk versus Reward: Is Being a Club Adviser Worth It?” Dr. Frank Bryant will address the rewards for being a club adviser. He will describe his involvement in a couple of student clubs affiliated with the department. The clubs he advised have had successes, but he will also deal with the issue of how involved and adviser should be in club activities. To what extent, should advisers enable and allow students the freedom to “run” things. Then, Dr. Bryant will discuss the rewards of being a club adviser from the department, college and university.

In “Keeping the faith: the advisor as institutional memory,” Dr. Robert (Bob) Fabrize will discuss the divide between the social and performance aspects of student clubs. He will address other aspects of clubs’ operations like continuity beyond a year, the issues connected to being a 2-year school as well as maintenance issues as clubs go on from year to year.

In “Encounters from the Dark Side: The Bourbon Street Incident,” Dr. Debbora Whitson will go over issues dealing with out of town travel with clubs to participate in activities. She will include the trials and tribulations when something goes wrong while on a trip. She will also deal with issues of individual and club postings on the internet.

Dr. Juanita Roxas will provide the Administration’s issues with club activities. This will include issues when clubs get into conflict with advisers, as well as liability issues of student drinking/drug use, the tarnishing of the name of department and college, as well as bookkeeping issues and financial concerns.

Finally, Dr. H. Erkan Ozkaya, in “How to rebuild the burned bridge?” will discuss student conflicts and rifts in the club. He will solicit audience comments on the value of previous club membership in corporate world. Is it true that only e-board membership counts for employers?

References:

Astin, Alexander (1993). “What Matters in College?” *Liberal Education*, Fall, Vol. 79, Iss. 4, p. 4-12.
Foubert, John and Lauren Grainger (2006). “Effects of Involvement in Clubs and Organizations on the Psychosocial Development of First-Year and Senior College Students,” *NASPA Journal*, Vol. 43, No. 1, pp. 166-182.