

RESIDENTIAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

FACULTY FELLOW SUPPLEMENT

Once again, thank you for serving as a volunteer with Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity. This supplement will help you to further define your role as Faculty Fellow. It also provides a number of great ideas for your work with the chapter.

Great Ideas for Faculty Fellows

- Take initiative. Undergraduates want your involvement but are sometimes hesitant to ask for assistance or guidance.
- Meet with individual members who may need academic guidance. The time spent with individuals on a one-to-one basis is some of the most rewarding time spent as a Faculty Fellow.
- Clearly post your availability and communicate these hours to the chapter.
- Meet regularly with a chapter official to ensure members are setting personal academic goals. Request to see these goals and have them posted in a public place. It develops academic accountability.
- Proactively seek out your department chair, college dean, and top academic official at your university and meet to discuss your role with the chapter. (Many academic professionals do not understand the role of advising academics in the fraternity world.)
- Spearhead a faculty dinner which all brothers invite their favorite professor to attend.
- Join the fraternity members for student-organized activities, including intramural competitions, university athletics, service events, and student fine arts performances. Informal interaction is one of the best ways to foster an open relationship.
- Use the chapter's email distribution list to send out a weekly email on topics of interest, such as, "Reminder: next week is the last week to add or drop a course."
- Vary your work environment to include the chapter facility and campus locations, such as the library or student center. Consider reading, writing, or taking a break in one of these areas.

Four Major Guidelines for Advising

1. ***Get to know your students.*** The better you know and understand your students, the better you will be able to anticipate the types of problems they will experience during the course of the year. Establishing rapport is a significant part of the advising process.
2. ***Know and recognize your limits.*** It is important to accept your own time constraints and delegate accordingly. One of your roles as a Faculty Fellow is to refer students in need to the right resources on campus. If a student has a problem that is outside your abilities, refer that student to an appropriate resource.
3. ***Communicate with local volunteers and Headquarters staff.*** Communication is the key to determining the type of follow-up necessary for handling student concerns. The Chapter Counselor, Regional Director, and Director of Residential Life are ready and willing resources to help you.

FACULTY FELLOW SUPPLEMENT

4. ***Practice appropriate confidentiality.*** Appropriate privacy and respect are essential in building an advising relationship.

Faculty Fellows in Action

Dean Victor Wilson, Faculty Fellow at the University of Georgia, Georgia Delta:

“We are proud of the new Faculty Fellow office and it is working out quite well. The people who come to the SigEp house to meet me are impressed, and our goal of getting people here and dispelling some myths about fraternities is starting to work.”

Dr. Yvonne Gentzler, Faculty Fellow at Iowa State University, Iowa Beta:

Utilizing her connections as an academic, Dr. Gentzler assists the chapter to find speakers for chapter functions.

Dr. Ronald L. Hall, Faculty Fellow at Stetson University, Florida Beta:

“I like the challenge of breaking the image of fraternity life as anti-intellectual.”

Dr. Lanie Steinwart, Faculty Fellow at Valparaiso University, Indiana Zeta:

Once a month, Dr. Steinwart brings a career development workshop, such as résumé writing, to the SigEp Residential Learning Community.

Dr. Jeanne McLachlin, Faculty Fellow at the University of Arkansas, Arkansas Alpha:

“Having office space at the chapter house allows me to hold office hours and give out-of-house members a reason to come hang out. Making a connection with the members in a more relaxed, social context is a better way to establish rapport so they will seek me out in times of need with academic or personal issues. It's not only good for recruiting, it's good for the health of the chapter.”

Michael Wunderlich, Faculty Fellow at Syracuse University, New York Alpha:

Mr. Wunderlich and his wife give an annual book scholarship to a chapter member who demonstrates scholarship, leadership and some type of financial need.

Dr. Miriam Pittenger, Faculty Fellow at the University of Illinois, Illinois Alpha:

Miriam is involved in the Balanced Man Quest to Greece and is helping develop a Greek history guide for the Fraternity.

Dr. Anthony Flinn, Faculty Fellow at Eastern Washington University, Washington Gamma:

“I suspect the SigEp Fraternity brothers have given me more than I've give them.”

FACULTY FELLOW SUPPLEMENT

What to Expect From Headquarters

Sigma Phi Epsilon's Director of Residential Life coordinates communication and training for Faculty Fellows, and the Residential Learning Community program. As a Faculty Fellow, you will have access to the following resources:

- Regular phone and on-site assistance as needed.
- Training and development for volunteers at national leadership conferences.
- A complimentary subscription to *About Campus* magazine.
- Regular updates from the national organization.

Regional Director: The Regional Director (RD), a member of the Headquarters staff, spends the year traveling between chapters in a geographic region as an educational and leadership consultant. Regional Directors are expected to contact Faculty Fellows when scheduling chapter visitations.