

THE IMPACT OF ADVISORS ON STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Molly Robinson

Advisor: Nasser A. Razek

METHODS

- Two surveys using an online data collector: Formstack
- First survey sent to student organization advisors
- Second survey sent to student organization presidents
- 32 questions, mostly likert scales built off CAS Standards (2012)
- Survey distributed over 3 weeks in February 2013
- Distributed to 259 advisors and 445 student organization presidents
- 102 advisor respondents
- 65 student organization president respondents
- 31 matched pairs of responses
- Statistical procedures include correlational tests

BACKGROUND

- Student organizations are an integral part of college campus communities.
- The purpose of this study is to fill a gap in the literature. Currently, no research studies have been conducted to examine how the advisor impacts a student organization's success.
- Overall themes found in the literature include methods to maximize advisor/student relationships and explanations of the multiple facets of being a student organization advisor.
- Ferris et al. states, "The scary reality is that while there is extensive research on leadership and leadership development, little information exists about the role the advisor plays in student leadership development" (2011, p. 1).

OBJECTIVES

- This study looks for differences in the perception of an advisor's involvement from the view of advisors and student organization presidents.
- The study also looks to see if there is a correlation between advisor involvement and student organization president's perception of organizational success.

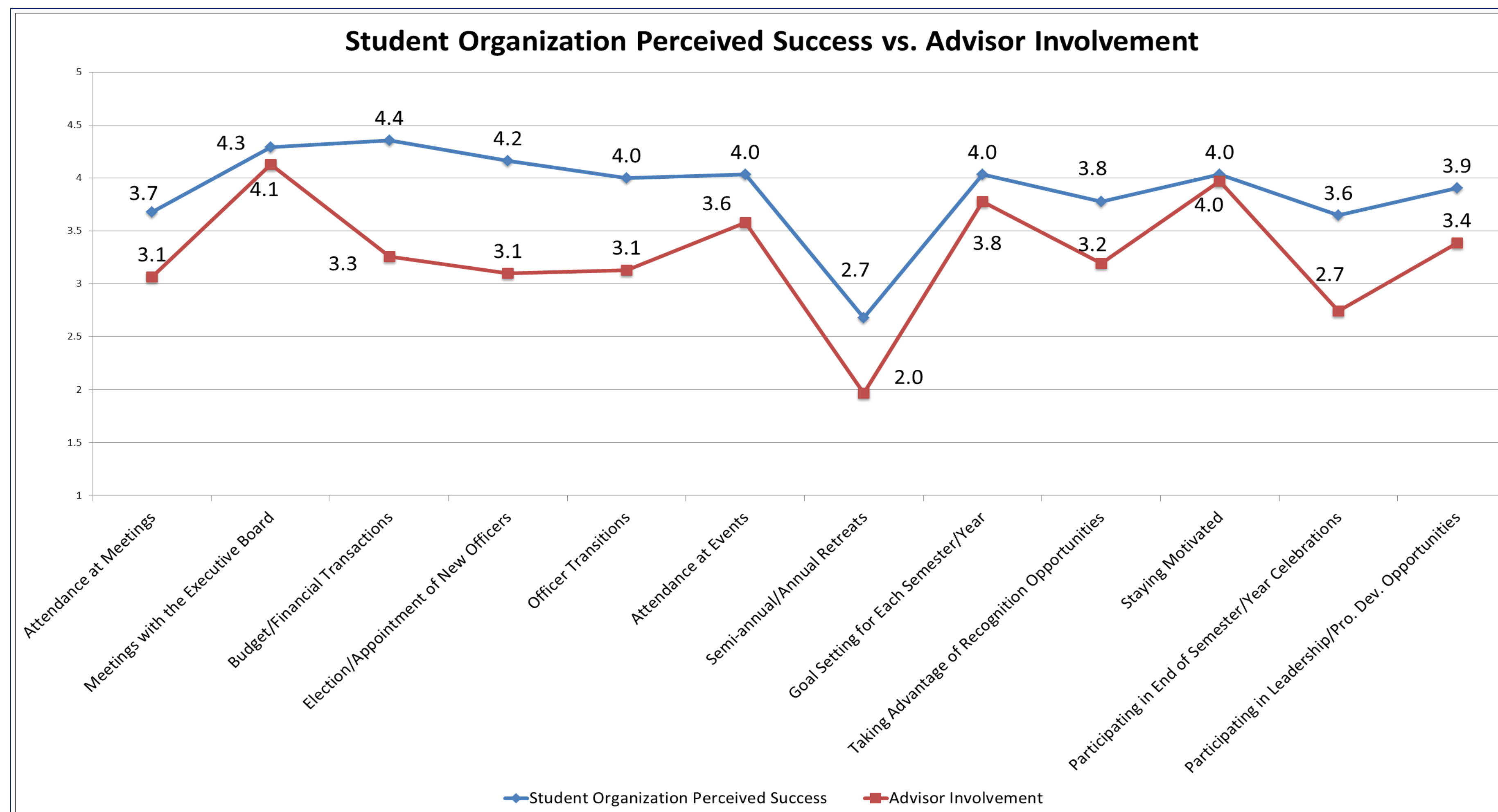
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Is there a relationship between advisor involvement and student organization president's self-perceived success?
2. Is there a difference in the perceptions about the involvement of the advisor?

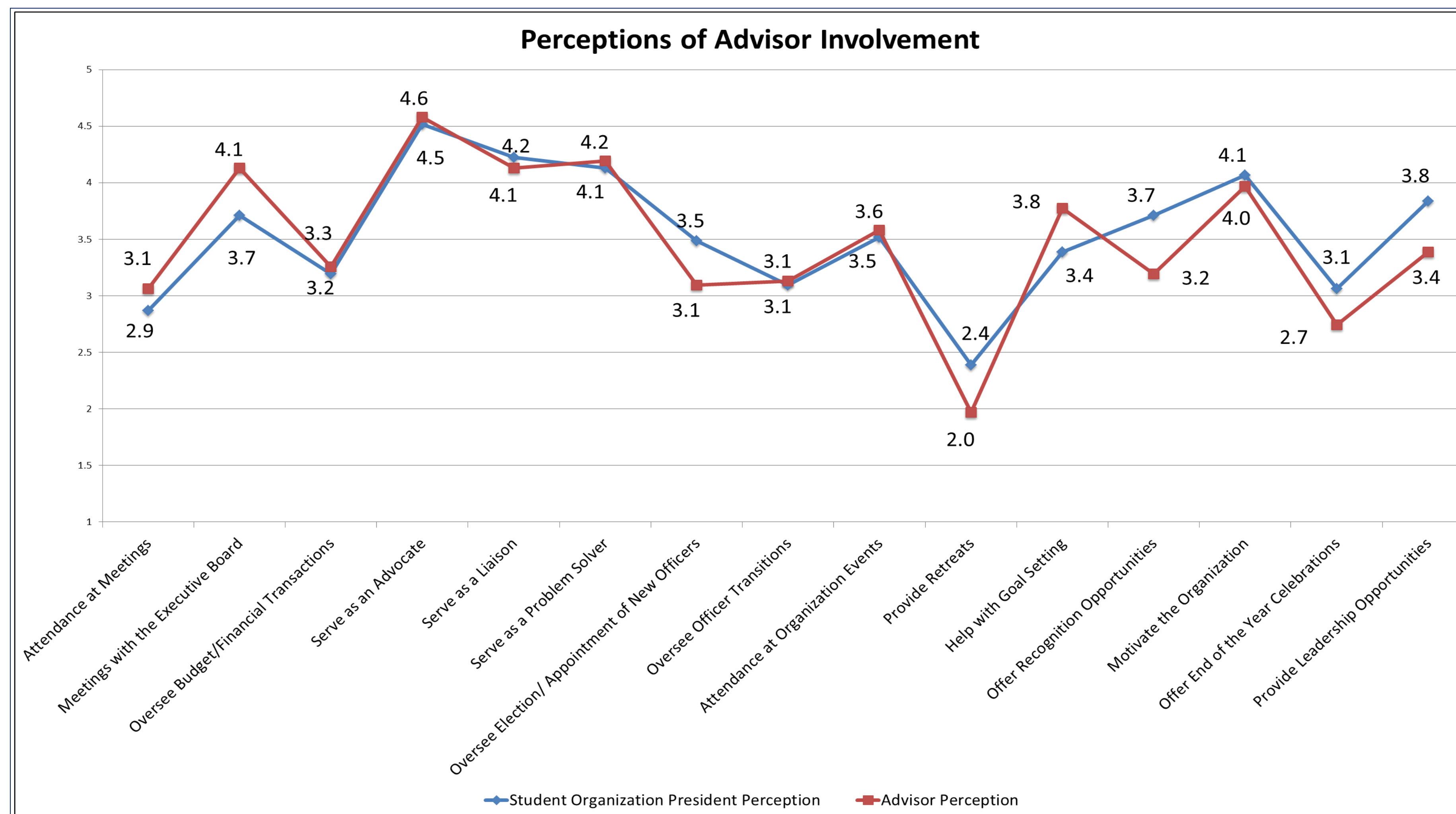
ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to examine the impact of student organization advisors on organizational success, based on the expectations set by the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (2012). This study looked for differences in the perception of an advisor's involvement from the perspective of advisors and student organization presidents. The study also looked to see if there was a correlation between advisor involvement and student organization president's perception of organizational success. Participants of this study were asked to rate, using a likert scale, the involvement of the advisor and how successful the student organization performed specific tasks. Due to the dearth of research on this particular topic, the study findings open doors for further research with larger sample sizes for more generalizable results. Results of this study may interest student organization leaders, advisors, and higher education professionals looking to increase organizational success.

Student Organization Perceived Success vs. Advisor Involvement



Perceptions of Advisor Involvement



CONCLUSION

- There is a positive relationship between advisor involvement and student organization president's self-perceived organization success.
- There is no significant difference between student organization president's perception of their advisor's involvement and advisor's perception of his or her own involvement within the organization.
- Within the data, student organization president's have clearly articulated that they feel at minimum "rarely successful" in all categories of student organization tasks and responsibilities. Not a single organization president indicated that they were "not successful at all" in any category.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

There are four major limitations of this study:

- Participants came from a convenience sampling at the University of Dayton.
- The study was not longitudinal.
- Advisors and student organization presidents could have been more likely to respond if they were involved.
- The research could not account for the president's individual leadership abilities.
- More research needs to be conducted on the impact advisors have on students and student organizations.

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