Survey Says...

Common Pitfalls of Student Leaders & How to Address Them
Learning outcomes for today

• Reflect on where you are in your student leadership experience
• Identify common pitfalls often seen in student leaders
• Identify ways to address these pitfalls and learn about other resources that can help you be more successful
Who am I?
Why the heck are you listening to me?

• Student employee
  – Intramural official/office assistant/supervisor

• Student leader
  – Club officer/president

• Supervisor
  – Supervised students at 3 different institutions

• Adviser
  – Coached sport club team
  – Professional staff supporting 65+ sport clubs
Now, who are you?

• Give me some perspective who I am talking to
  – Name
  – Institution
  – Organization/Position/Role
Now, let’s take some time to think...

• What is a student leader?
Now, let’s take some time to think...

• What is a student leader?
• Why are you a student leader?
• What makes a successful student leader?
• What do you think are some pitfalls of student leaders?
I asked a variety of student affairs professionals and they said...
Lack of Attention to Detail

• Slow down
  – Be patient – do it right the first time
• Think it through
  – all the way – past the 1st step
• Anticipate what might happen
  – If this...then this...
• Read your emails/websites/policies
  – Listen in meetings
Lack of/Delayed Response to Emails

• Acknowledge it has been received/you are working on it
  – “Let me ask...”
  – “I’ll get back to you by Friday”
  – “I have to check on that, I’ll get back with you”

• Give yourself a deadline
  – This holds you accountable & keeps us off your back
Failure to/Lack of Follow-through

- If you say it...do it
  - Or own up and ask for help
- Deadlines
  - Set them for yourself & tell others
    - Keeps you accountable
- Its okay to need help/fail
  - We can’t help if we don’t know you need it
Over Committed

• Those that often volunteer...always volunteer
  – You don’t have to be involved with everything
• Learn how to delegate
  – And who to delegate to
  – And what can be delegated
• Know your schedule
  – Don’t overbook yourself
  – Know your busy times
Some other concerns...

• Lack of ability to prioritize tasks/time
  – Who needs it-when do they need it – how big is it

• Accountability – not taking ownership
  – “My B”-”I’m sorry”-”I need help”
  – Its okay to fail…I do it every day before 9am

• Thinking for themselves – asking Qs before thinking about it
  – Where can you find it – who else might know
  – Think 1st – anticipate responses
Some other things we want you to know...

• Ask for help, you don’t have to know everything
• Find a mentor for your professional & personal development
• **Take ownership for your work & be open to constructive feedback**
• Being busy doesn’t mean you are a better leader
• Commit & follow-through with your best effort – and when you can’t, admit it, communicate that & ask for help
• **Don’t be afraid to make tough decisions – that is when you learn the most**
Do you know who do go to for help?

• Leadership & Service Center
  – Coaching appointments
  – PDCP
  – Leadership ASsessment
  – Emerging Leaders
  – So much more!

• Your boss/supervisor at work
  – Not just a paycheck to us
Who else?

- Your adviser
  - Academic or organizational
- Your U101 instructor
  - Or any professor/instructor/TA
- Student Success Center
  - Success consultation
  - Writing & communication
- Career Center
  - Decide it – Experience it – Live it
What feedback do you have for us?

• It’s only fair...

• What frustrates you about us?

• How can we better help you?

• Be honest 😊
Questions?

• What else can I answer?

• What else can I clarify?

• How else can I help?
As Gamecocks, our impact has No Limits.