

Board of Directors: Roles & Expectations

MEETINGS

Members of the Students for Haiti, Inc. Board of Directors are expected to attend meetings and contribute their ideas. Meetings are primarily virtual in-nature and utilize Google+ video- conferencing technology. Such technology allows up to ten users to video-conference and up to 300 users to respond to messages simultaneously regardless of geographic location.

Efforts are made to accommodate all Board members' schedules and to designate meeting dates and times months in- advance. Those who cannot attend meetings are expected to give written notice to the President at the earliest date possible, no less than 48 hours prior to the meeting, unless there are extenuating circumstances. Minutes will be emailed to all Board members after each meeting for review.

Directors can expect, on average, 1-2 meetings per quarter (approximately 4-8 meetings annually), and although there is no minimum number of meetings that a Director must participate in, failure to attend meetings and/or regularly review minutes will hinder progress and wane rapport and consequently, jeopardize a Director's standing on the Board.

MENTORSHIP

As an organization intended to support students, Students for Haiti, Inc. designates one member of its Board of Directors as a 'mentor' to each student group featured in its Student Group Database each cycle. This system serves to provide student leaders with guidance as they fundraise and advocate for Haiti-based projects. At meetings, mentors will be asked to speak about successes and/or challenges that their designated chapters have experienced so that Students for Haiti, Inc. may proactively provide appropriate recognition and/or guidance.

Mentor designations are often based upon the proximity and experience of Directors, and are made through mutual agreement. If there are more student chapters than Directors at any given time, each Director is required to act as a mentor to at least one chapter. Acting as a mentor to more than one chapter is a responsibility that certain Board members elect and others are importuned to accept.

In summary, satisfactory mentorship by Students for Haiti, Inc. requires that Directors:

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- **Correspond with designated student leaders in a professional and consistent manner**
- **Help student groups utilize our website and set goals that are high, but also achievable**
- **Connect student leaders to resources and other individuals with experience**
- **Update Board members as to the progress of their assigned groups**
- **Recognize student groups for their accomplishments**

RESEARCH OF HAITI-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

In order to provide students with ample projects, service, and fundraising opportunities, it is imperative that Directors of Students for Haiti, Inc. establish sound relationships with a myriad of reputable and Haiti-based philanthropic groups. Additionally, Directors will evaluate organizations for inclusion in the studentsforhaiti.org NGO Project Catalog biannually. This will require research, application review, and deliberation for approximately 2 weeks, twice per year.

Research of potential partner organizations is delegated among the Students for Haiti, Inc. Board of Directors by mutual agreement and in an aboveboard fashion. The magnitude of delegated responsibilities, though subject to the life circumstances and previous commitments of Directors, is expected to be proportionate among all. Failure to take on proportionate responsibility jeopardizes the standing of any complacent Director.

PROJECT REVIEW

The completeness, feasibility, sustainability, and projected impact of projects undertaken by student groups are discussed during Board meetings. Feedback is documented in the meeting minutes and Directors are expected to use conclusions drawn to advise students as to how they may best move forward.

When providing feedback to student groups, keep the following in mind:

- **Be objective; don't get frustrated**
- **Show understanding of the problem your group is trying to address**
- **Ask for student opinions whenever possible**
- **Try to get students to reach the same conclusions as you on their own**

Above all, Directors are called to respect student innovation and creativity and to support fundamental ideas presented by student groups rather than dismiss them, when at all possible.

SCHOOL OUTREACH

In order to spread the mission of Students for Haiti, Inc., efforts must be made to reach out to students at unchartered high schools, universities, and colleges. To this effect, designated Board members are expected to reach out to faculty and staff of such institutions and encouraged to utilize contacts that they may have already.

As an organization founded by students and/or recent graduates, Students for Haiti, Inc. expects high levels of turnover. In order to sustain our organization, mentors are encouraged to identify especially active student leaders that they believe would make valuable additions to our Board of Directors and to encourage these students to apply for directorship positions upon graduation. If a Director aspires to tasks that he believes would be best delegated to students, he may also suggest that students be offered formal, unpaid internships with Students for Haiti, Inc.-- after being granted permission from the President who will then make individual offers to students.

FUNDING

Board members solicit funds from companies, businesses, and private donors to maintain the studentsforhaiti.org website and front other internal costs. By making written requests and/or presentations, Directors acquire funds from these entities in the form of tax-deductible donations while raising awareness of student activism and the Students for Haiti, Inc. mission. Although only a select number solicit funds directly, all Board members are expected to seek out potential donors, as outside funding is imperative for the perpetuation and continued growth of our organization.

Although a percentage of funds will be needed to offset internal costs, Students for Haiti, Inc. seeks to make such costs as small as possible by utilizing many free technologies and services. Board members may be reimbursed for private purchases made on the behalf of our organization, but none are compensated for their directorships. In the event that Students for Haiti, Inc. has a monetary surplus, funds will be offered to students in the form of grants.

i We hope that this document has sparked your interest in the mission of Students for Haiti, Inc. and encouraged your future involvement in our organization. We also hope that it has made you aware of the commitments and responsibilities that meaningful involvement entails.

Should you have questions regarding Students for Haiti, Inc. Director roles or expectations, feel free to call our corporate number, **(302)-352-1466**, or send an email to ask@studentsforhaiti.org