

Student Org Essentials Reflection: Operating a Student Org During COVID

With our recent physical separation during spring and summer, many of our regular operations have been altered or paused, member motivations may be low, and connecting with others requires a different approach in our virtual environments. With this in mind, consider what you need to do to start the school year strongly and with intention.

Use the following questions as a leadership team to determine the state of your organization moving into the fall semester.

Consider the [Student Organization Success Framework](#) as you form plans for the year. Reach out to the [Student Org Success Coaches](#) for help translating ideas into action items.

Basic Operations

- What are our core components? For example: purpose statement, goals, key relationships.
- What aspects of our roles are impacted by COVID?
- If a transition process has been interrupted or is upcoming, what are we doing to continue forward momentum?
- How will we change our operations to a virtual format? For example: meetings, elections, recruitment.
- How do we shift priorities to stay stable? For example: adapting a role to accommodate increase in digital communication efforts
- What is our financial status, and how do we need to change use of funds or anticipate fundraising efforts to maintain our core needs?
- What does our constitution say about amendments? How quickly can we expect to make changes to the constitution for operation shifts?
- How and when are we communicating these updates with our members and key stakeholders?
- How can we promote safety and wellbeing to our members? For example: highlighting resources, encouraging virtual engagement, holding each other accountable.



Member Experience

- How has retention been impacted? Why?
- Are we ready to onboard new members? What do we need to do to get ready?
- What are our membership goals? How many people do we need at a minimum vs how many people would be optimum?
- Do we need to adapt recruitment efforts?
- What ways can we connect with members? For example: Leadership team members reach out to members individually to schedule 1:1s.
- How are members connecting with each other? For example: Small group meet-ups; Zoom dinners, etc.
- How are members feeling generally? For example: What is one word to describe how you are feeling right now?
- What are our members looking forward to? What are our members concerned about?
- How are we assessing these feelings? 1:1s, Microsoft Form, group share-outs
- How are we using the information about how our members feel?
- Why might we need to prioritize member experience more than before?

Looking Ahead

- Which of our goals for the year are still important? Which may not be as important right now?
- What opportunities are there for us to do things differently? What new things will we try?
- What resources will be helpful to us?
- What new connections should we seek? For example: Find an aligning organization to collaborate on a meeting or event.
- How are we going to support each other?
- What other conversations do we need to have as a team?

Together As Buckeyes

Check out these available resources:

- Safe and Healthy Buckeyes: safeandhealthy.osu.edu
- Student Org Guidance Document: go.osu.edu/StudentOrgGuidance
- Student Org Essentials virtual programs: go.osu.edu/StudentOrgProgramming
- Student Org Office Hours: activities.osu.edu/involvement/student_organizations

