



The Differences Between an Advisory Committee & Board

Handout

Advisory Committee ¹	Board ^{2,3,4}
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advises or supports an organization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determines the organization’s mission and purpose.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not authorized as decision-makers; only gives advice and counsel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selects the Executive Director/Officer.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluates the performance of the organization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the Executive Director/Officer and reviews his or her performance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves as advocate for the organization to the community it serves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures effective organizational planning.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides feedback to the organization from the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures adequate resources.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviews, monitors or assesses specific programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manages resources effectively.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a means to involve people who are willing to give very critical assistance, but have limited time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determines and monitors the organization’s programs and services.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides technical expertise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves as a court of appeals.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gathers input from or serves as a liaison with relevant constituencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assesses its own (the board’s) performance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds a corps of outside, experienced experts whose interest and support are important. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board members mostly consist of professionals in the area of the institution.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides an independent, unbiased sounding board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects the perpetuity and long range future of the organization.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulfills the purpose for which it was established. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans beyond their present task, addressing future needs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dynamic; shifts roles as circumstances change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintains the organization’s stability and structure.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assists the staff in developing determined important activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determines directions to go and plans to be implemented.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alters its purpose and structure in the course of its duration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controls and fosters the institution through collective authority.

1. Axelrod, N. R. 1991. *Creating and renewing advisory boards: Strategies for success*. Washington, D.C.: National Center for Nonprofit Boards.

2. Fitzpatrick, J. L. 1993. *The board’s role in public relations and communications*. Washington, D.C.: National Center for Nonprofit Boards.

3. Ingram, R. T. 1988. *Ten basic responsibilities of nonprofit boards*. Washington, D.C.: National Center for Nonprofit Boards.

4. Lascell, D. M. and Jensen, C. M. 1992. *Bridging the gap between nonprofit and for-profit board members*. Washington, D.C.: National Center for Nonprofit Boards.

Source: Ohio State University. 1998. Partners in action, PIA 2: What is the difference between an advisory committee and a board? *OSU Advisory Committee Guidelines*.

