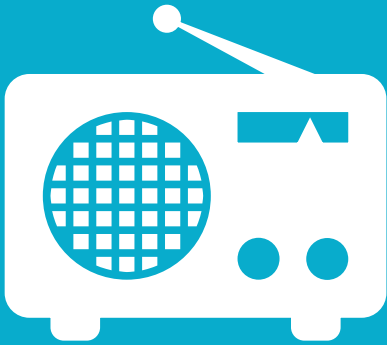




UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING  
Institute for Leadership Education in Engineering

# *External Relations*



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Handbook for Student Leaders

Vision, Mission & Strategy  
Motivation & Delegation  
Personal Development & Mastery  
Team Development  
Recruitment  
Reflection & Awareness  
Transition & Succession  
— **External Relations**  
Leadership Styles  
Purposeful Leadership

# **Who are the powerful allies around your organization?**

## **How do you engage with them?**

## **What does a great relationship look like?**

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Before jumping into who you might be able to work with, and how you can build those relationships, it's important to "Why?" This brings us back to the guiding ideas of vision and purpose: with a strong sense of what you are collectively trying to accomplish, it becomes much easier to identify who can help you achieve your goals. This section aims to connect your organization with important stakeholders within your sphere of influence.

As a student organization, you don't exist in a bubble. You are immersed in the university system, with all kinds of interesting stakeholders operating with and around you.

### **Engineering Society**

For more information on club affiliation and logistical matters, please contact the VP Student Life with the Engineering Society: [vpstudentlife@skule.ca](mailto:vpstudentlife@skule.ca).

### **Faculty Members**

There are many ways for student organizations to engage professors and staff: from attending events, to being advisors, to collaborative research, to curriculum development. One of the most rewarding aspects of working directly with faculty members as a student leader is that it can potentially shift the power dynamics, from you as Student and them as Professor, to you both being mutual peers working towards a common goal.

A key theme for student groups and faculty engagement is that (a) it often starts small and grows larger over a period of a couple of years; and (b) personal relationships (separate from the group) often are the starting point for good professional relationships.

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## Other Student Organizations

Different student organizations can join forces to support a broader campaign, work together to run a jointly planned event, or even just share resources and experiences. One common challenge encountered by any groups working together is creating shared expectations, and understanding who is responsible for what.

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For many groups, there is an untapped potential in the networks of faculty members, other student organizations, alumni and industry connections and broader national organizations.

## Industry and Alumni

Alumni and professionals represent incredible sources of knowledge, experience and even financial resources. Some ways in which student groups have leveraged these people include guest speakers and panels, judges for competitions, and co-facilitators for workshops. Two different ways to think about working with professionals are (1) From the perspective of their company, through corporate sponsorship and affiliation; and (2) From the perspective of an individual person who might volunteer their time and skills to support your organization.

## National Organizations (Umbrella Organizations)

Some student organizations are affiliated with a larger national or international organization, such as Toastmasters International or Engineers Without Borders Canada. These umbrella organizations will exist already, so this may not apply to a number of clubs.

The major advantages of being affiliated at a larger geographic level are that it opens up opportunities to share ideas, resources and experiences with people in similar contexts. The opportunity to attend retreats, conferences and regional meetings is a chance to push your own thinking and understanding of what's possible, and can spark major innovation.