

2019 Faculty Advisors Report

Kathy Tuan-MacLean, National Faculty Ministry Director

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—quotes from InterVarsity Faculty Advisors

Faculty and faculty advisors are key partners in achieving the 2030 calling. Last year I sent a thank you note to our faculty advisors and invited them to take a survey so we could understand their world better. 48 responded, and we received responses from faculty at all types of schools from large research universities to community colleges. Here are some key takeaways from the survey (*Read the bold for the big points—I encourage you to read the survey responses at the end though—it will give you a sense for the faculty advisors on your campuses*):

- **The vast majority of advisors want MORE involvement with InterVarsity!**
 - 71.8% would like more involvement
 - 17.6% would like the same involvement they currently have
 - NO advisor said they would like less involvement!
- **There's a wide range of how involved they are:**
 - 14.9% say they spend NO time supporting the InterVarsity group
 - 15% say they spend 1-2 hours/year
 - 42.6% spend an hour/month
 - 10% say they spend an hour/week
 - 10% (5 blessed souls) spend more than an hour/week, including one who spends 3-5 hours/week.
- **There's room for improvement as we relate to our faculty advisors: 60.4% are either neutral or dissatisfied with their involvement.**
 - 27.1% say they are dissatisfied with their involvement
 - 33.3% are neutral
 - 39.6% are satisfied with their involvement
- **Faculty Advisors have longevity on campus and with InterVarsity: 2/3 of those surveyed have invested over four years in InterVarsity (longer than many CSMs).**

- 29.8% have served 0-3 years
- 33% have served 4-7 years
- 31.9% have served over eight years.
- **When asked what kind of involvement they want, our advisors want better communication, more opportunities with students, and to be invited to speak or attend large groups.**
 - Better communication with staff including providing direction for how to help (24.2%)
 - More involvement with students (28.6%)
 - Be invited to speak or attend large groups
- **When asked how we could better serve them, our advisors want more communication, resources, and support and connection—both with the student ministry and with other faculty.**

Summary

This survey shows that we have a great opportunity to engage our faculty advisors more—both as partners in the student ministry on campus AND in supporting them/their connections with other faculty.

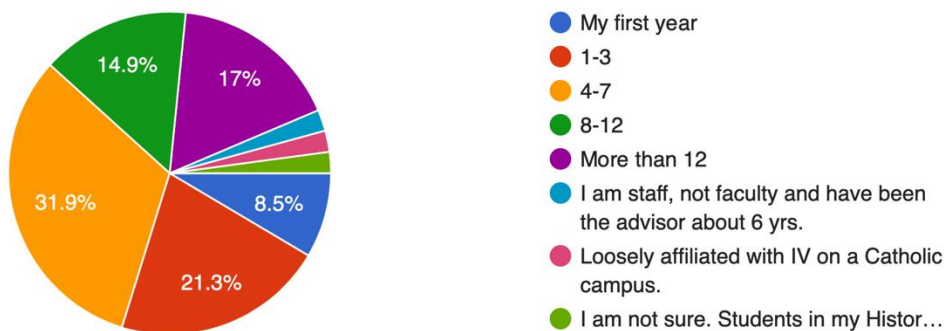
Faculty Ministry is currently working on resources including:

- Faculty Advisors Best Practices
- Faculty Gatherings in a Box
- A Faculty website that will include resources for both faculty and those ministering to faculty including:
 - [Faculty 4 Loves](#) (Love God/One another, Love Campus, Love Academic Discipline, Love the World)
 - How to meet faculty, [plant a community college faculty prayer group](#), and grow a fellowship

Faculty Advisor Survey

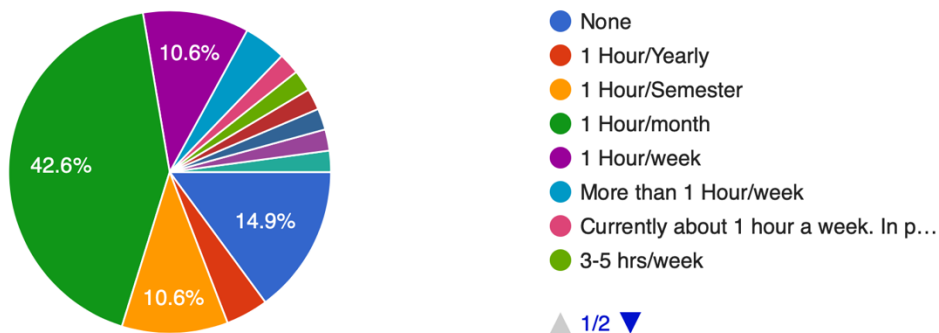
How many years have you served as faculty advisor for an InterVarsity chapter?

47 responses



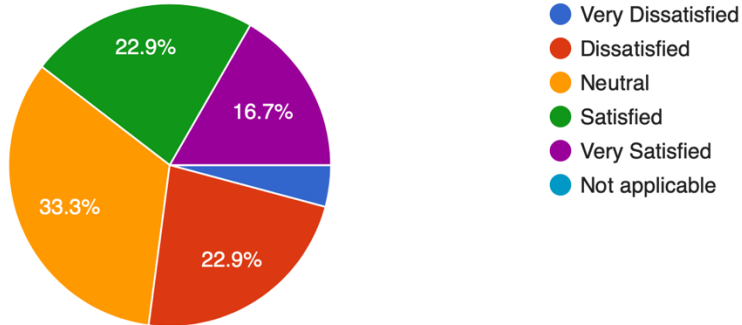
How much time do you spend supporting the InterVarsity group?

47 responses



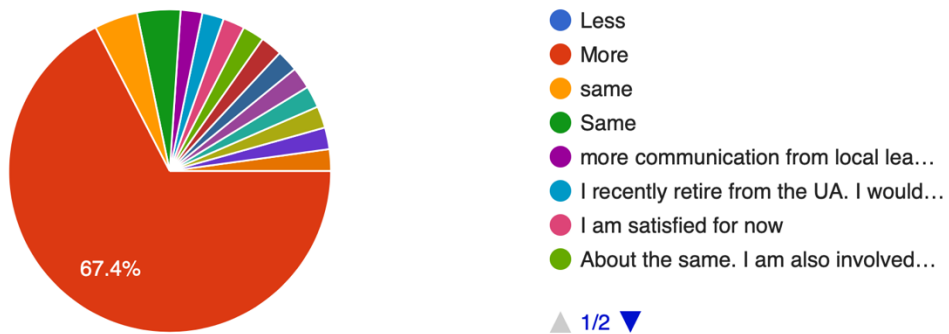
How satisfied are you with the level of your involvement with InterVarsity?

48 responses



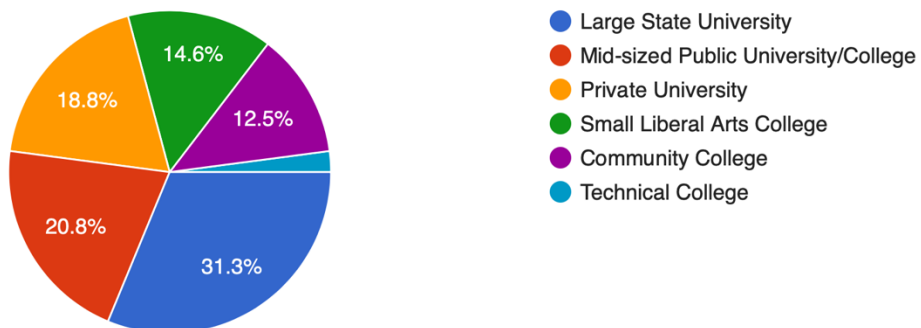
Would you like more or less involvement with InterVarsity?

46 responses



What sort of school do you serve?

48 responses



What kind of involvement would you like with InterVarsity?

Better communication with staff:

- Greater communication to start with, to see how we can better support.
- I used to sign their forms and have multiple talks with various leadership members. Now that everything is docu-sign, I close to never see them.
- I'm not sure - that question could be answered after exploring options and the needs of the group.
- I wish I had more time to spend with individual students, but I don't ... maybe every semester interaction with staff person (since we don't have one on campus) ... currently I have that as much as I want
- Well, since our chapter here vanished without a trace in recent years (it's a little embarrassing to be a faculty advisor and be so out of the loop that its disappearance isn't noted.) I'd love to see our chapter resurrected, but I don't know how likely that is.
- I honestly have very little idea how faculty advisers are helpful to the chapter.
- Bonnie does such a wonderful job that she really doesn't need me for many things. I am happy to do the things she does.
- As needed.
- However I can help
- Help where the need exists
- Invitations

More involvement with students:

- Discipleship/mentorship opportunities, etc (although time is often limited)
- Monthly meetings with leadership team
- More of a support to Christian students on campus
- More time to get together with students and our staffer
- More 1 on 1 with students
- Supporting the students wherever they have needs. They have great support from full time IV staff member so not sure if there are additional needs to be met.
- Not sure, maybe more interaction with student leaders?
- Support and service
- Mentor, listen to plans, network them with other Christian faculty and groups
- As I spoke about with Kathy, being more of a partner in student work in appropriate ways, could be mentoring students, speaking at student gatherings, or other ways.
- Chances to relate to students
- Would like to have more one-on-one time with students.
- Occasional dinner hosting

Be invited to large group/to speak:

- We have a group of faculty who get together to pray for the ministry and we all contribute. I think asking to be included in large group meetings, as occasional speakers, or really just getting to know some of the students, sharing our testimony, etc.
- Speaking to large group. Prayer group. Book study group
- My schedule doesn't routinely fall in line with students. I've sometime been asked to speak, and can do that with advanced notice.
- Be able to participate more in the meetings.

Restart ministry at my campus:

- Support for reigniting our Good News Club at Stonehill College
- I would like to see Nurses Christian Fellowship more active like it used to be

Time is my limiting factor:

- I would like more time in my schedule to participate
- I guess it's what I have time for, so it's really what I can invest on my end. Overall, I think things are going great and I anticipate more growth in the future.

Miscellaneous

- I like the way InterVarsity has taken over the majority of the day-to-day ministry. It has been a blessing for me.

How could we serve you better as a faculty advisor?

Communicate:

- updates on regional and national events
- Most of all it would have been good to receive regular updates and communication from our staff workers (when we had them) but that never seemed to happen.
- Some periodic updates when students are receiving guidance.
- Keep me in the loop
- The chapter has not contacted me recently. I believe that it is not very active.
- Perhaps provide a quarterly or semester newsletter on some highlights of what IV is doing in the US.
- Guidance, a contact to students running the program,

Resources:

- I love the Lamp Post
- I was not aware of Lamp Post
- I've been reading a lot of the materials for faculty on the website; these are fabulous. I would love more of this as well as more interaction with other Christian faculty members.
- More help for building a fellowship up and helping it grow on a secular campus
- Are there resources on how faculty can be involved in their chapters?
- Resources and advice on supporting and mentoring students at a public university. What are their rights i.e. free speech, and what strategies can they consider for outreach and witnessing in a space where many different beliefs and opinions exist.
- Maybe send me some materials on how faculty can disciple students effectively?

Support/Connection

- Prayer support and personal support - offering fellowship
- Connecting me with other community college faculty to see how they do things.
- Help me make the connections with how I could serve.
- Give the students my teaching schedule and recruit them for History 306: The Protestant Reformation and Catholic Renewal
- Get me involved
- more interaction with other Christian faculty members

Encourage IV staff to be less IV centric and more campus centric for Christ --> willing to collaborate with other Christian ministries and activities on campus.

I really don't know. these students are so busy - that's the problem.

Anything else you'd like us to know?

Good work—thank you!

- Keep up the good work. Get a full-time staff member back to Lexington VA
- I am part of a grad faculty group led by a GFM staff member. Also I'm part of a group (faculty women of color) organized by a GFM member in our urban area that has been extremely life giving to me. I've really appreciated the friendships, the encouragement, and mental sharpening those ladies have provided for me. I feel seen by Jesus through these ministries.
- Even with my limited involvement with IV over 30 years, I count my interaction with staff and students a blessing in my academic career.
- I think you already know this, but GOD is Awesome! and I'm thankful He's letting us be part of His work!
- Fred Hickernell, IVCF alum as an undergrad and grad, parent of IVCF students/staff, my time in Christian fellowship on campus as a student was key to my growth as a believer
- I love the IV students--wish I had more time to spend with them!
- I am eager to share my faith with young believers. Also, I'll be retiring in May, so this is my last year.
- I'm blessed to be a part of InterVarsity. It's been a very fulfilling experience for me so far. I can't wait to see what I learn as time passes. I think IV is doing very transformational and amazing work for our youth. I see it making positive differences in the spiritual evolution of the students in addition to "representing" God, to make needed changes happen in the world.

Help me connect with other faculty:

- Faculty work is a job I find tremendously stressful & isolating. Getting some support from fellow believers who understand the academic environment can make all the difference.

Concerns/Advice:

- Nationally, InterVarsity seems to be replacing its focus on the gospel with a focus on social justice. This concerns me; the gospel should remain central
- I am not a faculty member but rather a full time staff member at the campus. Confused if it is allowable to serve as an advisor since the title in your form and other emails refers to the position as a Faculty advisor.
- InterVarsity seems to be missing in action here at Washington State University - who is leading the group?
- Students who need signatures for IV should enter my classrooms during my teaching of classes. I do not mind, and it is easier to connect that way. Give them my teaching schedule with room numbers.