

Tips for Running and Maintaining a SNATS Chapter

1. SNATS Chapters remain vital when an active and engaged Faculty Advisor and Board of Directors run them.
2. You are encouraged to elect officers at the end of the spring term. In doing so, your leadership team will be in place and ready to get the chapter off and running the minute students return in the fall. If there is a change in faculty advisor, officers will already be in place and positioned to seek a new faculty advisor.
3. Determine and set a meeting schedule for the board and faculty advisor, as well as a meeting schedule for the chapter. Will the board and advisor meet monthly at a set time and place? Will the chapter meet monthly? You decide what will work for your particular chapter; however the board and advisor are encouraged to meet at least once per semester (at the beginning of the semester) to plan for that semester's activities.
4. Each chapter should determine the level of involvement in chapter activities by the advisor. For example, will the advisor call meetings, attend meetings or simply be informed of the chapter's activities. Make a plan and stick to it!
5. Determine whether or not you will charge membership dues, the dues level, and what benefits come with membership. For example, dues paying members may attend events free of charge, but non-dues paying members pay a small admission fee. Your institution's student organization policies may have rules about charging dues. Be sure to be in compliance with student organization policy.
6. Will your SNATS Chapter have Committees? Examples of committees your chapter might consider are Community Outreach Committee, Fundraising Committee, Programming Committee, Hospitality Committee, and more. Some chapters require every member serves on a committee, and any member wanting leadership experience serves as a committee chair.

Activity ideas

It is always a good idea to refer to your mission statement and constitution for guidance and adherence. Some of the activity ideas will be obvious, others maybe not as much. The sky is the limit! If your chapter has held or sponsored an event not listed here, feel free to send your ideas to vpoutreach@nats.org for inclusion.

- Organize master classes, workshops, guest lectures on pedagogy, repertoire, program building, career planning, etc.
- Hold casual conversations with your institutions faculty and alumni: how/why did they get to where they are now?
- Attend live performances.
- Organize an opera movie night with refreshments.
- Community outreach: perform in area nursing homes, schools, hospices, etc.
- Tour local opera and theater companies (potential points of connection for guest lectures, master classes and workshops).
- Create a SNATS Chapter bulletin board so your chapter is always visible! (This could include a voice area calendar, past agendas, upcoming events, etc.)
- Create a Facebook group and/or Instagram page.
- Some chapters use GroupMe instead of in-person meetings
- Volunteer in area schools: coaching students in solo and ensemble pieces.
- Organize relaxation events such as yoga and meditation during juries and finals exams.
- Organize a welcome session for your institution's new voice majors.