

GETTING TO KNOW

Following are twenty questions to help you know your local campus. If you take the time in the beginning to “get to know your campus” you will be far more efficient in your overall ministry as time progresses.

If possible make some of these contacts with people one-on-one in the summer when schedules are not so hectic. Then you are not just another face in the crowd. Also, if you develop a relationship with campus folks early in your ministry, this rapport will aid you when your own schedule gets hectic.

Some of the following questions are rather general due to the wide variation across colleges and universities in this country. Please make necessary translations as you go through this list. The term “college” will be used throughout this section, please substitute “university” if necessary.

As you pursue the contacts suggested on this list you will want to remember that knowing people who have contact with students and who understand the workings of the university is key to the development of a successful campus ministry. That means keeping an open eye and ear for any staff or faculty member who is helpful and sympathetic to your mission. Sometimes you will find such people in unexpected places.

Again, take the time to make as many personal contacts as possible. The more people see your face, the more you will establish a liberal religious presence on campus.

1. What is the name of your college? When

SEASON	STUDENTS
Spring/Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> informal meetings may take place conversation begins about organized campus ministry program begin procedures to become an official student group on campus -- even if you're only a small group!
Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sponsor a booth at freshman registration or the fall campus activities fair announcement in campus newspaper gather students who visit congregation for get acquainted activity (picnic or cookout)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sponsor a movie night or other informal gathering establish a weekly meeting time for lunch on campus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> co-sponsor an event with another campus group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sponsor an event in preparation for finals

5. Who is the President of the college? President's Secretary? Titles and names of all Vice Presidents, Deans, and Secretaries? Get the phone numbers for those you believe are important for your ministry.

6. Is this a residential college? (Are there residence halls?) What are the names, phone numbers, and correct titles of persons overseeing residential life on campus? What are their philosophies and program efforts? Can you be a part of their efforts?

7. Where is the office for Student Activities? What are the names, phone numbers, and correct titles of persons overseeing Student Activities on campus? What are their philosophies and program efforts? Can you collaborate with these people? What are the criteria for a student group to become recognized as an official campus organization?

8. How are student crises handled on campus (i.e., a family death)? Is there a Counseling Center? Who are the persons overseeing the Counseling Center? Titles, names and phone numbers? What are their philosophies and approach to counseling? You may want to "get to know" some of these counselors on a personal level so you know who you would feel comfortable referring a student to. Referrals will be important, particularly if you are not professionally trained in counseling.

9. How are issues of multi-culturalism handled - or not handled - on this campus? Issues of homophobia? Issues of religious tolerance? Issues of sexual harassment? Are there task forces

attending to these issues? Committees? Training sessions? Who oversees such groups? Are they effective? Again, titles, names, and phone numbers are important to have. Also, talk to students, Their perception of how these issues are handled may be different from the administration.

10. Is there a student newspaper? Subscribe to it. Pay special attention to letters-to-the-editor. Who is the editor? Title, name, and phone number? This is a good person to know face-to-face. Do they accept articles written by non-students?

11. How is the college funded? What funding is available for student groups? Are there possibilities for cosponsoring programs with other student groups? For example, is there an environmental student group? African-American student group? Jewish student group? Christian student group? Muslim student group? Who are the leaders of these groups? Titles, names, and phone numbers? Faculty advisors? do any of these people know more about funding?

In addition to funding for the student organizations, investigate funds available for sponsoring outside speakers. Colleges will often have special funds available for lectures sponsored by student organizations.

Is there an office to research grants available on campus? Who oversees this office? Title, name, and phone number?

12. What role do intercollegiate sports play on your campus? What are the most popular women's sports? Men's sports? Is there an intramural program? Are

athletic facilities open to non-campus members?

13. What is the governing body of the campus? How are policy decisions made? Is there a member of a local JJU congregation who has a good understanding of the overall structure, both explicit and implicit, of the college?

14. What is the ratio of undergraduate to graduate students? Are there any graduate programs which are particularly well known? Is there a specific residence hall *for* graduate students? Are there professional schools located at this college?

15. Is there a gay, lesbian, and bisexual student group or center? Who advises this group? How are issues of homosexuality and religion handled - or not handled - on this campus? How can you lend the liberal religious voice of UUism as a support to this group? Phone numbers? How can your campus ministry help in this area?

16. Is there a center for international students? Who oversees and operates this center? Title, name, and phone number? What support is offered for the variety of religious background of international students? Can UUism be a supportive option for any of these students?

17. Is there a center for returning students? Who oversees the operation of this center? Title, name, and phone number? What support and resources are offered to these students?

18. Is there a center for women's affairs and studies? Again, who oversees the work of this center? Title, name, and

phone number? Any possibilities for collaboration with this center?

Workshop on feminist theology?

Presentation on famous UU women such as Susan B. Anthony and Olympia Brown?

19. How is your campus dealing with the AIDS crisis? Are there HIV+ support groups on campus? How is AIDS education handled - or not handled - on this campus? Are condoms available on campus? In the residence halls? Is there a health and wellness education center on your campus? Who are these people? Titles, names, and phone numbers? How can your campus minister help in this area?

20. Is there an area or topic unique to your campus which it would benefit you to explore? Are there events and celebrations unique to your campus? How can you - and UUism - be involved?