



Ross Dickens

Dean and Professor of Finance

What was your main motivation to start a chapter?

First, having worked as a Faculty Advisor with FMA student chapters from about 2001 on two different campuses, I know the impact a chapter can have on students' learning. Second, I saw a lack of experiential learning opportunities for the students pursuing a Finance major which might explain why there are fewer Finance majors than I expected. A third motivation is the chance to provide an example to my faculty of how we can improve experiential learning opportunities for students. So, for many reasons, starting an FMA chapter helps to address multiple goals.

How did you kick off your chapter?

I questioned my fellow Finance faculty as to their thoughts on creating a chapter. Next, I sent a general email to all students majoring within the College of Business (COB) with a more-targeted follow-up to Finance majors. We set a meeting to see if we had enough interest and, when there seemed to be, we contacted FMA, International for help with materials (e.g. recruiting pamphlets, template for a constitution, and such) and we starting working with the University's Office of Student Services to be sure we were taking the steps needed to be an official University student organization.

We gathered sufficient student signatures to organize, have an approved constitution, and elected officers on February 24th. Also, we gained financial support from the Provost and COB Dean and sent five students to the FMA Student Leaders Conference. We are now an official student organization and have had our first two speaker meetings and hope to have some students qualify for FMA National Honor Society membership.