

Fundraising Essentials: Making the Ask May 2, 2017

Resource: Role-Plays (3)

- 1. Dean Issues
- 2. Details Guy
- 3. Quiet Responder

Dean Issues	
Donor Says	Development Officer Response
"I am not comfortable supporting this project because I don't believe the dean's vision and my vision for the future of the school align." "I am not comfortable supporting this project because I have a personal issue with the dean stemming from my time as a student or my son's/daughter's time as a student."	 Finesse donor back to caring about the institution Share key points of interest donor has shared in past about passion/interest/mission that aligns with ask Utilize other leadership, champions, volunteers, students and/or faculty in case Circle back to overarching institutional support Discuss legacy of project over individual in question Never agree with donor about issues raised about a particular campus/organization leader, rather focus on other positives of project, etc.



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Details Guy	
Donor Says	Development Officer Response
<i>"What kind of building materials will you be using for this project?"</i>	 Offer to connect with campus leader who has leadership/oversight/connection to details Provide opportunities to hard hat tour/see details up place
<i>"Will it be a quality addition to the campus?"</i>	 details up close Role model similar donor stories/projects as examples of campus stability/similar situations
<i>"How long will the building be on campus?"</i>	 Provide perpetuity language in draft agreement Be honest about how connected (or not connected) they can be in key details



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Quiet Responder	
Donor Says	Development Officer Response
Nothing "I will need time to think about this."	 Nothing: Respect the silence and understand the donor is taking time to process. Provide reflection statements to ensure you have heard their response.
	Eventually: "Absolutely, I understand this is a big decision and that you need time to review the proposal. Can we set a time later this month or next month to reconnect and discuss your reactions more thoroughly?"