Counseling with Our Councils: Key Quotes to Assist You in Your Role as a Campus Leader
(Reference: M. Russell Ballard, Counseling with Our Councils, © 1997, Published by Deseret Book, SLC, Utah)

“If we are to succeed in leading … we must counsel together and help each other.” (p. viii) (italics added)

“God has inspired the creation of a council system that is intended to harness the insight and experience of all who have been called to serve in key leadership positions.” (p. 2) (italics added)

“Under the direction of the priesthood [or, in the case of a business organization, the department leader] and the influence of the Holy Spirit these councils should feature free and open discussion and clear, concise communication.” (p. 10) (italics added)

“They [council meetings] provide an opportunity … to come together in a spirit of loving cooperation…” (p. 10) (italics added)

“Our individual responsibilities are great, but just as important is the responsibility … to come together in a united effort to bless the lives of our family members and all of our eternal brothers and sisters.” (p. 10)

“It has never been God’s intention that His children stand alone in important decisions and responsibilities.” (p. 11)

“… full consideration should be given to the views and recommendations of all council members, both the brethren and the sisters. Such an approach will result in wiser decisions and will generate greater commitment as these decisions are carried out.” (p. 14) (italics added)

“When … leaders allow [people] to become part of a problem-solving team, wonderful things begin to happen.” (p. 14) (italics added)

“Since 1985 I have served as a member of a council composed of twelve men. We come from different backgrounds, and we bring to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles a diverse assortment of experiences in the Church and in the world. Be assured that in our meetings we don’t just sit around and wait for the President of our Quorum to tell us what to do. We council with each other, and we listen to each other with profound respect for the diverse abilities our Brethren bring to the Quorum. We discuss a wide variety of issues, from Church administration to world events, and we do so frankly and openly. Sometimes issues are discussed for weeks, months, and occasionally even years before a decision is made. We don’t always agree during the initial course of our discussions. Once a decision is made, however, we are always united.” (p. 18-19)

“The council is not a democratic forum. There are no veto overrides, and there is no majority rule. As necessary as council input is … it never supersedes the direction of the Holy Spirit as it manifests itself through revelation to those who hold priesthood keys [or, in the case of a business organization, the input never supersedes the direction of the department leader(s)].” (p.19)