

Resolution In Support of Establishing the Position of Ombudsperson

Whereas, students, faculty and staff are often unclear about University policies and procedures aimed at ensuring that the climate in which they work and study is fair and unbiased and,

Whereas, students, faculty and staff are often ill-informed about the institutional resources available to them when they are concerned about protecting their rights and,

Whereas, students, faculty and staff are often in need of a someone who is independent and unbiased to advise them in assessing their options when they believe themselves to be unfairly or inequitably treated as members of the University community or distressed by the absence of a university policy on a particular issue and,

Whereas, students, faculty and staff may need someone who can assist them to negotiate a solution or facilitate communication, often in confidence, and

Whereas, experience at other universities demonstrates that an effective Ombudsperson would represent a cost-effective approach to resolving disputes and other problems by reducing the time and effort involved in pursuing formal grievances, reducing the number of costly legal actions, and demonstrating to courts and other interested parties that the university is doing all in its power to address problems affecting students and employees;

Be It Resolved that

The University Senate recommends to Interim President Richardson that the position of Ombudsperson be established, reporting to the President of the University, for a trial period of two years at the end of which the position will be reviewed and evaluated according to its effectiveness, utility, and consumer satisfaction.

