



**To:** Faculty Council

**From:** J.C. Paradi  
Former Speaker of Faculty Council and Acting Chair of Ombuds Committee

**Date:** November 26, 2008

**Item:** Report of the Faculty Ombuds Committee to the Faculty Council  
for the Year November 2007 to November 2008

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### **The Committee's Terms of Reference**

The Committee shall serve in an "Ombudsman" capacity so that any academic member of the Faculty (i.e. staff, undergraduate or graduate student) may challenge any intra-Faculty administrative, executive or policy decision below the level of Council and request a consideration for stated reason(s).

The Committee has no power to overturn previous decisions. Rather, if it sees merit in the challenge of a decision it will work with the officer or committee that made the decision in an attempt to resolve the dispute with the challenger.

### **Summary of Appeals**

During the 2007-2008 academic year, the Ombuds Committee received and considered eight appeals against decisions made by the Committee on Examinations.

In six cases, students sought permission to proceed to their next session earlier than Faculty regulations would permit. The Committee found grounds to intervene in three of these cases: in each appeal, the student's performance in a single course, due to recognized circumstances, placed him/her in situation where they must withdraw and repeat a previous session. With the resolution of these circumstances, the Committee recommended that each student be allowed to proceed and given the chance to improve his/her performance by re-taking the course in question. At the request of the Ombuds Committee, the Examinations Committee reconsidered these appeals. No action was recommended for any other appeal.

In two cases, students appealed for permission to return to their studies while Faculty regulations determined they be refused further registration. The Committee did not find grounds for intervention in these cases.