



To: Faculty Council
From: Barry Adams, Former Speaker of Faculty Council
Date: May 27, 2009
Item: Final Report of the Ombuds Committee

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

Since the last meeting of Faculty Council, the Ombuds Committee received and considered three appeals against decisions made by the Committee on Examinations.

In one case, a student sought to have three courses retroactively withdrawn due to recognized family circumstances and the Ombuds Committee recommended the appeal be granted. In one case, a student sought to be lifted from "refused further registration" status to a probationary status on the grounds that a medical condition prevented him/her from previously performing. The Ombuds Committee recommended the appeal be granted. In one case, a student sought a mark adjustment because of alleged unfair marking practices. The Ombuds Committee found no grounds for intervention in this case.