

DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY OMBUDSPERSON FOR 2008-2009

The annual report of the University Faculty Ombudsperson for 2008-09 is reproduced below.

Sue Alexander Greninger, Secretary
The Faculty Council

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY OMBUDSPERSON FOR 2008-2009**University Faculty Ombudsperson Report, 2008-09**

During the academic year 2008-09, forty-six tenure-track faculty, lecturers, and graduate teaching assistants from eleven different colleges or schools contacted the faculty ombudsperson to seek help or advice on concerns involving termination, denial of promotion and tenure, disciplinary actions, professional conflicts, or withholding of substantial rights. Of these, counseling or mediation for about one-fourth continued for at least two semesters. The vast majority of the cases were resolved through mediation and informational counseling, and no cases were referred to the Faculty Grievance Committee, although some are still in mediation.

The mediations performed involved meetings with four different deans, eight different departmental chairs, and several staff of the legal affairs office. Ombudsperson-related activities averaged about seven hours per week during the fall and spring semesters, and five hours per week during the summer.

In addition to the activities noted above, ombudsperson-related work included a meeting with the provost and/or vice provost about every eight weeks, a few presentations on campus regarding the purpose of the Office of the University Faculty Ombudsperson, a meeting with the Texas Association of Ombudspersons every four months, several hours of consultation with other universities about their planned ombudsperson office, and numerous telephone conferences with various University officials, faculty and staff to seek help or clarification of University policies.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Submitted by Mary Steinhardt, Faculty Ombudsperson for the October 26, 2009 Faculty Council Meeting.



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Professor