

TAMU OMBUDSMAN

NEWSLETTER

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Promoting a Supportive Faculty Community

“It is not enough for us to be a peaceful people. We must work to make our lives and our communities beautiful.” — Anonymous

Welcome to the Ombudsman Newsletter!

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform faculty and administrators about the vital role of the Ombudsman on campus and to highlight our goals, purposes, and the usefulness of this position within our academic community.

What is a Faculty Ombudsman?

A Faculty Ombudsman is an impartial, confidential resource designated to assist faculty members in navigating challenges and conflicts in the academic environment. The Ombudsman serves as a neutral intermediary between faculty and administration, providing guidance, feedback, and support throughout various issues that may arise.

Key Purposes of the Faculty Ombudsman

1. **Confidential Support:** The Ombudsman provides a safe space for faculty to discuss their concerns without fear of judgment or reprisal. All discussions are kept confidential, empowering faculty to seek assistance freely.
2. **Conflict Resolution:** The Ombudsman aims to mediate conflicts, facilitating effective communication and collaboration between parties. This process aids in constructing solutions that are mutually beneficial, enhancing the overall climate on campus.
3. **Guidance and Resources:** Faculty members can receive guidance on university policies, procedures, and available resources. The Ombudsman helps clarify complex issues and ensure faculty are aware of their rights and responsibilities.

Goals of the Faculty Ombudsman Program

1. **Enhance Faculty Well-Being:** By offering support during challenging situations, the Ombudsman promotes a healthy and positive work environment, contributing to faculty satisfaction and retention.

2. **Foster Open Communication:** The program aims to create a culture of openness and trust where faculty feel comfortable voicing concerns and seeking solutions collaboratively.
3. **Improve Institutional Practices:** Feedback gathered from faculty interactions with the Ombudsman can inform university policies and practices, leading to meaningful improvements in the academic community.
4. **Strengthen Community:** By fostering relationships and facilitating communication between faculty and administration, the Ombudsman helps build a more cohesive and supportive campus environment.

Usefulness of the Faculty Ombudsman

- **Problem-Solving:** The Ombudsman equips faculty with tools and strategies to resolve conflicts effectively, enabling them to concentrate on their primary responsibilities—teaching, research, and service.
- **Alleviating Stress:** Engaging with the Ombudsman can alleviate stress and anxiety associated with workplace challenges, allowing faculty to create a more positive teaching and learning atmosphere.
- **Resource for Change:** The Ombudsman serves as a catalyst for advocacy and change, elevating faculty concerns to administration and helping to shape policies that enhance the overall academic environment.

For More Information:

If you have questions or would like to reach out to the Faculty Ombudsman, please contact Randel Brown at brown@tamiu.edu, or call him on his cell phone at (956)206-4231.

Together, let's build a stronger, more collaborative faculty community!

Randel Brown



What is the Role of the Ombudsman at the University?

- Do you have question about what the ombudsman does at a university? You can check out this [Prezi presentation](#) for more information find more information.
- Ombudsman video: [The Essential Role of the Faculty Ombudsman](#)
- Latest video from the Ombudsman, [Political Discussion on Campus: Promoting Respect and Understanding During Election Season](#)
- Ombudsman video to new faculty: [Surviving the Academic Jungle: A Guide for New Faculty Members](#)
- Senate link for the [faculty ombudsman office](#) at TAMIU.
- If you would like to contact the Faculty Ombudsman you can reach Randel Brown through his cell phone at (956) 206-4231 or email to brown@tamiu.edu or drrandelbrown@yahoo.com.

*“Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean.” —
Ryunosuke Satoro*

Ombudspeople in the news links:

- A Delicate Balance: [The Role of the Ombuds in Resolving Campus Conflict](#) from Higher Ed Jobs
- A Conversation with the [Ombudsman](#) from the Western Herald
- [What Happens When an Employee Calls the Ombudsman?](#) A primer from the executive director of the International Ombudsman Association by Charles L. Howard in Harvard Business Review
- [Why Your Campus Ombudsperson is the Best Ally You Didn't Know You Had](#) by Priya Thomas, Modern Campus Blog Homepage

“There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they are falling in.” — Desmond Tutu

