

Ombudsperson Annual Report, 1 July 2014 -30 June 2015

General

This year brings to a close my second year as University Ombudsperson. Having devoted much of the first year of my mandate to raising awareness within the Bishop's University community about the nature and role of the ombuds office and to fostering respectful working relationships within the University academic and non-academic administrative structure in order to facilitate resolution disputes, my main occupation was with the day to day business of the office as outlined in the university calendar and policies. A summary of this work follows.

I also sat on the Academic Standing and Admissions Policy Committee (ASAP) as a regular non-voting member for all monthly meetings. I was privy to all information regarding cases dealing with academic standing and policy, and actively participated in discussions leading to decisions. I am satisfied that the committee performed its work with fairness and due diligence.

I maintained wider professional context through personal and online communications with the national and provincial umbrella organizations Association of Canadian College and University Ombudspersons and Association des Ombudsmans des Universités du Québec. I am a voting member in good standing with both groups.

Case Statistics

Academic (total 32)

- Dishonesty: 1 Sci, 1 Hum, 1 Bus
- Grades: 7 Soc Sci, 4 Hum, 2 Ed, 4 Bus
- Fees/Scholarships: 1 Ed
- Must Withdraw: 1 Soc Sci, 6 Hum, 2 Sci
- Medical/Compassion: 1 Bus, 1 Sci

Professor Student Relations (total 8): 2 Soc Sci, 1 Sci, 4 Ed, 1 Bus

Harassment (total 4)

Management Issues (total 1)

Total: 45 Cases

Recommendations

The five areas identified in the 2013-14 report remain concerns. There has been, however, developments regarding items 4 and 5.

Item 4: the School of Education has begun clarifying the role of its internal Student Appeals Committee.

Item 5, Professor Education: at the end of the winter session, Dean Murray invited all faculty and chairs to an information session with Dean Bailey to explain important policy documents, including the Code of Student Conduct and Charter of Student Rights and Responsibility.

I have no new recommendations at this time.

I will continue to occupy the position for the next two year mandate and look forward to serving the University in this capacity to the best of my ability.

Submitted respectfully to Principal Michael Goldbloom,
21 July 2015

Shawn Malley, Professor
Department of English