

JMU Faculty Ombudsperson

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What is a Faculty Ombudsperson?

The Ombudsperson is an independent and neutral third party on campus for faculty members with questions, disputes or other concerns. The current Ombudsperson has been an instructional faculty member at JMU for 25 years.

What does the Faculty Ombudsperson do?

The Ombudsperson serves as a confidential consultant and referral agent, using an informal process to assist faculty members in a variety of work-related concerns. He/she does not serve as an advocate, but considers all questions and concerns objectively and impartially. Consultations with faculty members can involve varied dimensions, including but not limited to:

- Receiving questions and/or concerns from faculty members.
- Conferring with faculty members.
- Considering options for faculty members
- Referring faculty members to appropriate resources when applicable.
- Assisting faculty members in understanding and applying university policy, rights, and responsibilities.

In addition to supporting faculty members via confidential consultations, the Faculty Ombudsperson serves the university by making recommendations and offering feedback regarding policies and procedures. The Ombudsperson works with the Faculty Senate and relevant university administrators to help represent the faculty in decision-making.

When should I contact the Faculty Ombudsperson?

You can talk with the Ombudsperson at any time with questions or concerns. Please remember that consulting with the Ombudsperson is not a substitute for participation in more formal procedures. The Ombudsperson is a confidential sounding board regarding ideas and resources. The Ombudsperson holds all communications with those seeking assistance in strict confidence and does not disclose confidential communications unless given permission to do so. The only exception to this privilege of confidentiality is where there appears to be imminent risk of serious harm.

How do I contact the Faculty Ombudsperson?

You can reach Dr. Charles Blake at blakech@jmu.edu. The Faculty Ombudsperson's office is in the Wine-Price Building, room 3047. The quickest and most effective way to reach the Ombudsperson is via [e-mail](#). If the telephone is your preferred method of contact, please send a short e-mail message providing a phone number at which you can be reached to arrange a consultation. The Faculty Ombudsperson is available for consultations throughout the year. Every effort will be made to schedule appointments with faculty members as soon as possible after the initial request.