The Office of the Ombuds

John Armijo
Interim Director
Campus Ombudsperson

Nicholas Raichart
Associate Ombudsperson

Sue Presley
Program Representative
What Is an Ombudsperson?

- An independent, neutral “third party”
- Assists faculty, staff and students
- Works to resolve issues informally
- Provides feedback and recommends changes to institution
What Is an Ombudsperson?

Confidential
Neutral
Informal
Independent

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Confidential

• All identities and information discussed are held in confidence
• No formal records are kept
• Not an “Office of Notice” to the University

Exception:

Imminent risk of serious harm

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Neutral

- Do not take sides
- Aim for a fair and equitable outcome for all parties
- Do not “represent” management, staff, faculty or students
Informal

• Facilitates communication
• Discusses options
• Coaching, role-playing, brainstorming
• Conducts “shuttle diplomacy” or mediation

Will not participate in formal proceedings (grievances, arbitrations, legal proceedings)
Independent

- Operates independently of usual administrative structures

- Reports to Ethics and Compliance in the Chancellors office for administrative and budgetary purposes only – will not disclose identities of visitors or issues discussed
Common Issues

- Questions re: policies and procedures
- Communication issues
- Performance evaluations/discipline
- Harassment/discrimination
- Ethical considerations
- Whistleblowing
- Research data/authorship disputes
Common Student Issues

- Concerns with grading / fairness
- Discipline (academic and nonacademic)
- Issues arising from power disparities:
  - PI / Advisor concerns
  - Authorship / use of research
- Disability accommodations
- Cultural sensitivities

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Contacting the Ombuds Office

To make an appointment, please call
(858) 534-0777

Location
Pepper Canyon Hall
Suite 402

UC San Diego