

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Resolution on Faculty and Staff Ombudsman Position

WHEREAS on April 13, 1982, the Faculty Senate called for the creation of a position called "faculty advisor" to "serve the purpose of directing the University's attention to areas where problems might be solved without resort to the grievance process"; and

WHEREAS the position of "faculty ombudsman" was created by SIUC President Albert Somit in 1983 because of the need for "a third party who is judged by both sides to have academic experience and integrity" (excerpt from 1982 letter to Faculty Senate President); and

WHEREAS a review of the position in 1989 by the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee found that "The work of the Faculty Ombudsman is not necessarily resolution of grievances but also one of counseling and advisement... very serious academic and personal issues, such as tenure denial, are regularly handled" and resulted in a resolution approved by the Faculty Senate on April 11, 1989, acknowledging the position "renders a unique service to the faculty"; and

WHEREAS on February 8, 2000, the Faculty Senate approved an Executive Council Resolution on the Faculty and Staff Ombudsman position that affirms the invaluable service the Faculty and Staff Ombudsman position provides to the faculty of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, particularly in the resolution of a high number of disputes that might have otherwise led to formal grievances, despite a steadily increasing caseload; and

WHEREAS the nature of many disputes involving faculty require a faculty mediator to resolve; and

WHEREAS the objective of the 2000 resolution was to increase the Faculty and Staff Ombudsman position from a quarter-time to a half-time faculty position, but the decision by the administration was to keep the position as quarter-time; and

WHEREAS Interim Chancellor Sam Goldman has decided to discontinue the Faculty and Staff Ombudsman position, contrary to the wishes of the Faculty Senate;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the SIUC Chancellor should restore the quarter-time faculty position of Faculty and Staff Ombudsman, effective immediately.

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