

RESOLUTION No: GSG2015-01
INTRODUCED by: Jennifer Winikus
DATE: 30th March 2015

A Resolution to: support Proposal 31-15 written by Jonathan Riehl to the University Senate to modify the Ombuds Search Committee Policy,

REALIZING Senate Policy 210.1, Board of Control Policy 4.8, and the Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty Handbook Section 8.2 represents the entire student population of Michigan Technological University with one representative,

REALIZING the experiences and needs of undergraduates and graduate students differ with respect to the utilization of The Michigan Tech Ombuds Office,

WHEREAS the Graduate Student Government was requested by Jonathan Riehl to show graduate student support regarding Proposal 31-15 developed by Jonathan Riehl,

WHEREAS Proposal 31-15 will be presented to The Michigan Technological University Senate with the purpose of modifying the existing policy language to be inclusive in representation of the Michigan Technological University community,

WHEREAS Proposal 31-15 modifies Senate Policy 210.1, Board of Control Policy 4.8, and the Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty Handbook Section 8.2 to have The Michigan Tech Ombuds Search Committee include one representative from the undergraduate student population appointed by Undergraduate Student Government and one representative from the graduate student population appointed by Graduate Student Government, along with elected representation for the Professional and Represented Staff,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED in the interest of graduate students at Michigan Technological University that the Graduate Student Government support the proposed modifications to The Michigan Tech Ombuds Search Committee Policy,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Graduate Student Government supports Proposal 31-15 to amend the policy language of The Michigan Tech Ombuds Search Committee to be inclusive in representation of The Michigan Technological University community.

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

Proposal 31-15 (revised 03-23-15)

(Voting Units: Full Senate)

“Amending Senate Policy 210.1, Board of Control Policy 4.8, and Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty Handbook Section 8.2: Office of the Ombuds”

**Contact: Jonathan Riehl, Senior Lecturer
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1. Introduction

The Michigan Tech Ombuds Office states their mission as:

The Michigan Tech Ombuds Office is a place where members of the University community can go for informal conflict mediation services. In order to afford clients the greatest freedom in using its services, the office is independent, neutral, and confidential.

During the appointment process for the current Ombuds Officer, the issue was raised that the Ombuds Officer Appointing Committee’s composition is not reflective of the composition of the office’s clientele. Specifically, undergraduates and graduate students experience different issues and thus should have separate representation on the selection committee. Professional and represented staff face a similar dilemma and should also have separate representation.

This proposal is meant to fix this error by reconfiguring the committee to be fully representative of Ombuds Office potential clientele. This will make for a fairer, more inclusive committee.

~~This proposal will also fix a discrepancy between Senate Policy 210.1, Board of Control Policy 4.8, and Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty Handbook Section 8.2.~~

2. Proposal

The paragraph in Senate Policy 210.1 that reads:

“The Ombuds Officer shall be appointed by the appointing committee which shall consist of the following members of the Michigan Tech community: one member appointed by the President; one member elected by the Senate from among its members; one member elected by the Academic Faculty; ~~one member elected by the Staff Council~~; and one member elected by Michigan Tech enrolled students.”

and the paragraph in Board of Control Policy 4.8 and in Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty Handbook Section 8.2 that reads:

“The Ombuds Officer shall be appointed by the appointing committee which shall consist of the following members of the Michigan Tech community: one member appointed by the President; one member elected by the Senate from among its members; one member elected by the Academic Faculty; and one member elected by Michigan Tech enrolled students.”

shall be amended to read as follows:

“The Ombuds Officer shall be appointed by the appointing committee which shall consist of the following members of the Michigan Tech community: one member appointed by the President; one member elected by the Senate from among its members; one member elected by the Academic Faculty; **one member elected by the Professional Staff; one member elected by the Represented Staff; one member appointed by the Graduate Student Government from among its constituents; and one member appointed by the Undergraduate Student Government from among its constituents.**”

(Note: policy changes are in bold)