**Role of the University Ombuds**

The University Ombuds is a part time, two-year term position appointed by the President with the approval of the University Assembly. The Ombuds directs the Office of the University Ombuds.

The Office of the University Ombuds is available to provide confidential and informal assistance and consultation in the resolution of a broad range of issues and concerns within the university. In particular, the University Ombuds provides subject matter expertise regarding academic matters. The office promotes fair and equitable treatment of community members in the content and administration of Cornell's practices, processes, and policies.

The Ombuds’s office is an independent, confidential and unbiased "third party" that assists all Cornell students, faculty, and staff (excluding Weill Cornell Medicine) in identifying appropriate university resources that are available to help resolve concerns. The office provides information on university policies and practices, helps examine and evaluate alternatives for community members, refers community members to the proper authorities to resolve the situation, and facilitates constructive dialog. In addition, the Ombuds’s office ensures that community members are aware of available reporting options.

The Ombuds, as an informal resource, does not participate in any formal adjudicative or administrative procedures related to concerns brought to his/her attention.

The Ombuds is responsible for oversight of the office including: designing and providing education and communication about the role of the office, providing training as appropriate, supervising staff, managing the budget, overseeing statistical data, developing annual reports and related information and providing feedback on areas of concern or trends.

This position requires knowledge of University rules, structures and its operation, as well as a commitment and understanding of diversity in an academic environment. Preference is given to nominees who hold or have held a tenured professorial position.