

May 3, 2021

Faculty Ombuds Report to Idaho State University Faculty Senate

Senators:

This letter serves as the annual report of my duties as one of the two faculty ombuds at Idaho State University. I suspect that my appointment near the end of fall semester and the ongoing pandemic impacted the number of faculty I worked with during the school year, but there are still several points for this report.

I had formal meetings with two full-time tenure-track faculty members during the year, which I will detail below. The first meeting was with a faculty member that had questions about a particular policy and practice that at the university level was moved to the Office of Equity and Inclusion for the 2020/21 school year. The faculty member in question was concerned that privacy rights may have been violated. After investigating the policy and practice in question, I was able to determine that no such violation had occurred and, therefore, no further action was taken. This situation did allow me to recommend to the Director of Equity and Inclusion that some guidance to academic units related to this policy would be advisable before the next school.

The second meeting related to an upcoming tenure and promotion case. As the case in question has not officially begun, this meeting can be categorized as informational. The faculty member wanted to review aspects of the process and speak with a neutral party before moving forward. This case did not warrant any further action; although, I will remain in contact with the faculty as needed.

During Spring Semester, I did have 4 or 5 informal discussions with various faculty members regarding both the new program health process and faculty evaluations with regard to the pandemic. Each of these meetings was informational and no formal actions needed to be taken. In all cases the faculty members in question contacted me primarily because of the leadership roles I had played in both situations, but I was able to assure faculty of confidentiality as ombuds.

This concludes my report for the 2020/21 academic year.

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