

## **Evolution of Office at AU**

The evolution of the Ombuds office at Auburn has mimicked the evolution of Ombuds offices at many other colleges and universities in the United States. In fact, there has been a 35 percent increase in Ombuds offices at academic institutions in North America since 2004, I believe. And very typically, the idea of an Ombuds office arises from a committee or a governance group on campus. In the case at Auburn, my understanding is that the most recent iteration of the Ombuds office arose out of a recommendation from a university committee on multiculturalism and diversity in 2002. That recommendation for an Ombuds office at Auburn University was then forwarded to the university senate at the time, which passed a resolution which was also endorsed by the staff council and the A&P assembly. That recommendation was forwarded onto the president's office.

In 2005 or 2006, I believe, it was decided to leave the initiative for an Ombuds office at Auburn for the next incoming president. There was a presidential search going on at the time. In 2007, when President Gogue arrived and was presented with the idea of an Ombuds office, he was very supportive of it and agreed to fund that office upon another resolution by the university senate. That resolution was passed in January 2008, I believe. And then an internal search for candidates occurred during the summer of 2008 of which I was selected in August. And then the office officially opened its doors on September 2.

<http://www.aces.edu/extcomm/ombuds/evolution.php>