

OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

The Ombudsman Program began in 2009 following recommendation by the Emeritus Faculty Association.

The UCO academic ombudsman is an emeritus faculty member, an outside third party, who can assist faculty to create professional, effective evaluative documents (dossiers); provide professional counsel or advice; or serve as a “sounding board” prior to filing a grievance. The formal role of the ombudsman in the grievance procedure may be found in Appendix G of the Faculty Handbook.

The academic ombudsman is a highly respected and well-informed emeritus faculty member who has been through the tenure and promotion processes at UCO. The ombudsman maintains a good working relationship with the university legal counsel after being oriented about the roles and responsibilities. The academic ombudsman does not have decision-making authority or legally binding responsibility.

The academic ombudsman is selected by and serves at the pleasure of the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs for an indefinite term. The Office of Academic Affairs assists the academic ombudsman to obtain needed information, such as current university and college-specific tenure and promotion guidelines, as requested.

UCO academic ombudsman, Dr. William Radke, is a certified mediator and may be contacted directly at WRadke@uco.edu or wradke680@gmail.com. Costs for Dr. Radke’s services are borne by the Office of Academic Affairs and are free to faculty members.