

MCBN Ombudsperson

Role

- The Ombudsperson is an **impartial, independent** and **confidential** resource for graduate students within the MCBN program. *The main goal of the Ombudsperson is to ensure that the graduate student voice is heard by an impartial party.*
- The Ombudsperson does not make formal decisions or render judgements.
- The Ombudsman identifies options and provides information to the student so that, when necessary, the student can move forward with formal actions/complaints.
- The Ombudsman is authorized to approach administrators, faculty members and other students in pursuit of information or to make recommendations regarding problems or complaints.
- The Ombudsman can recommend formal changes in policy or procedure to university administrators as a result of issues and/or concerns that they have learned about from the students.

Eligibility & Nomination Process

- The Ombudsperson must be an Assistant Professor, Associate Professor or Professor and a Graduate Faculty Member of GSBS whose primary appointment is on the Stratford campus (associate and adjunct GSBS Faculty Members are not eligible).
- The Ombudsperson position must be held by an impartial party and therefore this individual cannot be responsible for academic or disciplinary decisions regarding students. As such, GSBS Leadership (e.g., Senior Associate Dean, Executive Council, Chairs, Program Directors, Vice-Chairs for Education, etc.) cannot serve in this role.
- The Ombudsperson will be both nominated and voted on (via majority vote) *by the MCBN graduate studentbody* in conjunction with the Department Chairs and GSBS Senior Associate Dean.
 - The selected individual will be given the opportunity to accept or reject the appointment; if the individual does not accept, the 2nd place candidate will be selected and so on.
- The Ombudsperson must take appropriate University-wide training modules as determined by the Chairs and GSBS Senior Associate Dean (including but not limited to DEI, Title IX) and be well-versed in the MCBN Program student handbook and related GSBS policies.

Meetings & Term Limits

- There are no required regular meetings; students will contact the Ombudsperson on their own accord.
- Faculty members may also reach out to the Ombudsperson regarding student-related issues, at which point the Ombudsperson may reach out directly to the student.
- The term limit for the Ombudsperson will be 3 years.

Confidentiality:

- Confidentiality will be maintained to the maximum extent permitted by RowanGSBS policy and information will only be disclosed/shared by the Ombudsman at the student's discretion.