

## **A&S Graduate Ombudsperson Report for August 2023 – June 2024**

Peter Vishton, Associate Professor, Psychological Sciences

A total of 11 graduate students contacted the ombudsperson for consultation about a wide-range of issues including payroll, medical leaves, complaints about conduct, student-teacher conflicts, advisor-advisee relationships, work relationships, and allegations of psychological abuse and retaliation.

The ombudsperson conducted two informational meetings with graduate students from two different departments. The ombudsperson also participated in welcome events for new graduate students arranged by the Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

In all cases, the ombudsperson helped by directing the graduate students to the appropriate entity within A&S or assisting in devising solutions that would serve the graduate students' best interests. The ombudsperson provided relevant information, acted as mediator, and proposed possible courses of action. For one case, the ombudsperson contacted a Graduate Director, Department Chair, and two Deans to confirm that proper procedures were being followed.

The time-scale of these incidents varied widely. The simplest matters were resolved in a single meeting. More complex matters required several weeks of meetings and discussions.

The ombudsperson participated in graduate A&S orientation events and the bi-weekly meetings of the Committee on Graduate Studies (COGS) throughout the academic year, with the goal of maintaining close contact with the graduate programs of Arts and Sciences.

All cases have been resolved.