

## **A&S Graduate Ombudsperson Report for July 2016 - June 2017**

Peter Vishton, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, vishton@wm.edu

A total of 23 graduate students contacted the ombudsperson for consultation.

A wide range of issues arose over the course of the year, including student-advisor conflicts over timing of feedback and progress toward degree completion, student collegial conflicts, and problems with the payroll office.

The time-scale of meetings varied widely. The shortest cases were resolved through a meeting and set of e-mails exchanged within a few days. The longest case required an extensive set of conversations and interactions with two professors and a director of graduate studies. In one case, I interacted with the Office of University Council as I gave a phone interview regarding a student complaint to the US Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR).

I presented a discussion of "pedagogical pitfalls" with incoming graduate students at the graduate school orientation. In part this was to discuss the role of graduate students as teachers, but primarily the aim was to increase students' familiarity with the Ombudsperson and the process of addressing potential grievances.

I participated in meetings of the Committee on Graduate Studies as well, with the goal of maintaining close contact with the many graduate studies programs.

All cases have been resolved.