

## **A&S Graduate Ombudsperson Report for July 2021 – August 2022**

Evgenia Smirni, Professor, Computer Science

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

In all cases, the ombudsperson helped by directing the graduate students to the appropriate entity within A&S or assisted in devising solutions that would serve the graduate students' best interests. Specifically, the ombudsperson provided relevant information, acted as mediator, and proposed possible courses of action.

The time-scale of meetings varied widely, with the simplest matters resolved in a week or so, and more complex matters requiring several weeks of meetings and discussions.

Smirni participated in 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