

## Ombudsperson Report for 2004

Philip Daileader, Associate Professor, Department of History, [phdail@wm.edu](mailto:phdail@wm.edu)

Activities of 2004:

- 1) Individual consultations with graduate students. During 2004, the ombudsperson worked with twelve different graduate students on a variety of issues. These issues can be categorized as follows:
  - Sexual harassment and/or physical assault by faculty and fellow graduate students
  - Other forms of improper conduct by faculty: the establishment of a hostile classroom climate, the improper public disclosing of information about students, and poor thesis advising (especially slow turnaround time on thesis chapters)
  - The application of department policies to individual students, especially as regards course requirements, teaching loads and assignments, payroll and stipends, and intellectual property rights
  - Grade appeals

In one student's case, only one discussion with the ombudsperson was required to resolve the situation. In the eleven other cases, the resolution of the situations (some of which are still ongoing) required multiple consultations with the students as well as discussions between the ombudsperson and faculty members, directors of graduate programs, department chairs, the director of equal opportunity, and the dean of graduate studies, as needed.

- 2) The ombudsperson participated in the orientation program for new graduate students and in the training program for first-time teaching assistants
- 3) The ombudsperson met with the Committee on Graduate Studies to ask the directors of graduate programs to discuss with their faculty their policies concerning acceptable turnaround time for theses and their policies concerning the scheduling of dissertation defenses
- 4) To increase access to graduate students, the ombudsperson held three office hours per week that were reserved for graduate students and the business of the ombudsperson's office