



EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

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EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY FACULTY STAFF OMBUD QUARTERLY REPORT THIRD QUARTER 2018

After a quiet summer, the Fall Semester brought us all back to routine, if not normalcy. I had ten new consultations during the 34 working days of the quarter, maintaining about the same average as the last quarter of a new contact every three days on campus. It seems regular now that a few students contact me at the beginning of each semester. In every case I inform the student that I do not have any jurisdiction in student issues and refer them to the appropriate body. In every case I also inform the person to whom I refer the student of the contact.

It has been necessary to modify my schedule on several occasions this quarter. In order to meet faculty or staff at times convenient to their schedules I stay late or come in on what is usually an off day. So far I have been able to balance those extra times by working fewer hours on other days, and have stayed within the time allotted in each period. I see more of those occasions coming in the next quarter and will continue to balance hours as much as possible. My goal is to meet with faculty and staff promptly and at times that do not interfere with their work.

Construction continues to alter campus routines. Over the summer the chapel was closed, probably due to surrounding construction; the loss of use was deeply felt by some who use it for quiet meditation. Pedestrian detours can be difficult to negotiate, especially for those with limited mobility. As October is ADA Awareness month, I encourage all to use a critical eye when contemplating modifications to routes of travel.

As we rebuild, it is well to recognize the vulnerable state of our colleagues. Several of my consultations this quarter touched on lack of appreciation or being valued on the job. This is still a period of mourning and uncertainty. The growing sense of insecurity can be countered with words of assurance, recognition of achievements, expressions of gratitude for work well done. By shoring up our fragile colleagues we strengthen the commitments to each other and our institution.

Another trend I have seen this quarter is rebuilding. Faculty especially are concerned about increasing enrollment and class size, improving outcomes, and strengthening programs. They are figuring out how to do more with less. At a time when, it seems, higher education is under attack, the people of Eastern Kentucky University are asking how they can show the relevance of their work for future generations. This could be a time for division, but instead I am sensing greater cooperation.

I am grateful for this opportunity to serve the faculty and staff of EKU.