

POLICY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT (PCR)

DATE: June 15, 2009

Policy Name and Code #: Student and Housestaff Ombuds, 00-01-25-60:00

**Check one of the following actions:**

New                       Revised (Substantive)                       Revised (Non-Substantive)  
 Rescinded                       Reclassed

Date of Action: June 15, 2009

**Purpose of Policy:**

The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey’s Student and Housestaff Ombuds Program is established to provide a confidential, independent, and neutral, resource for all University students and housestaff. It serves as a voluntary, informal and alternate channel of communication from the more formal options available, to address any University-related concern.

**Motivation for Revision:**

The UMDNJ Board of Trustees approved the appointment of a University Ombuds. A new University Ombuds program offers Ombuds services to all faculty, staff and students. That policy reflects the standards of practice of the profession. The proposed revisions to the Students and Housestaff Ombuds Policy will harmonize the two and clarify the services offered, and protections afforded visitors.

**Highlights:**

- Incorporate the current Student and Housestaff Ombuds program in to an overall University Ombuds program, by giving the University Ombuds oversight responsibilities over both.
- Ensure that the appearance of conflicts due to the reporting structure of the S/H Ombuds is minimized, while maintaining the S/H Ombuds’ responsiveness to their Deans and the needs of their respective schools.
- Ensure that basic training/certification standards for S/H Ombuds will be established University-wide.
- Data collection/distribution will be uniform and comport to professional standards.
- Except in emergent circumstances, the University Ombuds will take responsibility for approving the release of confidential information obtained by S/H Ombuds, to ensure uniformity and legal appropriateness.
- University Ombuds will share responsibility with the S/H Ombuds relative to providing promotional and educational resources to the University community.

**Review/Approval Process**

The proposed revisions to the policy were reviewed and endorsed by the Deans, the members of the Policy Review Committee. On June 15, 2009 the final version was reviewed and approved by the President’s Cabinet.