WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of the Ombuds

Faculty Senate Information Session

October 2026

Contact: French 134 509-335-1195 ombuds@wsu.edu

More information at: https://ombuds.wsu.edu



Janet Herrlinger, Principal Assistant



Lenka Perkins, Ombuds



Justin Denney, Ombuds

What is the Ombuds Office?

- Informal, independent, impartial, and confidential resource
- Available to faculty, staff, and students across WSU
- Helps clarify policies, explore options, and resolve concerns
- Facilitates communication, informal mediation, and problem-solving

When might faculty contact the Ombuds?

- Workplace conflicts or communication challenges
- Questions about university policies or procedures
- Concerns about fairness, process, or decision-making
- Departmental, supervisory, or collegial disputes
- Identify options before filing a formal complaint

- Might also suggest Ombuds to students, postdocs, lab assistants, etc.

WSU Office of the Ombuds

Does

- Listen
- Provide information
- Help identify options
- Facilitate difficult conversations
- Encourage effective communication strategies

Doesn't

- Advocate for any person or for the university
- Make decisions
- Overturn policies
- Conduct formal investigations
- Replace grievance procedures

Contact: French 134 509-335-1195 ombuds@wsu.edu