

Good morning colleagues,

The new officers of the HU Faculty Senate promised to be transparent and follow the rules of the Senate. One way we've attempted to do this is by providing FS email updates. Within yesterday's update,

<https://hufaculty.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/179.FSupdate11.26.19.pdf>

I mentioned the following,

"CNAHS chair searches. Please see attached from Dr. Brown. The FS is waiting on a response from CNAHS faculty to see how to proceed. Dr. Wutoh was concerned about allegations against Deans and suggested that Dr. Frederick could appoint an interim faculty ombudsperson. I mentioned this might be a problem, since it appears that the last candidate was offered a position by Dr. Frederick without a vote by the council. If true, this is a violation of the established procedure for selection of the faculty ombudsperson."

Dr. Wutoh then accused me of making misleading or outright false statements, and loose allegations.

<https://hufaculty.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/178.2.pdf>

Please consider the following points and documents and decide for yourselves.

1. On Sept 10, 2018, Dr. Sonya Sobrian, the most recent past Chair of the HU Faculty Senate, sent an email with the approved procedure for selecting an ombudsperson. That procedure is listed here:

<https://hufaculty.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/19-final-selection-procedure.pdf>

2. Step 5 in the above procedure says, "5. The OSC will recommend the top two (2) candidates to the Faculty Senate Council for a vote to extend an offer to a single candidate."

3. Please take a look at all council meetings with quorum on the following page. There were no meetings with council votes for an ombudsperson candidate.

<https://hufaculty.com/old-documents/>

4. On June 5, 2019, I alerted Dr. Frederick, Dr. Wutoh, and the Secretary of the Board and General Counsel, Ms. Florence Prioleau that there were problems with the ombudsperson search.

<https://hufaculty.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/175.3.pdf>

5. On July 2nd, 2019, Dr. Sobrian sent the letter linked below to the council (names have been redacted). In it she indicated her intention to recommend a name to the Provost without a proper vote from the council. She says,

“At a subsequent meeting of June 24th, 2019, 10 members of the Council met; their consensus opinion was that the Chair of the Faculty Senate in consultation with the Chair of the ad hoc Ombudsperson search Committee send the recommendation of \*\*\*\*\* forward to the Provost.”

There couldn't have been a legitimate council meeting and vote. According to the Board approved Faculty Senate Constitution, 10 members is not enough for a quorum.

<https://hufaculty.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/176.July2redacted.pdf>

6. On July 8th, 2019, council emails to Dr. Sobrian state,

“It is ill advised for the chair to make a unilateral decision to recommend an ombuds candidate to be hired without the vote of the Faculty Senate Council..”

The co-chair of the Governance Committee said in an email, “The procedures as stated must be adhered to”

7. Yesterday, November 26, 2019, Dr. Wutoh provided a letter apparently written by Drs. Sobrian and Farquharson on July 8th, 2019, recommending a candidate for ombudsperson.

<https://hufaculty.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/177.Letter7-8-19redacted.pdf>

8. In his letter, Dr. Wutoh says, “Dr. Alfred indicated that President Frederick offered a position to a candidate for the Faculty Ombudsperson position without vote of the Faculty Senate Council. This allegation is false.”

<https://hufaculty.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/178.2.pdf>

Colleagues, I ask you, where in Dr. Sobrian's letter (177.Letter7-8-19redacted.pdf) provided by Dr. Wutoh does she say there was a council vote for the recommendation? Where in any of the above documents is it mentioned that the council voted for the recommendation?

Respectfully,

Marcus

Marcus Alfred  
Associate Professor  
Chair, HU Faculty Senate

Howard University  
Dept. of Physics & Astronomy  
Washington, DC 20059  
202-806-6258  
maralfred@howard.edu