

**University Life Council  
Minutes of Meeting  
October 6, 2009  
Campus Center 375**

Present: Philippe Abraham, Joanne Carson, Colleen Davis, Colin Quinn, Brenda Seckerson, Dan Smith (Chair)

Meeting Commenced at 8:00 am.

**Executive Committee**

Chair Smith informed the council that he attended the committee meeting and that President Philip discussed the budget. He noted that Governor Paterson just mentioned a \$3B shortfall.

**Announcements**

Chair Smith mentioned that this upcoming weekend was Community Day, Homecoming as well as an Admissions open house. He added that the Graduate School Fair is taking place on Monday, October 12 from 3-6pm in the SEFCU Arena.

**Ombuds Research**

Colleen Davis conducted research on ombuds programs at other institutions. She handed out research she found on the International Ombudsman Association. She added that the site indicates what these offices can and won't provide. She also noted that a lot of schools have both undergraduate and graduate programs together.

Brenda Seckerson mentioned that whoever is identified to staff this office will need extensive training.

Joanne Carson added that this is especially necessary if legal advice is required. She also inquired as to how training would take place.

Chair Smith responded that he wasn't sure, but believed they would pull individuals from the graduate office for training.

Chair Smith requested and collected recommendations of individuals who might be potential individuals to staff the ombuds office.

**Freshman Year Experience Task Force**

Chair Smith noted how this grew out of the Retention Task Force. He added that the task force would like feedback from all councils. He would like everyone in the council to review the document created by the task force and provide feedback.

Next Meeting: October 14, 2009

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Noah Simon, Recording Secretary