



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Office of the Provost

MEMORANDUM

To: TTU Faculty and Deans

From: Michael Galyean, Provost & Senior Vice President
Wes Cochran, President-Elect, Faculty Senate
Alan Barenberg, Immediate Past-President, Faculty Senate

Cc: Lawrence Schovanec, President

Date: May 31, 2019

Re: Texas Tech Faculty Ombudsperson

We are pleased to jointly announce the selection of Dr. Tara Stevens, Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership, as the next Faculty Ombudsperson at Texas Tech University. Dr. Stevens' formal appointment will begin with the start of the 2019 Fall semester, but she will spend time during the summer "shadowing" retiring Faculty Ombudsperson Dr. Jean Scott.

The Faculty Ombudsperson reports to both the Provost and the President of the Faculty Senate, as an impartial facilitator between faculty and their supervisors and sometimes between faculty and students or staff. The Ombudsperson advises faculty and administrators as a confidential resource (to the extent possible by law), facilitates communication, clarifies procedure, and assists with conflict resolution. The Faculty Ombudsperson is not a faculty advocate, but an impartial adviser, committed to assuring due process according to the rules and procedures of the University.

We acknowledge an outstanding pool of candidates for the position and appreciate each of them for standing in consideration for the position. We are also grateful to the five-person search committee for their careful and timely review of the candidates. And again, we are indebted to Dr. Scott for good service in establishing an effective and highly reputable office of Faculty Ombudsperson.

Dr. Tara Stevens is well qualified to perform in the role of Faculty Ombudsperson. She is licensed to practice psychology in Texas public schools as a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology. She had a primary role in establishing the School Psychology program in the TTU College of Education. Her experience as a practitioner has informed her research and she has used her research to support curriculum development and evaluation for grants from agencies such as the National Science Foundation, American Educational Research Association/IES, and the Mathematical Association of America/Tensor-Summa Foundation. Her practitioner work has also informed her approach to engaging with and mediating differences between people on sensitive issues, remaining neutral and objective, and advocating for fair and equitable processes – some of the essential functions of the Faculty Ombudsperson. Dr. Stevens is also a member of the inaugural class (2009) of Integrated Scholars at Texas Tech University.

Please join us in extending an enthusiastic welcome to Tara in her new role. We encourage you to meet her, individually or in organized faculty or administrative groups.