

# Ombudspersons

**Ombudspersons:** Erika Barthelmess, Karen Mabry, Marjorie Matocq, Stephen Mech, Morty Ortega, Director.

## **Mission:**

Members of the Office of Ombudspersons are appointed at the discretion of the President to hear and respond appropriately to complaints of unprofessional behavior by any member of the ASM at its annual meeting or in the governance of the ASM through its committee structure. All issues brought before either (or both) of the appointed individuals are resolved as discreetly as possible. The Ombudspersons are entrusted to deal with each situation as they best see fit.

## **Information Items:**

(1) The Office continued to be active throughout 2023 and 2024, mostly via email and virtual meetings.

(2) Morty Ortega was elected as the Director of the Office of Ombudspersons and will participate in the BOD meeting (see Action Items below).

(3) The Office of the Ombudsperson received a couple of cases, in which the individuals were guided to potential solutions.

(4) The members had robust conversations about the role of the Office and plan to set up new guidelines on how to offer better solutions to issues brought to us.

## **Action Items:**

(1) An action taken by the BOD and approved indicates that:

Sec. 1. Members of the Ombudsperson Office, appointed by the Board of Directors, shall be responsible for development of policies relating to professional conduct and to hear and to respond appropriately to complaints of unprofessional behavior.

Sec. 2. The members of the Ombudsperson Office shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years, with appointments staggered so that not all members are newly appointed in the same year. The members of the Ombudsperson Office shall select the Ombudsperson Director, who shall serve for 6 years and shall be a voting member of the Board of Directors.

(2) We will review the mission of the Office and set up guidelines on how the office can be more efficient in dealing with issues brought up by the members of the Society.

(3) In the coming year, we will re-assess the ASM Code of Conduct and determine if any updates or changes are necessary.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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