

Ombudsman aids problem solving
By Peggy Reichardt
versity employees earning problems, Ombudsman Al grounds and custodial problems, Ombudsman Al grounds and custodial
Dittmer deals with UNL workers. Sixty-three staff staff, faculty and student members in 1975-76 and 72 complaints on a daily basis. in 1980-81 came to him man, he tries to help people with a problem to discuss. solve their problems on an solve their problems on an
informal,
conversational informal, conversational problems with a supervis-
basis. He said solving the or, salaries, basis. He said solving the or, salaries, equity and worproblem informally is "bas-
ically the best way" to han. said.
dle most of the complaints that he gets.
Most grievances come the ombudsman's services from students, Dittmer said. 52 and 54 times in 1975.76
Dittmer said 475 said. and $1980-81$ respectively. ents contacted him suring Their grievances include the 1975.76 academic year with promotion and tenure, and 431 students visited in evaluations of their perforStaff members constitute mance, salary problems with students, he next largest group with such as student conduct in the next largest group with


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Wer sornelp the ombudsman for help, Dittmer said the prohlem usually can be worked out. However, if it is more sertous and needs special attenformal grievance process to be followed.

For staff members there is a three-step process, followed for grievances against
a supervisor, Dittmer said First, the employee must approach the supervisor and discuss the problem. If it cannot be solved this way, the employee then puts his grievances in writing and submits it to the supervisor, who in turn responds to the letter.
The grievances are reviewed by Gwen Combs, director of Personnel, Dittmer said. She renders a case opinion, and if her opinion differs from the supervissor's, hers supercedes. If it is the same as the supervisor's, the employee call ask for a hearing to solve
the problem. The panel for the problem. The panel or
a hearing would consist of three peers who work with three peers w
the employee.
If faculty questions can not be solved informally, to one of three committees.

The Faculty Senate Grie. vance Committee is a general committee, Dittmer dom and Tenure Commitee handles questions pertaining to teachers' abilities to teach, in a free however they choose. The however they choose. The
committees also take care of problems concerning an instructor's tenure.

Continued on Page 3

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