A small step forward

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The University's Committee on Campus Grievances is urging students to voice their opinions by submitting nominations for the newly created post of ombudsman. The ombudsman theoretically will help resolve student and faculty grievances and recommend changes in the University's administrative process.

A person who has had a resident appointment at Ohio State for six years, is concerned about students, and is tactful but emphatic, is needed to fill this newly created position, according to L. Lee Walker, vice president of the undergraduate student government.

The ombudsman's duties are extremely important as they could affect most students. Many nominations already have been submitted to the grievance committee. However, if you are concerned with improving the University's future, make your voice heard now. By nominating one person, you are taking a step in the right direction.

How is the person you consider qualified ever going to be heard if you don't come forward in support of him? This is no time to be lazy.

If we are to lay the groundwork for a better University our interest is needed now. So, take a small step toward a major change by returning the attached ballot to the Undergraduate Student Government Offices, Room 306 of the Ohio Union by Oct. 12.
Committee lauds ombudsman pick

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The Advisory Committee on Campus Grievances praised President Fawcett's choice of Richard H. Armitage, former dean of the Graduate School, as the University's first ombudsman.

Robert G. Smith, vice president for University development and a member of the committee, said Armitage's personal integrity and objectivity make him very effective for the job.

The committee worked more than two months to select three finalists from 113 nominees. The other finalists were Harry R. Blaine, assistant professor of labor education, and George R. St. Pierre, professor of metallurgical engineering.

Smith said he feels Armitage has a thorough knowledge of the University and its complexities and that he is well respected by students, faculty and administrators.

Wallace C. Fotheringham, professor of speech and another member of the committee, said Armitage has two important characteristics. One, he said, is that he creates his own format of a job and the other is that he can conceptualize a job.

The ombudsman will act as a sounding board for grievances from members of the University community.

Fotheringham said Armitage is not rigid about what his job is supposed to be. He said he will get after things before they can develop into serious problems like last spring's disorders.

"Even if problems will not be totally eliminated they will be at least reduced in magnitude and intensity," Fotheringham said.

Jaques W. Kaswan, professor of psychology, also a member of the search committee, said Armitage has a broad knowledge of the University's operation. He said his empathy, appreciation and concern for different problems and the respect that he has earned can be attributed to his tenure.

He said Armitage will have to explore difficulties, assist individuals or groups and recommend changes.

"But he has no power to make decisions," Kaswan added.

He said Armitage will have access to all University records, he can study them and hopefully come up with ideas for effective changes.

"He will not only work with major problems of this University but he will deal with day-to-day problems and problems of communication among the student body, faculty and administration.

Stephen P. Kling, president of the undergraduate student government and member of the search committee, said he fears that people will go to Armitage first if they can't solve their problems.

There are still the respective agencies and offices to solve problems, Armitage should not replace them, he should only supplement them, Kling said.

L. Lee Walker, vice president of the undergraduate student government said the success of Armitage's job will depend on how many people will take advantage of his services.

Other members of the committee could not be reached for comment.