

ombudsman

General Area

IETF 59

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# basic definition

## Proposed position within the IETF

- Starting Point: Ombudsman is ...
  - person responsible for reviewing public record on IETF and its constituent bodies in response to complaints made by individual participants
  - person responsible for helping a participant with a complaint to understand the appeals process

Based on Section 10 of draft-iesg-hardie-outline-01.txt

# why this is needed

- Not all complaints that warrant a resolution require an appeal
  - Better to resolve an issue prior to it escalating to the level of appeal
  - Sometimes improved communication may be solution enough.
  - For any number for reasons communications with responsible parties may be difficult
- With possible increase in the scope of responsibility of AD and WG chairs,
  - Increased chance of miscommunication
  - Increase chance of perceived abuse
  - Possible increase chance of abuse

# how selected

- Public Nomination solicited by Nomcom
- Nomcom selects candidate 2 weeks prior to Fall meeting
- Approval by 50% joint IAB/IESG vote during fall meeting
- If not approved Nomcom must select another candidate.
- Incumbent remains in place until a new selection is made

Based on Section 10 of draft-iesg-hardie-outline-01.txt

# scope of responsibility

- Reviews public record of a Working Group, Area Board, IETF, or IESG decision to determine whether the IETF processes functioned correctly.
- No power of investigation
- May request agenda slot of any body (except Nomcom) in order to put forward concerns raised
- Assists participant with the complaint in understanding appeals process if this is wanted.

Based on Section 10 of draft-iesg-hardie-outline-01.txt

# issues

- Scope:
  - mediator, arbiter or adjudicator
  - review of public record vs. investigation
  - does Ombudsman create a public record report on complaints
  - What does it mean to determine correctness
  - degrees of confidentiality
- Selection:
  - term limit - is there a need to avoid entrenchment and institutionalization of ombudsman

# proposal

- Make drafting of full rough consensus proposal a general area work item
- Create 2 year experiment based on full proposal