Programme Declaration – Scholars at Risk Network – Sweden Section

Definitions

Scholars at Risk (SAR) is an international network working for academic freedom and human rights within higher education. The network has a secretariat located in New York. SAR’s bylaws: https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/SAR-Bylaws.pdf


‘Academic freedom’ is defined in Article 27 as: “...the right, without constriction by prescribed doctrine, to freedom of teaching and discussion, freedom in carrying out research and disseminating and publishing the results thereof, freedom to express freely their opinion about the institution or system in which they work, freedom from institutional censorship and freedom to participate in professional or representative academics bodies”.

The Scholars at Risk Network – Sweden Section is a national section of SAR. The section goes under the name of SAR Sweden and comprises Swedish higher education institutions or equivalent that are members of SAR. Membership of SAR automatically generates membership of SAR-Sweden. SAR-Sweden started as an informal network in 2014 and was formally launched on 9 March 2016. The section comprises SAR coordinators at each higher education institution/equivalent.

SAR-Sweden

The purpose of the section is to:

- Move forward the work on academic freedom in the world within the framework of the members’ activities.
- Cooperate on receiving researchers under threat by, for example, offering continuation at a new higher education institution in Sweden or sharing the hosting of a researcher with another higher education institution.
- Disseminate information about academic freedom and market the activities pursued within SAR.
- Share experiences relating to the SAR work carried out by higher education institutions.
- Work to encourage more Swedish higher education institutions to affiliate to SAR-Sweden with a view to creating a strong national section.
- Use the SAR researchers within the framework of SAR-Sweden as a source of competence within the network.
- Work to promote cooperation between SAR-Sweden and SAR sections in other countries by, for example, coordinating activities.

Organization

In some contexts a coordinating higher education institution functions as a spokesperson for the section in relation to SAR and in these cases is responsible for gaining support and receiving feedback from members of the section. SAR-Sweden is initially being coordinated from the University of Gothenburg.
The section shall meet twice a year and in addition monitor progress via telephone and email.