Xavier University of Louisiana Provost named chair of the SAR United States Section

Xavier University of Louisiana Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Anne McCall has been named the new chair of the SAR United States Section. Active in SAR for the past decade, McCall has served as a member of the steering committee for the US Section since it was established two years ago.

"During my time as a member, I've become ever more impressed by the role that SAR plays around the world in protecting scholars and promoting academic freedom and appreciative of the way it aligns with our purpose at Xavier University, which is to contribute to the creation of a more just and humane society. I look forward to beginning my work as chair and to serving this important organization," said Dr. McCall.

SAR's Executive Director Robert Quinn said, "Anne McCall is a consistent and powerful voice for scholars, students, and academic freedom, and we are thrilled to work with her in her new role as chair of the SAR US Section to grow US membership, raise the profile of threats to academic freedom, at home and abroad, and deliver life-and career-saving assistance to threatened colleagues." As we welcome Dr. McCall in her new role, we also express our gratitude to the inaugural Section Chair, Roger Williams University professor Adam Braver, whose leadership, vision, and dedication greatly benefited the SAR US Section.

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SAR calls on UN states to demand that Hungary implement protections for academic freedom

On October 7, SAR's Senior Advocacy Officer Jesse Levine addressed the United Nations' Universal Periodic Review of Hungary regarding issues related to the freedom of universities and legal pressures on universities in the country.

In the statement, which was presented virtually, SAR addressed well-documented, sector-wide attacks on higher education in Hungary, citing Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's authoritarian tactics to target universities in the country. Among the most notable issues raised in SAR's submission is the closure of Central European University's main campus in Budapest. The closure followed Prime Minister Orbán signing an amendment to the country's National Higher Education Act that imposed onerous restrictions on the university and ultimately forced it to move its operations to Vienna, Austria. Additionally, newly-passed laws have placed other academic institutions under the control of the government, and a government decree eliminated gender studies programs at Hungarian universities.

In its closing statement about Prime Minister Orbán's government, SAR stated, "The goal is to remake the spaces where ideas are developed in an illiberal image, and they have made serious, concrete strides in that direction." SAR called on UN states to demand that Hungary implement concrete protections for academic freedom and university autonomy, consistent with well-established international human rights standards.

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Scholars Seeking Hosts

SAR scholars are at-risk higher education professionals who exemplify the pursuit of academic freedom, freedom of expression, and university values. If your institution is interested in hosting a SAR scholar, please email apply.scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu.

A Scholar of Civil Engineering from Afghanistan

This scholar of civil engineering specializes in structural and transportation engineering. He is completing his PhD, and has over a decade of experience teaching at the university level in Afghanistan. His research focuses on asphalt. He reports risk of violence and threats to his life in Afghanistan and seeks teaching and/or research opportunities in a safe location beginning immediately. (Afghanistan 811)

A Scholar of Biochemistry from Afghanistan

This junior scholar has a few years of experience teaching biochemistry, molecular biology, and medicine at a university in Afghanistan. She is an early career researcher, who recently published on the medicinal value of local nuts. In addition to working as a lecturer, she has experience working in higher education administration. She reports risk of violence and threats to her life in Afghanistan, and seeks teaching and/or research opportunities in a safe location beginning immediately. (Afghanistan 838)

A Scholar of Education from Turkey

This scholar specializes in social studies education as well as curriculum design and instruction. He has several years of experience teaching and researching at universities in Turkey and the United States. His courses include research methods, social studies teaching methods, and civic education, among others. He has a robust publication and presentation background, including recent work on technology in social studies education. He reports risk of arrest, harassment, and loss of position in Turkey and seeks research opportunities in Greece and/or remotely, beginning immediately. (Turkey 1748)

All Scholars Seeking Assistance »

Introducing SAR's newest staff members

SAR is delighted to welcome four new staff to the New York office. As Program Assistant for Protection Services, Fiona Hull supports the application intake process alongside Emily Moore who, as Program Associate for Protection Services, provides direct assistance to SAR scholars and hosts. Prachi Patel joined as SAR's Communications Officer and is responsible for internal and external communications, including media relations to promote the network and SAR's programming. Leah Shapiro most recently stepped into a new Program Assistant role for both the Membership and Protection Services teams to support communications between prospective hosts and scholar candidates. Please join us in welcoming our colleagues!

SAR Executive Director Robert Quinn featured on Australia's ABC Radio National

ABC Radio National's Natasha Mitchell, host of the station's program "Science Fiction," spoke with SAR's Rob Quinn about the crisis facing Afghanistan's scholars and universities since the Taliban's takeover of the country. Reflecting on recent developments, Quinn says, "The situation in Afghanistan is dire. It's on a scale that I don't believe has been seen in the higher education community since World War II."

Listen Here »

Free To Think Podcast: Season 2

Be on the lookout for information regarding the second season of the Scholars at Risk podcast, *Free to Think*.

Please send us your comments, questions, or suggestions for Season 2 episodes to scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu, or by tweeting us at @RobQ_SAR or @ScholarsAtRisk.

Subscribe to the podcast on Spotify, Google Podcasts, Apple Podcasts, Audible, Amazon Music, or Stitcher.

News & Events

The No. 2/2021 issue of Nuovi Autoritarismi e Democrazie: Diritto, Istituzioni, Società (New Authoritarian Regimes and Democracies: Law, Institutions, Society) I Deadline: October 15, 2021 (Essays); November 1, 2021 (Other contributions)

The latest issue of New Authoritarianism and Democracies' (NAD) will include a special focus on academic freedom in a comparative and multidisciplinary perspective. NAD is accepting contributions concerning the legal, political, historical, and cultural aspects of academic freedom in different political systems (autocracies, full democracies, and flawed democracies). All submissions should be sent to redazione.nad@unimi.it.

Learn More »

On Mourning and Exile: Looking Back at Rwanda I October 28, 2021 I Roger Williams University

Roger Williams University and the SAR United States section will co-host a conversation with Rwandan author Scholastique Muksonga as she explores ideas of mourning and exile in the wake of the Rwandan genocide. Learn more here.

Register »

Save the Date: SAR's annual Free to Think Report and Courage to Think Award

SAR invites members and the general public to save Thursday, December 9 for the release of Free to Think 2021, the annual report of SAR's Academic Freedom Monitoring Project. The virtual convening will bring together experts for conversations about key issues in the report, and a presentation of SAR's annual Courage to Think award.

Learn More »

Inspireurope Stakeholder Forum I May 2nd – 3rd, 2022 I Berlin, Germany

The third and final Inspireurope Stakeholder Forum will take place in Berlin on May 2nd – 3rd, 2022. It will be hosted by Inspireurope partner; the Alexander Von Humboldt Foundation and will review progress and lessons learned on the Inspireurope project with key stakeholders from across Europe.

Learn More »

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