

## **Terms of Reference for Scholars at Risk United States Section (“SAR United States”)**

The SAR United States Section was founded in 2018 to coordinate SAR-related activities and to protect scholars and promote academic freedom in the United States. At the first in-person General Assembly of the SAR U.S. Section in December 2022, at Xavier University of Louisiana, the founding Terms of Reference were reviewed and amended as follows.

1. The United States section of the Scholars at Risk network (SAR United States) includes all SAR members and SAR affiliated members in the United States (this includes higher education institutions and organizations and associations with an interest in protecting scholars and promoting academic freedom). SAR United States is not an independent financial or juridical subject and cannot take on independent financial or juridical responsibility. In the event of inconsistency between these Terms of Reference and the bylaws of SAR, the bylaws of SAR take priority.
2. Mandate for SAR United States:
  - Promote and represent the values, aims, and activities of Scholars at Risk in the United States.
  - Prepare and implement joint activities to protect scholars and promote academic freedom in the United States.
  - Strengthen SAR United States, including the recruitment of new members.
  - Develop relations with external partners supporting SAR values and aims.
3. The decision-making body of SAR United States is the General Assembly and Membership meeting of the section, where each member shall be represented by the appointed primary SAR representative of the institution (according to SAR bylaws).
  - Postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the first General Assembly of the SAR United States Section was held in December 2022 at Xavier University of Louisiana. Subsequent meetings should be held thereafter every two years.
  - The General Assembly or Membership meeting may rotate across geographic regions and append conferences where key SAR United States section members and SAR staff might already be present.
  - Members of SAR United States shall be represented by the appointed primary SAR representative of the member institutions (according to SAR bylaws) or by a person designated by the primary SAR representative.

### **SCHOLARS AT RISK**

411 Lafayette Street 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10003, USA  
[www.scholarsatrisk.org](http://www.scholarsatrisk.org)

**EMAIL:** [scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu](mailto:scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu)  
**TEL:** +1 212-998-4427  
[f](https://www.facebook.com/scholarsatrisk) [i](https://www.instagram.com/scholarsatrisk) [in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/scholarsatrisk) @scholarsatrisk

### **SAR EUROPE**

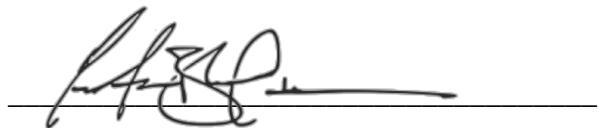
c/o MUSSI, Maynooth University  
Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Ireland  
[www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sar-europe](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sar-europe)

**EMAIL:** [sareurope@mu.ie](mailto:sareurope@mu.ie)  
**TEL:** +353 1 7086177  
[f](https://www.facebook.com/sar_europe) [i](https://www.instagram.com/sar_europe) [in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/sar_europe) @sar\_europe

4. The SAR United States Steering Committee is composed of up to nine SAR contact persons as representatives of their section.
- The Steering Committee is responsible for the leadership of SAR United States in accordance with the founding mandate, and General Assembly, and membership meeting decisions.
  - Members of the Steering Committee shall be elected by individual primary representatives at SAR United States member institutions and associations.
  - Unfilled or otherwise non-renewed positions on the Steering Committee will be open for a nomination period, then decided by majority vote by institutional representatives of the US Section. In the event of a tie, a follow-up vote by the institutional representatives of the Section will be held to resolve the tie. One representative at each member institution may vote. Voting must be open for a period of two weeks.
  - Nominations may be submitted by primary representatives from member institutions, SAR staff and SAR scholars. Candidates may also self-nominate. Nominations of current or alumni SAR scholars and other individuals of at-risk backgrounds are particularly encouraged.
  - Once elected, Steering Committee members will choose a Chair of the Section by consensus.
  - Steering Committee members, including the Chair, are expected to make clear whether they wish to conclude their term or seek another by Spring of their final year. The date for this declaration will be determined by the Steering Committee in consultation with the Secretariat.
  - Both Chair of the Section and individual Steering Committee Members' terms are two years, which may be renewed once by a majority vote of fellow Steering Committee members. (Steering Committee members seeking a renewed term must abstain from voting on their own behalf.) Thereafter, Committee members wishing to renew their terms for a third time must submit their candidacy to a vote by institutional representatives of the US Section. Membership on the Steering Committee may not last more than ten years total.
  - The Chair of the Steering Committee ("Chair of the Section") functions as the primary liaison between the SAR section and the Secretariat, in addition to serving as the SAR United States representative on the International Advisory Committee. The Chair coordinates communication between all parties and facilitates Steering Committee meetings.



Anne McCall, SAR United States Section Chair



Chelsea Blackburn Cohen, SAR Sr. Program Officer

Signed: Tuesday, January 17, 2023