

Resolution on Scholars at Risk

To: Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

I propose a resolution to have University of California, Santa Cruz become an institutional member of Scholars at Risk (SAR). Begun at the University of Chicago in 1999 and relocated to New York University in 2003, SAR is an international network of institutions and individuals whose mission it is to protect scholars and promote academic freedom.

By arranging temporary academic positions at member universities and colleges, Scholars at Risk offers safety to scholars facing grave threats, so scholars' ideas are not lost and they can keep working until conditions improve and they are able to return to their home countries.

Our campus can become a member of this important network. We would be supporting our colleagues around the world who are threatened and sometimes face violence, punishment, or other forms of sanction by authoritarian regimes, solely for exercising their academic freedom. Most recently, we can think of Turkey and Syria, whose academic scholars have joined the refugee crisis.

In 2002, SAR partnered with the Institute of International Education which was then establishing IIE's **Scholar Rescue Fund**. The Fund provides vital financial support to scholars facing grave threats so that they may escape dangerous conditions and continue their academic work in safety. IIE-SRF fellowships support visiting appointments for threatened scholars to continue their work in safety at partnering academic institutions worldwide.

To join this important network, our campus would pay \$ 800 per year to be a contributing member or \$ 5,000 per year to be a sustaining member. That membership would give us access to SAR's list with all the particulars for each scholar listed. If we choose to invite someone from the list for a visiting appointment on our campus, for whatever length of time we choose, IIE-SRF would share the cost of such an appointment.

Other UC campuses have already joined the network, including UC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara, UC Davis, UCLA, UC San Diego and UC Merced. UC Riverside and UC Berkeley are also currently going through the process of considering membership.

I urge the Academic Senate to approve this resolution and thereby call upon the Provost and Chancellor to pay the annual membership fee and also appoint a faculty member to oversee the process for our campus.

Respectfully Submitted;
Professor Lisa Rofel, Anthropology