

May 4, 2023

Ms. Bridgett Birmingham  
Faculty Senate President  
Florida State University  
222 S. Copeland Street  
115 Wescott Building  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

RE: Student Academic Relations Committee (SARC) Report, 2022-2023

Dear Ms. Birmingham,

During the 2022-2023 school year, the Student Academic Relations Committee (SARC) had two students file complaints.

On August 12, 2022, a student filed a complaint about a grade dispute. After interviewing the student and a member of the college's staff, I recommended that the full SARC committee hear the student's grievance. The committee met with the student, the faculty member, and administrators. On December 4, 2022, a recommendation was made to the Provost, detailing the following findings. The committee found that the faculty member was not acting improperly or unprofessionally in the assignment of the grade at issue. The committee recommended that the faculty member reevaluate their syllabi for clarity and access support and training resources related to Canvas. The committee also recommended that the college reevaluate their admission criteria to ensure that they can adequately serve students who are admitted. Finally, the committee recommended that the Office of the Provost review OSA's ability to provide the necessary accommodations to students in a timely fashion. Provost Clark accepted the recommendations outlined in the letter. On January 6, 2022, an addendum was submitted, which clarified the specific actions to be taken by the instructor and the student to resolve the issue. The addendum was accepted by Provost Clark.

On February 11, 2023, a student filed a complaint about their dismissal from a graduate program. After reviewing the materials submitted with the complaint, I interviewed the student and the Associate Dean of the college. I subsequently notified the student that I found the college to have acted according to published University standards, and that the full SARC committee would not convene to review the case. The student appealed that decision and as required by SARC procedures, the full committee was provided the chair's letter and notes, as well as all materials from the student and the college. After reviewing those materials, the majority of SARC members voted to uphold the SARC Chair's decision not to convene to hear the student's complaint. On March 18, 2023, I submitted the above summary to Provost Clark.

In this first year as SARC chair, I was assisted greatly by Dr. Jennifer Buchanan and Ms. Veronica Lopez. I sincerely appreciate the time and effort committed by them, and by the members of the SARC committee.

If there are any additional questions about the SARC process or my report, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Duarte

Associate Professor, College of Fine Art

Student Academic Relations Committee, Chair