

SAKARYA UNIVERSITY

2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

STUDENT SENATE MEETING REPORT (NUMBER 13)

The twelfth student senate meeting was held on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 14:00. Students, Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Özer UYGUN, and Student Dean Assoc. Prof. Dr. Havva SERT attended. The meeting began with the Student Dean's opening remarks. The speech highlighted the role and functions of our university's Student Senate, emphasizing its importance. Following this, students were asked about their general questions, concerns, and problems regarding Sakarya University during the 2023-2024 academic year. Student feedback is reported as follows:

A) Views Regarding Education and Quality

- 1-** A Computer Engineering student reported that the curriculum should include an algorithms course, which would be beneficial for better understanding of other programming courses specific to the field.
- 2-** It was reported that the midterm exam for the Career Planning course in the fall semester conflicted with other course exams, causing hardship for students.
- 3-** The insufficient number of research assistants in the Psychology Department resulted in exam schedules with 4 courses in a single day, negatively impacting student performance. Students also stated that they were not able to discuss exam questions with instructors after the exams. Some courses were conducted by having students present topics each week, which was reported to make the courses less productive.
- 4-** A Communication Faculty student stated that class time was not used efficiently, and the one-week limit for midterm exam week was burdensome for students taking many courses.
- 5-** A Law Faculty student requested the opportunity to take courses from other universities during the summer school. Students were informed that they could take courses from other universities if their departments approved it according to the guidelines. The student also reported that exam results were being released late.
- 6-** Insufficient academic advising was reported, with no communication beyond approval processes for course selections. Students requested advising support throughout their education, including investigating reasons for drops in student performance.
- 7-** Nursing students in their fourth year expressed their desire to complete internships in their field of study. Students were informed that rotating through all wards would be a more appropriate approach to ensure they gain all necessary skills for the nursing profession.

8- In the Computer Engineering department, different instructors taught different groups of the same course, and all groups were given the same assignments, but students were not held to the same expectations in completing them (for example, some instructors required the use of specific libraries in projects, while others did not). The evaluation criteria varied.

9- A mirrored room for conducting client interviews was suggested for the Psychology Department. The importance of students having therapy experience before graduation was emphasized. The Psychology Department, which has mandatory internships, lacks faculty, making elective courses mandatory. A need for elective courses related to community service was also noted. Students were advised to consult with the career center.

10- The Communication Faculty needs a recording studio.

B) Views Regarding Technical Infrastructure and Equipment

1- A Dentistry Faculty student stated that the faculty's physical space and teaching materials (e.g., head anatomy models) were insufficient, leading to poor coordination between theoretical and practical courses. Students reported that changing classrooms later on reduced motivation, and that the need to travel to the Dentistry Faculty building for X-ray procedures in some courses caused time loss.

2- A Computer Engineering student reported slow internet speed (wifi and base station) in the faculty building. A decline in speed compared to the previous year was noted. It was reported that the Information Technology Department was working on this issue.

3- Cleaning issues were reported in the library.

4- The Education Faculty reported that the projectors were outdated, causing disruptions in classes. Cleaning issues in the building and the need for library expansion were also noted.

5- Students in the first, second, and third years of the Medical Faculty experienced significant space issues (Esentepe-Korucuk), preventing them from gathering together.

6- Insufficient electrical outlets were reported in the Computer and Information Sciences Faculty corridors. Students requested the opening of closed office-use rooms.

7- Students were reported to leave their belongings on tables in the library to reserve spots, creating inconvenience for other students who wanted to use the space. A transition to a reservation system was suggested.

8- Cleaning issues were reported in the Dentistry Faculty restrooms, and sewer odors were noted. A lack of a camera system to allow all students to observe practical classes was reported, with only video recordings available. Students were informed that a camera system was being purchased and is in the installation phase.

C) Views Regarding the University and City Life

- 1-** A representative from the Serdivan Youth Council stated that there are nearly 200 groups, and these groups could play a more active role in the university. For example, they could voice their opinions on the use of electric vehicles in campus transportation and work with municipal councils to improve various services.
- 2-** A Communication Design student inquired about the process of separating and collecting recyclable waste. The student, planning a recycling-related project for their final project, wanted to learn about the collection point/company coordinated by SATSO and obtain the necessary waste for their project. Students were advised to discuss the matter with their faculty to arrange the collection of waste from their department.
- 3-** Difficulty in reserving halls for group activities and negative responses from the congress center were reported.
- 4-** Difficulties in transportation from Korucuk to campus were reported.
- 5-** The importance of transitioning to a digital system for activity permits was emphasized, as it would reduce paper waste and shorten the process. Completion of the entire process through SABİS was requested.
- 6-** Students reported that the outdoor sports fields were poorly maintained. The closure of recreational facilities (play stations, billiard tables, etc.) in the central cafeteria was reported, and students expressed their desire to use these facilities.
- 7-** The reopening of the closed Saklı Garden or the creation of a recreational area opposite the Theology Faculty were requested.
- 8-** The stairs connecting the helicopter pad to the central cafeteria and the stairs leading up from the Computer and Information Sciences Faculty were reported to be unsafe and hazardous.
- 9-** Stray dog problems on campus were reported.
- 10-** A cafeteria/wagon cafe and a covered seating area were requested for the Science Faculty.
- 11-** Increased bus service between the high-speed train station and campus was requested.
- 12-** The SABİS system was requested to include a section for group leaders to enter activity information, and a profile page showing the progress of group activities. It was noted that it was difficult to find participants for non-certified activities.
- 13-** The availability of drinks from external brands in the foyer was reported to be unclear (permitted or not), while groups that found sponsors were not allowed to hold events.
- 14-** The lack of permanent sponsors for groups, with different sponsors required for each event, was reported to complicate the process.

15- The use of conference halls for events on weekends was requested.

D) Views of Students with Disabilities

1- Visually impaired students reported difficulties in equal opportunities in education. Students reported that Psychology instructors did not share their lecture slides, causing problems for students.

2- Insufficient yellow stripes on the ground for the visually impaired were reported.

3- The existence of a laboratory for visually impaired students at Boğaziçi University to facilitate their learning process was mentioned, and a similar application was requested at our university.