

SAKARYA UNIVERSITY
2019-2020 ACADEMIC YEAR STUDENT SENATE
9TH MEETING REPORT

30.12.2020

The ninth student senate meeting was held online on Wednesday, December 30, 2020, at 14:00. Students, the Rector (Prof. Dr. Fatih SAVAŞAN), the Vice Rectors (Prof. Dr. Barış Tamer TONGUÇ), the Student Dean (Prof. Dr. Mehmet Barış HORZUM), and the Student Dean's Assistant (Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Hakkı Bağcı) participated. The meeting began with an opening speech by Student Dean Mehmet Barış HORZUM. The speech highlighted the challenges faced by students during the remote education process in the 2020-2021 academic year, the role of the Student Senate in this regard, and emphasized the importance of the student senate. Since it was the first Student Senate meeting of the 2020-2021 academic year, general questions, concerns, and problems students had regarding Sakarya University were addressed.

- Alperen Tazegül, a visually impaired student from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, spoke about the problems visually impaired students faced with the Perculus system, a remote education provider. He offered suggestions regarding accessibility. He noted that the allotted exam time was insufficient due to the need for visually impaired students to use screen readers or other assistive software during online exams, or the lack of reader support. He stated that the extra time granted to visually impaired students, as per regulations, was not provided in some courses. Another issue was that documents uploaded to the SABİS system were not in a suitable format, making them inaccessible with assistive software. He also noted that visual symbols used in exam questions were sometimes not readable, causing difficulties. Finally, he discussed mandatory internships. Due to the pandemic, internships were suspended, and elective courses were offered instead. He suggested that students should have the option to complete mandatory internships in person, taking on all responsibilities, or to take elective courses instead.
- İbrahim Bingöl, a visually impaired student from the Faculty of Education, addressed accessibility issues with the online systems' providers. He suggested that the university pay attention to accessibility criteria when purchasing or developing software. He proposed that course content should be described for visually impaired students, or that course materials specifically designed for visually impaired students should be used. He also suggested higher security measures for the exam system.
- Aleyna Bulut, a student from the Faculty of Communication, inquired about the status of mandatory internships and suggested that students be allowed to complete internships in person during the spring semester of 2020-2021. She asked if any action was being taken in this regard.

- Elif Ebrar Gezer, a student from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, suggested increasing security measures for the online exam system and, if necessary, using professors' opinions in relevant courses. She mentioned using the ÇAP program but couldn't find information about the required number of courses. She was informed that detailed information was available at ebs.sakarya.edu.tr.
- Oğuz Yasin Tiriyaki, a student from the Faculty of Engineering, discussed the disadvantages of being away from social activities during the pandemic. He suggested that student organizations could hold events on the university's online platforms using available providers. He also suggested providing training for faculty and students on the programs used in engineering courses to improve their effective use.
- Feyyaz Çuhadar, a student from the Faculty of Engineering, noted that summer internships were evaluated late and grades were processed late. He mentioned that remote internships were offered to students in the Environmental Engineering department who had no courses during the fall semester, but other students were forced to complete on-campus internships. He also suggested offering voluntary internships alongside mandatory internships to support student/graduate employment. He stated that Erasmus students requested excused registration in summer school to avoid difficulties until summer school registration. He requested that the 3.0 GPA requirement for the UMDE application in the Faculty of Engineering be relaxed, the quota increased, and the number of UMDE companies be increased. He also mentioned that if the pandemic continued and remote education continued in the spring semester of 2020-2021, there would be requests for make-up exams. He raised concerns about the implemented mentoring system and requested solutions. He also requested that students be allowed to choose professors working in their areas of interest for their graduation thesis courses.
- Büşra Nur Çilingir requested that the 3 different date ranges for internships during the remote education period be continued during in-person education. She also requested that student clubs develop a platform for more effective promotion and event activities during remote education.
- Ömer Faruk Çetin, president of the Mizan Law Association, a student from the Faculty of Law, expressed the concerns of law students due to the condensed curriculum of their courses. He suggested that the authority to issue social transcripts be given to association presidents, either through a signature or notification, to encourage more student participation in activities.
- Hatice-tül Kübra Mut, a student, inquired about the support for students continuing their education abroad during remote education, if hybrid or in-person education was implemented, and whether exceptional circumstances would be considered if international restrictions were imposed.

- Büşra Vıraca, a student from the Faculty of Medicine, discussed problems with follow-up exams. She suggested that in-person education should resume in the spring semester. She noted that only the theoretical parts of theoretical and practical courses were taught, leaving students deficient in practical application. She also suggested that the medical faculty's location be moved to the central campus to improve students' social lives.
- Berkay Alkaç, president of the 21 Gün 37 Derece Business Association, a student from the Faculty of Business Administration, stated that there were no systemic problems in online courses and exams. He suggested that the HaberSau platform could be used to promote events, and that an online booth platform could be developed on SABİS to increase event promotion and participation.
- Melek Siler, a student from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, noted that manually answering questions during online exams was time-consuming.

Prepared by: Mehmet Emin ÇOLAK – Student Dean's Secretary

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