

**University of Georgia (UGA) Behavioral Assessment and Response Council (BARC)**  
**Policies and Procedural Protocols**  
**Approved by University Cabinet, November 3, 2011**

- I. Purpose: BARC convenes a key group of administrators on campus to assess and determine appropriate responses to serious behavioral problems exhibited by UGA students. BARC is empowered to take steps necessary to promote the safety of campus and to protect against threats of immediate harm.

BARC coordinates the collection and assessment of concerns raised by students' behaviors on or off campus. BARC is charged with balancing the individual needs of students and the shared needs of the campus community when initiating appropriate intervention for each individual case based on the circumstances presented.

- II. Meetings: BARC will meet on a regular basis. The Chair and/or Co-Chair has the authority to convene meetings as needed.
- III. Referrals: Members of the university community should refer students to BARC who exhibit threatening behavior to self and/or others. In emergency situations, 911 should be contacted. Non-emergency situations in which the student does not pose an immediate threat to self or others but exhibits behavior revealing a potential for harm may be referred to: the Office of the Dean of Students (706-542-7774), or University Police (706-542-5813).
- IV. Authority: BARC is empowered to take necessary steps in response to students' behaviors that present a threat of harm to themselves, to other students, and/or to other members of the UGA campus community. In addition to recommendations for appropriate actions under existing university policies and procedures, BARC has the authority to take the following steps to remove from campus any student who may present a direct threat of harm:
- a. Encourage the student to pursue a voluntary hardship withdrawal through Student Support Services (706-542-7774) (see §V);
  - b. Issue a temporary restriction from specific locations, attending class, university related activities, and/or residing on campus until the student complies with the expectations as outlined by BARC (see §VI);
  - c. Issue an interim suspension utilizing the procedures below (see §VII);
  - d. Initiate the process for an administrative withdrawal for a student utilizing the procedures below (see §VIII).

- V. Voluntary Hardship Withdrawal: In accordance with university withdrawal procedures, Student Support Services shall first make every effort to meet with the student. Should it appear that the student's withdrawal from campus might be necessary, Student Support Services may recommend a voluntary hardship withdrawal to the student. If the student chooses not to withdraw voluntarily, Student Support Services shall notify BARC.
- VI. Temporary Restriction: BARC may temporarily restrict students from specific locations, attending class, University related activities, and/or residing on campus until the student complies with the expectations as outlined by BARC. Any requests for deviations from the restriction must be approved by BARC.
- VII. Interim Suspension: In exceptional circumstances, BARC may remove any student it determines to be an immediate direct threat to themselves or others through an interim suspension. During an interim suspension, the student shall be denied access to the campus (including classes and residential buildings) and/or all other university activities or privileges for which the student might otherwise be eligible. During the interim suspension, the student will be permitted on campus for scheduled meetings approved by BARC.

BARC's decision to issue an interim suspension, effective immediately, will be signed by the Chair, or Co-Chair, and/or an authorized designee, and delivered to the student via email and/or in person. The student shall be offered an opportunity for a due process appeal or to contest BARC's decision. All appeals should be submitted in writing to the Vice President for Student Affairs or a designee, within two (2) business days of sending BARC's interim suspension notification. Petition may be accompanied with any/all evidence the student deems relevant (which may include but is not limited to witness statements, written reports, and applicable documentation). The terms of the interim suspension stated above shall remain in effect during the appeal process.

Interim suspension shall remain in effect until one of the following occurs:

- a. Student is eligible for and wishes to pursue a voluntary hardship withdrawal through Student Support Services;
- b. BARC determines that the student has complied with all terms specified by BARC and the reasons for imposing the interim suspension no longer exist;
- c. BARC decides to issue an administrative withdrawal for the student.

Students who have been interim suspended under this Policy shall have a hold placed on their accounts. Students must follow the university procedures for a hold to be lifted from their accounts.

- VIII. Administrative Withdrawal: BARC may initiate an administrative withdrawal when a student's behavior demonstrates that he/she poses a potential direct threat to self or others.
- a. BARC shall determine that the student displays a high probability of harm to himself/herself or others and not simply a speculative risk. BARC shall apply an individualized, objective assessment based on specific knowledge and evidence and consider all reasonable accommodations before moving forward with any action instituting an administrative withdrawal. Should BARC issue an administrative withdrawal, the student shall be notified in a letter, effective immediately, signed by the Chair, or Co-Chair, or an authorized designee, and delivered to the student via email and/or in person;
  - b. The student shall be offered an opportunity for a due process appeal or to contest BARC's decision. Student may submit a petition in writing for review to the Vice President for Student Affairs within five (5) business days of sending the BARC notification. Petition may be accompanied with any/all evidence student deems relevant (which may include but is not limited to witness statements, written reports, and applicable documentation);
  - c. Vice President for Student Affairs or a designee will issue a decision in a timely manner with such decision considered final at the institutional level;
  - d. Reenrollment following administrative withdrawal: Students who have been withdrawn under this Policy shall have a hold placed on their accounts. Students who have been withdrawn and wish to return must follow the university procedures for a hold to be lifted from their accounts so that they may be reenrolled. In addition to all other applicable university policies, including that of continuous enrollment, students who leave campus will be reenrolled at the university only after being cleared by BARC. Permission for reenrollment will typically include the student's demonstration of a period of stable behavior outside the university, and fulfillment of expectations placed upon them by BARC. Upon student's reenrollment, BARC may require additional conditions.
- IX. Record Keeping/Confidentiality: Notes, minutes and records pertaining to BARC, BARC meetings and any proceedings stated above shall be subject to all state and federal laws applicable including, but not limited to, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and Georgia Open Records laws. All records deemed confidential (e.g. protected health/mental health information) shall be treated as such and shall not lose such protection by virtue of being addressed within BARC meetings.