March 8, 2016

Dear Members of the AUB Community,

It is with regret that I announce today that Dr. Makram Suidan has decided to step down as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture after five years of outstanding leadership. Makram indicated to me in September of 2015 that he was considering finishing his term and stepping down. After reconsidering for several months, he notified me on March 1, 2016 that he had made up his mind and, with genuine reluctance, I accepted his resignation as Dean, effective August 31, 2016. On September 1, 2016, he will begin a year of sabbatical leave, during and after which he will serve as Senior Advisor to the President on Campus Master Planning.

Dean Suidan has had substantial impact on a great faculty of engineering and architecture, which has gone from strength to strength since his return to AUB in 2011. He is known for ensuring the highest standards of scholarship, and devising, developing and implementing ambitious plans to create state-of-the-art facilities for education and research.

Prior to returning to AUB, Dr. Suidan was on faculty at the Georgia Institute of Technology, at UIUC, and at the University of Cincinnati from 1990-2011, where he served as the Herman Schneider Professor of Environmental Engineering in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and as Director of the School of Energy, Environmental, Biological, and Medical Engineering. While at Cincinnati, Dr. Suidan received the top three faculty awards for excellence in research and mentoring, publishing more than 250 journal articles on bioremediation and sustainable water quality.

The decision to return to his alma mater – midstream in such a glittering academic career – was testimony to his commitment to education in the Arab world. This University is fortunate Dean Suidan made that life-changing move. His second spell at AUB has been a time of groundbreaking leadership. The Faculty of Engineering and Architecture has grown and prospered under his care. Multiple new initiatives have been set in place in academic programs, most significantly with the development of Industrial Engineering and Management, and Chemical and Petroleum Engineering as key independent departments in their own right.
The energetic and innovative fund-raising and infrastructure improvement strategy spearheaded by the Dean has changed the face of lower campus with the renovation of the Bechtel Engineering Building and the construction of the Irani-Oxy Engineering Complex, which stands as a model of environmentally sustainable building. But it is not just concrete, steel, and glass that bear witness to the efforts of Dean Suidan and his excellent team. New labs, teaching areas, conference rooms and common rooms, lecture halls and library spaces have opened up to host and support new opportunities for undergraduate and postgraduate study.

The Suidan years have been productive and exciting ones in the history of FEA. Please join me in thanking Makram warmly and sincerely for his hard work, his commitment, his scholarship, and his ambitious vision, which have all resulted in lasting positive impact for AUB.

Sincerely,

Fadlo R. Khuri, MD
President