December 28, 2015

Dear AUB Community,

It is with enormous gratitude that we acknowledge the more than 50 years of service Mrs. Eileen F. O’Connor has given to AUB, and with a sense of profound loss that we announce her impending retirement as Secretary of the University and Director of the AUB New York Office, The Debs Center, effective February 1, 2016. Fortunately, she has graciously agreed to continue imparting her wisdom as Special Advisor to the President through July 31, 2016.

Mrs. O’Connor, or Eileen as most know her, started as secretary in the AUB New York Office in July 1964. She would have attended AUB’s 1966 Centennial Celebrations at the Waldorf Astoria, but she chose to go on her honeymoon instead. After taking some time off to raise her two young sons, we were fortunate to bring her back to AUB, first as a secretary to AUB presidents and shortly thereafter to run the New York Office and to take on the wide ranging responsibilities of Secretary of the University. She has flawlessly executed board and committee meetings five times a year in New York, Beirut, and during the war years, in Cyprus, Syria and Jordan. Without fail, she managed to bring a board of more than 40 trustees from around the world under one roof, so that their divergent talents could focus on the success of this institution. Many on campus will agree that her strong ties with individuals in Beirut are remarkable.

Eileen has seen, nay cared, for AUB through thick and thin, from the day the University nearly closed in the 1970s, to the war years of the 1980s that saw four university presidents working in New York, the destruction and reconstruction of College Hall, and the period of great renewal and growth we have experienced over the last 17 years. She was instrumental in helping with the design and construction of The Debs Center and managing the move to AUB’s permanent home in North America in 2003. She has never disappointed us or the 10 AUB presidents and 11 board chairmen that she has served.
We will always admire her grace, dedication, and hard work. She prides herself in being caring, loyal, accessible, discreet, and professional at all times. She is a true AUB historian who has always reached out to past AUB-ites at every level. She is an example to us all, and will always remain an indelible and irreplaceable part of the AUB community. Please join us in expressing our most sincere appreciation to this unique and wonderful AUB servant, icon and leader.

Sincerely,

Fadlo R. Khuri, MD
President

Philip S. Khoury, PhD
Chairman of the Board