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Medical Division Faculty Minutes, 1908-1979

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Prepared by Dalya Nouh

Contact information:

asc@aub.edu.lb

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Descriptive Summary

Call No.: AA:3.9.3

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Scope and Content

The Faculty of Medicine at the American University of Beirut is the leading internationally accredited medical education and research institution in Lebanon and the Middle East known for delivering educational and training programs in medicine and biomedical research responsive to the globally evolving needs in academic medicine and patient care.

The Medical Division Faculty Minutes of Meetings of the Syrian Protestant College & the American University of Beirut Collection is around 8 linear feet of archival material housed in 26 boxes. The collection contains 26 bound volumes of the minutes of meetings, handwritten, for the years 1908 to 1920, and typed, for the years 1920 to 1979. The minutes include discussions, decisions related to finances, tuitions, students' scholarships, grants, as well as faculty promotion and tenure, interdepartmental relations, reports, etc.

Arrangement

The 26 volumes are arranged in chronological order.

Series I: Handwritten Minutes: June 1908-June 1920

Series II: Typed Minutes: October 1920-August 1979

Subject Headings

American University of Beirut. Medical Center.

American University of Beirut. Faculty of Medicine.

Meetings.

Minutes.

Historical Sketch

On April 24, 1863, the State of New York granted a charter for the establishment of a new school in Beirut, which was to be known as the Syrian Protestant College (hereafter SPC). Dr. Daniel Bliss was appointed president of the college, which opened in the autumn of 1866 with a class of sixteen students while the medical school opened the following year.

The early history of the medical school is inseparable from that of three outstanding professors who cofounded it in 1867 and guided it during the first 15 years. Those three men were Drs. Cornelius Van Dyck, George Post, and John Wortabet. In 1871, the first class of medical doctors graduated from the Syrian Protestant College, and during the same year, the faculty joined the Prussian hospital for clinical teaching.

The 150 years of growth and development of the medical school have not been without crises. In 1882, Professor Edwin Lewis gave a commencement address favoring the theories of Charles Darwin. The Board of Trustees and the non-medical faculty were so offended that Professor Lewis was forced to resign. All the full-time members of the medical faculty resigned except for Dr. Post. Many of the medical students also rebelled and were suspended. Subsequently the language of instruction was changed it was hard to find professors who could give instruction in Arabic.

The Prussian hospital provided adequate clinical facilities for three decades but by the early 1900's more hospital space was needed, to accommodate patients in various medical specialties such as diseases of children, women, and skin. As a result, three pavilions were completed between 1907 and 1910. Additionally, the Schools of Nursing and Dentistry were established and the School of Pharmacy was enlarged.

The First World War presented the medical school with another crisis, of being an American institution located within alien territory. About thirty-eight medical graduates gave up their lives during the war this helped the college survive all German and Ottoman attempts of closure.

After the First World War, the American University of Beirut with the financial assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation started a new period of expansion and modernization. The newly independent countries of Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, and Transjordan looked to the University to train leaders in every field of public life.

Also, the people of the region again derived benefits from the medical school, through medical services rendered, and from the production of vaccines by the bacteriology department.

After Second World War, the American University Hospital (AUH received full accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals in the United States. In 1970, a new Medical Center was inaugurated which played a critical role throughout the Lebanese civil war.

[Retrieved on June 9, 2021 from: <https://www.aub.edu.lb/fm/Pages/history.aspx>]

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- Box 21: No.22, August 1970-July 1971
- Box 22: No.23, August 1971-December 1972
- Box 23: January 1973-December 1974
- Box 24: January 1975-August 1979
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Related Material

Archival Collection

- Faculty of Medicine. [AA:3.9](#)
- Faculty of Medicine (FM): General. [AA:3.9.1](#)
- School of Medicine 1867-1909. [AA:3.9.2](#)
- Faculty of Medicine: Departments. [AA:3.9.4](#)
- Faculty of Medicine: Schools. [AA:3.9.5](#)
- Charter, Statutes and By-laws, 1863- . [box 4, File 3]. [AA:1.3](#)
- Malcolm Kerr Collection: AUB President 1982-1984. [Box 13]. [AA:2.3.14](#)

- Human Resources Department: General. [box 1] [AA:2.5.1.1](#)
- Personnel Department, 1924- 2005]: Boxes 4-5. [AA:2.5.0.3\(4-5\)](#)
- Vice President for Administration: General. [Box 1-2]. [AA:2.5.0.1](#)
- School of Pharmacy 1871-1978. [AA:3.9.5.3](#)
- School of Nursing 1905-. [AA:3.9.5.2](#)
- The Lebanon Hospital for Mental Diseases Collection. [A: 362.2.1](#)

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- [Faculty of Medicine](#)

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- The Lebanon hospital for mental diseases: Annual Report. [CA 362.21:L441L](#)

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- Faculty of Medicine members honoring reception, 2002. [Ph:AUB:2002/07/04\(02\):1-9:73](#)
- Faculty of Medicine Student Representative Committee Iftar, 1998. [Ph:AUB:1998/12\(02\):1-6:66](#)
- The 50th Honoring Ceremony of the Faculty of Medicine Class of 1959. [Ph:AUB:2009/04/22\(05\):1-7:86](#)
- Sheikh Hamdan Award for the Best Medical College, Institute or Center in the Arab World presented to Faculty of Medicine, 2002. [Ph:AUB:2002/10/21:01:74](#)
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- Graduates Cap and Gown Photoshoot. [Ps:AUB:2015/11/09-12\(04\)](#)
- Centennial Nursing Conference 100 Years of Nursing Education at AUB [graphic]: Pioneering achievements and global vision. [Ps:AUB:2005/06/30:12](#)
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