

American University of Beirut
Office of the President



March 6, 2015

Dear Faculty Colleagues,

Regarding the exchanges taking place amongst colleagues about work permits, I would like to share with you the actual progress we have made to secure permits for AUB's foreign hires.

The Ministry of Labor has approved all of AUB's work permit requests for foreign faculty this semester. I have met with the minister on several occasions and we agree on the value and importance of bringing the world's best academic talent to AUB, whether that talent is from Lebanon or abroad. We agree that diversity and excellence are the hallmarks of a great academic institution deeply committed to the service of the Lebanese people. The University recruits its administrative and academic staff according to the highest competitive standards, basing its decisions on their qualifications, regardless of their nationality, race, religion, or ethnic background. To that purpose, AUB has attracted a large number of academics and medical professionals from across the Lebanese diaspora, effectively reducing and even reversing Lebanon's brain drain.

There have been some provocative and inappropriate statements about this issue and the Ministry of Labor being circulated on the listserv today. This is potentially detrimental to the university and our colleagues.

I would ask that faculty respect the original intent and purpose of the listserv as a platform for informative discourse among academe.

Sincerely,

Peter Dorman
President