

American University of Beirut  
Office of the President



October 16, 2014

Dear AUB Community,

It is with great pleasure that I announce the appointment of Dr. Tarek Mitri to the American University of Beirut (AUB) as Director of the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) effective October 1, 2014.

For many of you Dr. Mitri requires little introduction.

His distinguished record of public service is well known, having served successive governments in Lebanon between 2005 and 2011 as Minister of Environment, Minister of Administrative Reform, Minister of Culture, Minister of Information, and Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs. Dr. Mitri also served as Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and head of the UN Support Mission in Libya from 2012 to 2014.

An unwavering advocate for intercultural and interreligious dialogue in his teaching, writing, and ecumenical service to the community, Dr. Mitri is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of Palestine Studies, Chairman of the Board of the Nicolas Sursock Museum, a member of the Strategic Council of Université Saint Joseph (USJ), and a member of the Executive Board of the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies in Doha, Qatar.

Dr. Mitri has taught at USJ, Balamand University, University of Geneva, Amsterdam Free University, Harvard University, and at AUB.

An AUB alumnus and graduate of Université de Nanterre Paris X, he has authored a number of books and articles on religion and politics, and interreligious and intercultural dialogue, in Arabic, English, and French.

Dr. Mitri brings to IFI a unique expertise that traverses and integrates the academic, the political, and the cultural, and an understanding that is local, regional and global.

In this significant moment of transition, I also want to extend our deep appreciation to Dr. Rami Khouri for his remarkable leadership and vision in the consolidation of IFI as a leading independent institute for scholarly interaction, knowledge creation, and policy development in the Middle East.

We warmly welcome Dr. Mitri's more permanent presence at AUB, and consider it a privilege to reaffirm with his appointment our commitment to the research, dialogue, and engagement that is essential to our mission in serving Lebanon and the region.

Peter Dorman  
President