

American University of Beirut  
Office of the President



In early December 2013, Chief Operating Officer George DeBin informed me that, due to his wife's serious medical condition, it would be necessary for them to relocate to the United States in April 2014.

I have convened a search committee for a COO, which is chaired by Vice President and Dean Dr. Mohamed Sayegh. The committee includes university executives and faculty members, and trustees will be added to this group as well. It will be working diligently to recruit a candidate for this important leadership position in the University.

Dr. Hassan Diab, Vice President for Regional External Programs and former Minister of Education and Higher Education, has agreed to serve as Interim COO while retaining his role in leading REP. Upon successful completion of the search, Dr. Diab will return full time to REP.

Mr. DeBin has agreed, at my request, to make himself available to advise me, the Executive Team, and Dr. Diab as needed on key outstanding matters during the transition.

Our thoughts are with George and LeeAnn during this difficult period. I would like to express my personal gratitude to George for his many contributions to AUB during his tenure with us.

### **COO Search Committee**

Mohamed Sayegh  
Ahmad Dallal  
Jocelyn DeJong  
Hassan Diab  
Makram Suidan  
Adnan Tahir  
Drew Wickens