

American University of Beirut  
Office of the President



May 19, 2015

Dear AUB Faculty and Staff,

As AUB's president, I've been fortunate to work with many individuals of great intellectual achievement, vision, and personal standards for integrity. They have advanced the welfare and reputation of our university and served with distinction and deep personal commitment, but none more than Ahmad Dallal, who concludes his role as Provost at the end of June. At that time he will return to the faculty as a Professor in the Department of History and Archaeology in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, enjoying a well deserved sabbatical in the coming academic year.

I make this announcement with equal measures of admiration, respect, and gratitude. Since his appointment in July 2009, Ahmad has been a true partner to me in every aspect of my presidency. He has been assiduous in advocating for the highest academic standards of teaching, learning, and research through the recruitment of top faculty of regional and global renown and the application of rigorous criteria for appointment and promotion. He has been equally dedicated in his efforts to advance the reputation and rigor of our academic and research programs, implementing periodic program reviews for existing departments and creating numerous academic programs and centers with interdisciplinary focus that address changing social, economic, and environmental needs.

Provost Dallal is the primary author of AUB's academic strategic plan and has shepherded two institutional reaccreditations to completion, as well as numerous program and faculty reaccreditations. He has increased the socio-economic diversity of our student body through increased scholarships and financial aid, and helped AUB secure nearly \$47 million in major grant funding for scholarships since 2011. For every year during his tenure, faculty research production and faculty citations have increased significantly, and AUB has enjoyed consecutive years of higher global rankings,

presently ranked at 249 in the QS World Rankings among 12,000 universities worldwide.

Ahmad has also championed AUB's focus on governance, institutional integrity, and compliance. His office has generated and strengthened policies that support academic excellence, improve the student experience, facilitate academic governance and administration, and promote ethics. His office has overseen Title IX compliance on discriminatory harassment, and his leadership has been fundamental to the development of integrated budgeting and planning processes for AUB's long-term fiscal health.

My unbounded appreciation for Ahmad's leadership and partnership is echoed by the Board of Trustees. Chairman Philip Khoury commented that, "As our Chief Academic Officer, Ahmad Dallal has been the primary driver of programs that have resulted in AUB achieving the most prolific research output in Lebanon and the region, and the implementation of processes that have greatly enhanced both teaching and learning." Khoury continued, "Ahmad set a high bar for AUB's academic and institutional integrity. He not only helped us reach that bar; he ensured that we would exceed it."

Prior to his tenure at AUB, Provost Dallal served as the chair of the Arabic and Islamic Studies department at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. He is a highly respected multidisciplinary scholar, who received his BE from AUB's Department of Mechanical Engineering in 1980 and a PhD in Islamic Studies from Columbia University in 1990. His internationally acclaimed publications include works on the history of science, Islamic revivalist thought, and Islamic law.

Please join me in extending thanks and congratulations to Ahmad on his unparalleled leadership, service, and accomplishments at AUB.

AUB's President-elect Fadlo Khuri is finalizing a process to select an Interim Provost for approval by the Board of Trustees later this month. We are confident that this appointment will be announced after the Board of Trustees meeting that precedes this year's Commencement exercises, and that the Interim Provost and Dr. Dallal will collaborate effectively so that all critical functions of the Provost's office continue uninterrupted.

Sincerely,

Peter Dorman  
President