

For Immediate Release



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Cooperation agreement aligns

AUB's two alumni associations

The Worldwide Alumni Association of the American University of Beirut (WAAAUB) and the AUB Alumni Association (AAA) signed a cooperation agreement by which AAA agree to cooperate with the network of WAAAUB for the benefit of AUB and its alumni.

The agreement was signed by AUB President Dr. Fadlo R. Khuri, WAAAUB Interim President Hisham Jaroudi, and AAA President Fawaz El Merheby on Wednesday, June 6, in College Hall, signaling a new era of cooperation and alignment between the two organizations.

The agreement is a successful conclusion of talks between the two organizations to create the framework necessary to align AAA, which is AUB's first alumni association founded in 1910, with the university's strategic objectives. It builds on the vision and mission of WAAAUB, and the historic role and legacy of AAA as a representative chapter of alumni in Lebanon.

President Khuri

President Fadlo Khuri expressed his satisfaction with the agreement, saying that, "By signing this agreement, the long-standing divide between the university and its oldest alumni chapter is now officially at an end... Our hope and expectation is that, after a lengthy hiatus, the agreement will make it more attractive for our young alumni to join AAA, AUB and Lebanon's oldest and indeed largest alumni association, and an organization many of our parents and their parents proudly belonged to with a sense of closeness and engagement with their alma mater."

Trustee Haykal

AUB Trustee Abdulsalam Haykal, chair of the Board's Alumni Affairs Committee, led the university's team in this effort. "This is an historic moment for AUB and our alumni. Both AAA and WAAAUB have worked hard and in good faith to reach this milestone," Haykal said. He added that, "There are new and innovative models of organizing alumni, but unity and harmony

in the alumni body remain the core of effective engagement with the university and for the benefit of alumni in Lebanon and around the world. The agreement is only a beginning.”

AAA President El-Merheby

El-Merheby commented on this agreement saying, “This historic cooperation agreement after years of continuous discussions achieved ‘what was destined to be’.”

He added, “The AUB Alumni Association (AAA) covenant with AUB was and will be forever, and sets the foundations of reorganization in this new world order of globalization and diversification for a better understanding of the roles of the alumni and the university, and takes into consideration the particularity and confidentiality of each, and independency.” He continued, “The university could not have expected less of its alumni than that was eventually achieved. Our discussions were not of dispute but that of cautiousness over achieving the ideas to conduct affairs.” El-Merheby ended by saying that, “After all is it not what the university mission statement spirit is of liberal education and continuous production of elite community leaders ‘so that they may have life and have it more abundantly’. We will always be committed to our alma mater and to ‘service above self’. We look forward to a paramount of achievements and hope that the university will support the AAA in developing its clubhouse to be ‘the hub’ of all alumni as it has been always. We thank all who have contributed to this successful achievement specially Dr. Fadlo Khuri, president of AUB, and Mr. Abdulsalam Haykal for his dedication, patience, and full support which was the crucial basis that brought this agreement into effect.”

WAAAUB Interim President Hisham Jaroudi

In his turn, Jaroudi said, "On this glorious day, we sign a total understanding agreement between all alumni branches in Lebanon and abroad. Thanks to the university president who was behind this consensus, to bring together all alumni under the roof of the American University of Beirut with its president and its officials. Thanks to all those who contributed to reaching this consensus. Finally I salute all those who strove and worked to reach this agreement, from university officials and committees to AAA officials, especially friend Fawaz El-Merheby." He concluded: "My friends, let us open a new page from now on, to preserve AUB and its alumni as a mother and its children."

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 900 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 9,100 students. AUB currently offers more than 120 programs leading to bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full-service 420-bed hospital.

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