

For Immediate Release



PM Mikati visits AUB for a private Q-and-A with students

Beirut, Lebanon- 10/05/2012 - The Department of Political Studies and Public Administration at the American University of Beirut organized a private lecture and discussion session with Prime Minister Najib Mikati on May 8, 2012 at 4:00 pm in College Hall, Room B1. The topic of the lecture and discussion session was, "Issues and Perspectives: Politics and Policy-Making within the Republic of Lebanon."

About 100 PSPA students and AUB faculty members attended the Q-and-A, which was marked by a high degree of frankness and transparency. AUB President Peter Dorman welcomed the prime minister, who is an AUB alumnus, a trustee of the university, who acts as a "role model for our students to aspire to."

PM Mikati, who addressed students in colloquial Lebanese Arabic, highlighted tolerance, coexistence and self-reliance in his message. "Don't ever think external forces have our interest in mind," he said, underscoring the importance of preventing any intervention in governmental and national decision-making. Mikati also answered several questions on Syrian-Lebanese relations, women's rights, public transportation, the electoral law, and abolishing sectarianism in the system, among others.

In closing, he recommended that students read the books of the late AUB professor Kamal Salibi and of current professor Samir Khalaf, who wrote on Lebanese sociology and history.

"It was our honor to host His Excellency Prime Minister Najib Mikati for an informal discussion with PSPA students at American University of Beirut," said Professor Thomas W. Haase, PSPA chair, who also teaches courses on public management and public policy at AUB.

Haase noted that such events are important because they encourage open dialogue between students and governmental officials. When asked about the future, Haase said, "Our department will continue to sponsor events that encourage PSPA students to link what they learn in the classroom with the experiences of real-world practitioners."

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Photo Caption: Mikati responds to students' questions

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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 600 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,000 students. AUB currently offers more than 100 programs leading to the 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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