

For Immediate Release



Beirut: 28-11-2017

**Message from AUB President Dr. Fadlo R. Khuri to the AUB
Community regarding the graduate students' issue**

Dear students, faculty, and staff of AUB,

This past week, our senior decision-making bodies, in addition to members of the wider AUB community, have been distracted by a controversy over disciplinary actions given to students who insisted on maintaining an unapproved tent at College Hall. For the good of AUB, it is my intention to bring this controversy to a close so we can continue together to make progress on the University's ambitious program of impact and sustainability.

On the afternoon of Friday, November 24, 2017, the University Senate passed a motion recommending that I ask the Dean of Student Affairs to review the dean's warnings issued to the students. This followed constructive consultations with the USFC over the last week, and a decision by the Board of Deans (BOD) on Thursday to restore the graduate assistantships on the grounds that secondary disciplinary action given to students had disproportionate effects. On the morning of Monday, November 27, 2017, I reconvened the BOD for further discussions in light of the Senate and USFC requests. Based on the recommendation of the BOD, and after consultation with the Dean of Student Affairs, I have decided in the best interests of the University to vacate entirely the disciplinary action.

Our administration is convinced that this is the most constructive way forward, in order to focus all of our resolve and drive transformational change for AUB, Lebanon and beyond.

ENDS

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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 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,500 students. AUB currently offers more than 130 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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