

For Immediate Release



Professor George Najjar to assume new role as Senior Advisor to the President of AUB

Beirut, Lebanon- 21/10/2011 - Professor George K. Najjar, Dean of the Suliman S. Olayan School of Business (OSB), will be stepping down as Dean of OSB during summer 2012. Beginning in the fall of 2012, Professor Najjar will assume an important new role at AUB as Senior Advisor to the President for Strategy and Corporate Relations.

Business education began at AUB in 1900. In 2000, under Professor Najjar's leadership, it became an autonomous faculty at AUB, and in 2003, it became the first named faculty, the Suliman S. Olayan School of Business.

In his years as Dean, Professor Najjar has successfully positioned OSB to become the leading business school in the wider Middle East region, enjoying partnerships with top business schools in Europe and the USA. It currently graduates annually more than 350 undergraduate students and 60 graduate students. In its 11 years of existence, the OSB has: received the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accreditation (the only business school in the region with all three of its graduate programs having this elite distinction); grown faculty numbers from eight to 60 through international recruitment; increased graduate degree programs from two to five; launched intensive research activity that appears in refereed publications in top academic journals; and attracted significant research and other funding from multiple sources, including major businesses and corporate leaders. Professor Najjar created two OSB advisory boards, one regional and one international, and attracted to their ranks top international business and academic leaders. In 2009, the OSB relocated to a new landmark building with state-of-the art facilities overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.

To his new role as Senior Advisor to the President, Professor Najjar brings more than 33 years of outstanding service to AUB-- as a faculty member of business administration since 1977, as Vice President for Regional External Programs from 1997 to 2006, and as Dean of the Business School since 2000.

As AUB approaches its 150th anniversary in 2016, the university is looking to enhance its regional and global presence and competitiveness. In his new position, Professor Najjar will be working closely with the President and university leadership to significantly increase strategic partnerships and collaboration with academic institutions, government bodies, the corporate community, NGOs, and other sectors. Relations with the regional and international business community are of major interest

to AUB, especially collaboration involving research, as well as support for students in an increasingly competitive employment market. Professor Najjar will be engaging business leaders, opinion and thought leaders, and influential friends through a variety of strategic advisory and working groups.

AUB President Peter F. Dorman said, "George Najjar has tremendous experience, enthusiasm, and remarkable contacts across the region and internationally. I am greatly looking forward to working with him in the years ahead for the benefit of AUB, its faculty and students, and our many partner institutions."

Professor George Najjar said, "It has been a great honor to serve as Dean of the OSB and I am very excited about this new challenge. AUB has long been recognized for its teaching and research excellence and the quality of its graduates. The Arab world and the international community are undergoing rapid change and unprecedented challenges at this time. We believe that through new and stronger strategic partnerships, AUB can make an even greater contribution to the future of this region and internationally."

Professor Najjar will be stepping down as Dean of OSB no earlier than July 1, 2012, by which time AUB hopes that a successor will have been identified. He begins his new advisory role on October 1, 2012. A search will begin immediately for his successor.

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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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