



OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

March 26, 2023

Dear members of the American University of Beirut community,

After the announcement by the secretary general of the Council of Ministers last Thursday to delay the implementation of daylight savings hours till April 21, 2023, our technical risk assessment recommended to comply with the decision to reduce risk on our student and patient related systems. The key constraint was that the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) updated its database to show that the time-zone date for Lebanon to adopt daylight savings would be April 21. This database is the reference used by service providers across the world to synchronize systems across different time zones. Accordingly, our IT teams have been working around the clock since Thursday to implement this change across all our medical center, finance, and educational systems. Technically we were mandated to move with what causes the least stress on our operations.

Earlier today, the Minister of Education and Higher Education announced that schools and universities should follow the daylight savings hours effective March 27, 2023.

In light of the above, please note the following:

1. Effective Monday, March 27, 2023, classes and instructional activities on campus will follow the summer time with daylight savings hours in accordance with the announcement of the Minister of Education and Higher Education. Faculty and staff on campus will observe the summer time.
2. At AUBMC, clinic appointments as well as inpatient procedures and interventions will continue to be based on the winter time until our IT teams can reconfigure the systems (including EPIC) to follow daylight savings hours. This is expected to take until the end of this week, after which all systems and AUBMC operations will be switched to the summer time and be aligned with classes and instructional activities. Faculty and staff in the medical center will observe the winter time for one week.

There is no plausible defense for the cavalier manner in which this decision to change the daylight savings date has been made. What we have undertaken is neither an endorsement, nor a protest. This is not the time for that in our view. AUB always strives to unite people when they are divided. But most especially, in these circumstances, we

need to protect our functionality and be able to serve our community to the best of our considerable abilities and in line with our responsibilities.

Best regards,

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