

May 8, 2017

Dear members of the AUB community,

As we are preparing to celebrate this year's successful class of more than 1,700 undergraduate and 450 graduate students who will walk the stage, we wanted to update you on our progress in reaccreditation with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) through the Institutional Self-Study process.

The Institutional Self-Study is a lengthy two-year process, initiated on December 2, 2016 with the formation of the Self-Study Steering Committee (SC). The SC is chaired by the Provost and co-chaired by Interim Associate Provost Dr. Hala Muhtasib, with Dr. Saouma Boujaoude serving as vice chair and Mrs. Boushra Rahal as Accreditation Liaison Officer with MSCHE.

The university-wide SC — comprised of faculty, staff, and both graduate and undergraduate students — consists of 25 members from across campus. Fourteen of these members serve as co-chairs for one of the seven working groups charged with addressing the seven “Standards for Accreditation”, and the “Requirements of Affiliation”. Another member of the SC serves as chair of an eighth working group concerned with “Verification of Compliance”.

In his [letter](#) of December 15, 2016, the President solicited volunteers from the AUB community to serve on one of the eight working groups. Overall, 145 faculty, staff and students are currently participating in the Institutional Self-Study.

The working groups worked diligently over the past three months to draft the “research questions” centered on institutional priorities and linked to strategic planning. Their work resulted in the submission of two documents required by MSCHE: *Self-Study Design* and *Documentation Roadmap*. Both documents were reviewed by MSCHE VP Liaison, Dr. Tito Guerrero, for feedback and approval. Dr. Guerrero met the SC on April 26 via videoconferencing to discuss the submitted documents.



On behalf of the Self-Study team, I want to share with you the good news that Dr. Guerrero approved the Self-Study Design as submitted, and provided advice on the next phase of conducting the institutional self-study.

The upcoming eight months will involve intense engagement by the working groups in a process of active and open inquiry for quantitative and qualitative data gathering, criteria analysis, and preparation of a draft Self-Study Report that will be shared with you for input and feedback. We are counting on your continuous engagement and support for this important process.

For complete lists of members of the Steering Committee and the working groups, and information about the Self-Study process, kindly visit the [accreditation website](#).

Finally, I want to thank the Self-Study team for their remarkable efforts to date and look forward to their sustained leadership of this important process of institutional self-assessment and improvement.

Sincerely,

Mohamed Harajli  
Provost