

**American University of Beirut  
Minutes of the University Senate  
Meeting of Tuesday, May 24, 2016**

**Present:** M. Abiad, F. Abu Salem, F. Afiouni, T. Amin, M. Al-Ghoul, V. Araman, J. Chaaban, A. Chalak, M. Clinton, Z. Dawy, J. DeJong, I. El Hajj, H. El-Rassy, M. Harajli (Chairing), S. Harvey, E. Hitti, S. Hmaidan, H. Huijer, N. Hwalla, S. Kanj, A. Kayssi, F. Maalouf, P. McGreevy, H. Muller, W. Nasr, T. Nizameddin, I. Nuwayhid, R. Sedehi, M. Salameh, S. Saleh, M. Sayegh, E. Shammass, C. Smith, M. Suidan

**Absent:** G. Araj\*, B. Bashour\*, H. Diab, C. Harb\*, F. Khuri\*, D. Jamali\*, G. Kanazi\*, R. Karami\*, S. Khalaf, T. Mehmood\*, I. Saoud, A. Taher,\* S. Zeineldine.

(\* = regrets notified before meeting or on leave.

The meeting came to order at 2pm.

**1) Approval of minutes of May 4, 2016**

The minutes were approved with minor amendments.

**2) Voting of degrees for spring 2016 graduates**

M. Salameh presented the list of graduates and statistics on their distribution. Dean McGreevy, EVP Sayegh, Director Huijer, Dean Hwalla, Dean Suidan, Dean Nuwayhid and Dean Harvey recommended the awarding of degrees to graduates in their respective Schools (Circulated list of expected graduates of May 2016). **A motion was made to approve the awarding of degrees of all recommended candidates. Vote 2016-28: The motion was passed unanimously.**

**3) Update on Medical Center building plans**

EVP Sayegh presented the current plans, noting that in 2010 the Board of Trustees approved the 2020 Vision and that the first phase (to 2016) was complete. DTS renovations were complete and renovations to the Medical Administration Building allowed for non-clinical personnel to be moved from the hospital. The Sawwaf building was built with a donation of \$7 million, and has a PET scan and cyclotron. The Halim and Aida Daniel building is under construction and will be complete by 2017. There was a plan to build a new medical complex in the parking lot and Dale home area, but given uncertainty in the region and budgetary constraints, a phased approach will be taken instead over the next 5 to 10 years. There is also the issue that given high occupancy in the hospital, accommodating the beds during the transition period is challenging. So far a total of \$115 million has been raised for the 2020 Vision in addition to \$65 million for specific projects and other donations for patient-related costs; the aim is to raise \$500 million. The Board of Trustees approved the revised plan for a hospital only on the site of Dale Home which will be designed by the donation by Dar al-Handasah and involving the consultancy firm Perkins and Will. The number of available beds in the reduced plan will not be significantly different. In response to a question from a Senator, EVP Sayegh stated that the donation from Dar al-Handasah is equivalent to about \$25 million and will provide a master plan for the whole campus for the next 20 to 30 years. A Senator asked about the plans for satellite clinics, and EVP Sayegh clarified that these are primarily for outreach and to fulfill AUB's academic mission and teaching, but may lead to patient referrals for very complicated cases. Another Senator asked if the powerpoint slides could be

shared (to which the response was yes) and about the projected demand for nurses. EVP Sayegh acknowledged there will be a significant demand for nursing, and there are plans to explore employing graduates from other schools if special training in English could be provided. Another senator asked about parking, and EVP Sayegh stated that the ACC building will accommodate 100 new parking places underground. Another senator asked if alternative plans had been envisioned that would not require demolition, and EVP Sayegh stated that connectivity between buildings is the key concern. Several senators expressed concern about the traffic implications of expansion, and suggestions were made to consult the work by the Neighborhood Initiative and Engineering surveying users, to explore the use of shuttle buses for students, and to involve the municipality. EVP Sayegh indicated that there will be a further traffic study in connection with the Master Plan work and R. Sedehi stated that he would work on this issue during the summer.

## **6) Review of graduate programs**

A. Kayssi, on behalf of the Senate Steering Committee, presented the background that there had been a major expansion in the number of graduate programs approved in recent years and approvals had been based on different financial models; PhD programs had started 10 years earlier but there has yet to be an evaluation. He made a motion **to create a task-force under the Provost and involving the Graduate Council, Academic Assessment Unit and Board of Graduate Studies to review and assess the sustainability of graduate programs at AUB.** In discussion, senators expressed support for the idea of reviewing graduate programs, but several stated that existing structures should be engaged in this process, from the faculty-level to the Academic Assessment Unit (which already has a plan to review graduate programs) and the Board of Graduate Studies. It was noted that existing faculty Graduate Studies Committees are often overwhelmed with the daily tasks and cannot play a full role in oversight of graduate programs, thereby creating structural inefficiencies. The Board of Graduate Studies is also very busy with approval of new programs. It was recommended that chairs of Graduate Studies Committees be represented on the Board of Graduate Studies. There was also some concern that the remit of the task-force was not clear. It was also pointed out that there is a need to streamline degrees offered across faculties as sometimes there are overlaps. A. Kayssi concluded that the point of the motion was to encourage discussion, and that although there had been general agreement on the need for a high-level review and to align degrees offered with strategic goals, there was no agreement on how to implement this and he therefore suggested to leave it to the Provost's office; he withdrew the motion.

## **7) Other business**

E. Chammas, as chair of the Senate Committee for Faculty Affairs, reminded those present that there had been a commitment to address the recommendations of the Task Force on Faculty Compensation. Provost Harajli stated that next year the university administration would act on the issues raised concerning FAS associate professors, faculty members in nursing and gender disparities in salaries.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

(Minutes recorded by J. DeJong, Secretary of the Senate)