

**American University of Beirut  
Minutes of the University Senate  
Meeting of Friday, September 27, 2013**

**Present:** M. Alameddine, A. Al-Kutoubi, T. Amin, H. Artail (by invitation), I. Bashour, F. Chaaban (by invitation), J. Chaaban, S. Chahine, N. Dajani, A. Dallal, Z. Dawy, G. DeBin, J. DeJong, A. Dietrich, P. Dorman (chairing), N. Farajalla, A. El-Hajj (by invitation), I. Elhajj, J. Ghafari, L. Halaoui (by invitation), S. Harb, H. Huijer, N. Hwalla, D. Jaalouk, S. Jabbour-Khoury, A. Jaffa (representing M. Sayegh), D. Jamali, A. Kayssi, V. Khamis, H. Khoury, C. Leader (by invitation), P. McGreevy, L. Meho (by invitation), S. Nouredine, T. Nizameddin, I. Nuwayhid, M. Salameh, E. Shamma, M. Suidan, S. Zeineldine, A. Zenger, F. Ziyadeh (by invitation)

**Absent:**

S. Arnaout\*, E. Baydoun\*, R. Brow, G. Matar\*, I. Saoud, M. Sayegh, J. Usta, D. Wrisley\*

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

The meeting was called to order at 2 pm.

**1. Approval of minutes**

Minutes of the June 12, 2013 meeting were approved without any amendments.

**2. Observing a minute of silence to honor former colleague, Dr. Mounir Shammaa, Emeritus Professor, Department of Internal Medicine**

Dr. Fuad Ziyadeh read the attached memorial for Dr. Mounir Shammaa. President Dorman asked the Senate to stand for a moment of silence in honor and memory of Dr. Shammaa.

**3. Welcoming new Senate members (see attachment)**

President Dorman introduced new members of the Senate and those replacing faculty on leave.

**4. Elections to Senate Steering Committee and vacancies on the Senate**

The following senators were elected to the Senate Steering Committee (SSC): Arne Dietrich (FAS, re-elected); Samar Nouredine (HSON/FM); Ayman Kayssi (FEA); Jad Chaaban (FAFS); Jocelyn DeJong (ex officio and FHS); Dima Jamali (OSB, re-elected). The following senators were elected to the Senate Committee for Faculty Affairs (SCFA): Elie Shamma (FEA); Mohamad Alameddine (FHS, replacing Shadi Saleh fall semester); Haitham Khoury (OSB, replacing Salim Chahine for one year).

A question was asked about how the number of seats for each Faculty is determined. A Senator stated that it was proportional to the number of faculty members at the time the by-laws were written. President Dorman noted that the criteria should be revisited and asked the SSC to address this issue and report its recommendations to the Senate.

**5. Annual reports of Senate Committees and Boards**

There was an opportunity to ask questions concerning the reports of Senate Committees and Boards for the year 2012-2013 that had been previously circulated. A question was raised concerning the

University Research Board report about no-cost extensions. Lara Halaoui (as Chair of URB) reported that, subject to some conditions, no-cost extensions are possible. Another question was raised concerning trends in URB funding. President Dorman noted that it is a university priority to raise URB funding, and the Provost noted that it had increased recently. One senator queried why only a quarter of faculty members are benefitting from URB support. Lara Halaoui noted that approval rates range from 70% to 80% and that proposals are ranked by faculty research committees. There was some discussion about whether senior faculty can apply for URB and it was clarified that they are eligible, although the guidelines do particularly encourage junior faculty members. There was also agreement on the need for consistent guidelines to faculties about the review process for proposals. Provost Dallal commended Lara Halaoui for her leadership in the development of a new policy on authorship disputes.

A question was raised about the University Committee on Student Affairs that met for the first time in 5 years. Hassan Artail reported that the committee members discussed its mandate and the possibility of terminating the committee but had not yet reached this decision. Discussion ensued over a concern expressed by one senator about the noise emanating from some student activities and the disruption to classes. Dean Nizameddin stated that he will investigate other options for the Job Fair which causes the biggest disruption. President Dorman referred the issue to the SSC.

The Provost noted that the Senate Committee on General Education had been absorbed into the Academic Development Committee (as previously approved by the Senate) and thanked Ali El-Hajj.

#### **6. Report on the June 2013 meeting of the Board of Trustees**

President Dorman reported that John Sununu (former republican Representative for the State of New Hampshire) had been appointed as a new trustee. Two alumni trustees were also appointed – Ghaleb Daouk and Ayman Kichly. All have three years terms to June 2016. President Dorman also reported that the BOT approved the General Education Policy, the arbitration of authorship disputes policy, the Dual Master's degrees policy, the MS in Orthodontics, MS in Islamic Studies, Master's in Energy Studies, MS for Scholars in Health Research (SHARP), 31 faculty appointments and promotions, the operating and capital budgets, the external auditors' report and other documentation needed for compliance with federal government regulations.

#### **7. Update on emergency preparedness at AUB**

President Dorman reported that the crisis response team had met 5 times to coordinate responses and anticipate different scenarios at the beginning of the academic year as the crisis following the threat of US military action on Syria unfolded. Both student enrolment and faculty recruitment were relatively unaffected by the crisis.

#### **8. Update on written recommendations from the Senate to the BOT**

Dina Jamali briefed the Senate about a document about issues of concern to faculty being jointly drafted by the SSC and SCFA in response to a request from the President following Dima Jamali's presentation as Senate representative to the BOT in June 2013. A first draft is being reviewed and the plan is to present it to the Senate in October for eventual presentation to the BOT in November.

#### **9. Potential issues to discuss in the Senate during 2013-4**

The following issues were proposed for discussion during the Senate: retirement plans for faculty; pending issues from the May 2013 Senate meeting, including faculty contracts. The President informed the Senate that a draft had been prepared and that COO DeBin and legal counsel Sleiman are to liaise

with the SCFA on it. Concern was raised by senators about the need for time for the SCFA to review the draft contract and to get legal advice. Discrepancies between legal opinions about the contract were also noted. The issue of email privacy was also a pending issue. The President reported that Ayman Kayssi had chaired a faculty working group on the issue and had submitted its report and that a draft privacy policy has been discussed in the Board of Deans and reviewed by the Audit Committee. In response to a concern that the policy and recommendations of the working group be shared with the Senate, he responded that a summary statement will be, but there are some issues of confidentiality. Another issue proposed for discussion is faculty tenure. The President thanked the tenure task force for its report that is currently under review by the Academic Affairs Committee and the President. The final issue raised for discussion was shared governance. In that context, the President proposed a full discussion of budget transparency in the Senate. It was also requested that COO DeBin give a presentation about his vision and accomplishments to date. The HIP plan was also proposed as a subject for discussion. One senator stated that a report about HIP had been submitted in September 2013 and that the SCFA should see the draft and if need be propose it be discussed in the Senate. The President further suggested having a presentation on the strategic vision for the campaign and the comprehensive list of fund-raising priorities as well as discussing how to evaluate teaching other than through ICEs and student cheating/plagiarism.

#### **10. Other business**

The rationale was explained for the extra month of salary to be paid to faculty members on 9 month contracts to cover the extra month of work they performed due to the shift in the academic calendar over two years. The President reported that new faculty contracts will be issued from September 1, 2013, and merit increases for continuing faculty will be effective as of October 1. In 2014 and later years, merit increases are expected to be effective September 1. One senator noted that this causes a discrepancy this year with promotion starting from September. The President clarified that those receiving promotions in 2013 will receive their salary increases effective September 1 as well. In response to a query about administrative restructuring the President explained current reporting arrangements and attendance at Senate meetings. He also reported that recruitment is underway for the position of ombudsperson.

The meeting was adjourned at 4 pm.