

American University of Beirut
Minutes of the University Senate
Meeting of Friday, February 28, 2014

Present: A. Al-Hroub, T. Amin, S. Arnaout, J. Chaaban, S. Chahine, N. Dajani, A. Dallal, Z. Dawy, G. DeBin, J. DeJong, P. Dorman (chairing), I. Elhadj, N. Farajalla, J. Ghafari, S. Hout, H. Huijer, N. Hwalla, D. Jaalouk, S. Jabbour-Khoury, A. Jaffa (representing M. Sayegh), D. Jamali, A. Kayssi, V. Khamis, H. Khoury, G. Matar, P. McGreevy, L. Nasreddine, T. Nizameddin, S. Nouredine, I. Nuwayhid, M. Roth (representing R. Brow), M. Salameh, S. Saleh, I. Saoud, E. Shammass, M. Suidan, J. Usta, D. Wickens, D. Wrisley, A. Zenger

Absent: A. Al-Kutoubi*, E. Baydoun*, R. Brow*, P. May, M. Sayegh,* S. Zeineldine*
(*= regrets notified before meeting or on leave)

Observers (on request): M. Fawaz, C. Harb

The meeting was called to order at 2 pm.

1. Approval of minutes

Minutes of the January 31, 2014 meeting were approved as amended.

2. Observing a minute of silence to honor former colleague. Dr. Randa Antoun

G. Bitar read a memorial for Dr. Randa Antoun, professor in PSPA, and a moment of silence was observed. N. Hwalla also read a memorial for Dr. Raja Izzat Tannous, professor in FAFS, and a moment of silence was observed. President Dorman asked that the statements be appended to the minutes and sent to the families concerned. A senator noted that Dr. Moustapha Ghandour, FM, also passed away; a statement will be made at the next Senate meeting.

3. Voting of degrees, February 2014 graduates

M. Salameh stated that there were 353 graduates, of whom 271 were undergraduate, 77 graduate and 4 Ph.D. Of these 22 earned distinction and 3 high distinction. Of the 353, 257 were Lebanese, 41 Arab and 34 non-Arab; 172 were male and 180 female.

P. McGreevy proposed a **motion: to grant degrees to all those listed for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Vote 2014-24: Motion approved (unanimous)**

H. Huijer proposed a **motion: to grant degrees to all those listed for the Hariri School of Nursing. Vote 2014-25: Motion approved (unanimous)**

A. Jaffa on behalf of M. Sayegh proposed a **motion: to grant degrees to all those listed for the Faculty of Medicine. Vote 2014-26: Motion approved (unanimous)**

M. Suidan proposed a **motion: to grant degrees to all those listed for the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture. Vote 2014-27: Motion approved (unanimous)**

N. Hwalla proposed a **motion: to grant degrees to all those listed for the Faculty of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Vote 2014-28: Motion approved (unanimous)**

I. Nuwayhid proposed a **motion: to grant degrees to all those listed for the Faculty of Health Sciences. Vote 2014-29: Motion approved (unanimous)**

Acting Dean S. Chahine presented a **motion: to grant degrees to all those listed for the Olayan School of Business. Vote 2014 -30: Motion approved (unanimous)**

4. Proposals from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences:

a) Proposal for a new academic title: clinical track in the Department of Psychology

C. Harb presented the item noting that for the newly launched approved graduate program in Clinical Psychology a clinical track was needed. Since this track does not exist, it requires a change in AUB by-laws and in the Faculty Manual (as worded in the attachment). He stated that the proposed clinical faculty line would be similar to clinical lines at AUBMC. **A senator proposed a motion to establish a “Clinical Psychology” Faculty position within the Department of Psychology.** A suggested amendment was made to reverse the order of the wording of department/faculties involved to FM, HSON and FAS-Psych. Some discussion followed regarding promotion criteria, the possibility of a joint appointment with FM, and whether supervision adheres to accreditation requirements. **Vote 2014 -31: The motion as amended was approved (unanimous)**

b) Proposal to change the FAS Advisory Committee composition from 6 to 7 members

P. McGreevy presented the proposal, approved by FAS, to change the composition of the FAS advisory to represent the main areas of FAS i.e. humanities, social science, natural sciences including math/computer sciences (quantitative thought). The specific recommendation was to add a 7th member from math/computer sciences. He noted that while this had been de facto practice for some time, there was a need to formalize this arrangement. Given the diversity of disciplines included within FAS, this was seen as necessary particularly for promotions because members are not always familiar with the nature and requirements of different fields. He made **a motion to change the Bylaws of the Faculties for the FAS Advisory Committee to include two members each from humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences, and one member from Mathematics and Computer Science.** One senator questioned the rationale and expressed the concern that small departments with only one professor will continuously be represented on the Advisory. **Vote 2014-32: Motion approved (25 in favor, 1 against, 5 abstentions).**

c) Proposal to change the Bylaws of the Faculties regarding runoff elections

P. McGreevy stated that the AUB by-laws do not mention the procedure for runoff elections but noted that where an item is not mentioned Robert’s rules should be used. Normal procedure has been that the two highest voted candidates run for re-election. However, Robert’s rules stipulate that nobody can be eliminated until a majority is reached, and therefore these procedures have been in violation of Robert’s rules. He proposed a motion **to add to the by-laws “To be elected, a candidate for a position must receive a simple majority of votes cast. If no candidate receives a majority on the first ballot, only the two candidates receiving the**

**largest number of votes in that ballot will face each other in a runoff election.” Vote 2014-33:
Motion approved (unanimous)**

5. Proposed changes to academic titles

A. Dallal presented this item stating that a number of academic titles are being used that have not been defined in the faculty manual and therefore an effort was needed to modify the definitions in light of actual practice. He made a motion **to approve the titles as defined in the attachment.** Discussion followed particularly concerning whether some of the titles were specific to the Faculty of Medicine or more broadly used. One senator asked whether conferring certain titles implied a financial obligation on the part of the university. Several senators expressed concern that a statement about non-provision of benefits was contrary to Lebanese or US law or both. One senator stated, for example, that the National Post-Doctoral Association in the US stipulates that all universities have to provide benefits to post-doctoral fellows under US law. The President confirmed that AUB needs to abide with both laws. For postdoctoral fellows, it was suggested to remove “and the appointment terms do not include benefits unless they are covered in the grant award.” For Adjunct Faculty, it was suggested to remove the FM in the title, and to remove the words “health care”, “who” (and add “educators”) and replace “clinical services to FM” with “or service to the university.” For the last item, it was suggested to remove “clinical” line 4. An amended motion was made **to approve the amended document. Vote 2014-34:
Motion approved (unanimous)**

6. Clarification on IT infrastructure upgrade

J. Chaaban presented this item reporting that following the open letter to AUB faculty sent February 1 by three faculty members from Engineering, the SSC had asked for clarification about the upgrade. He stated that this was important in light of perceived conflict of interest and suspected management of funds. President Dorman clarified that there is a need to invest in a high quality integrated network, but this would need to take a phased approach beginning with four new buildings either underway or completed (e.g. Sawwaf and IFI buildings). After several meetings to discuss the matter, it was agreed to proceed on a single-source contract with CISCO for compelling reasons, but a week later after the President received further information from IT, he decided against this direction. After a subsequent meeting with the three engineering faculty who wrote the open letter, he decided to proceed with an open (multiple-source) request for proposals (RFP). COO DeBin and IT are currently drafting this RFP. Several senators asked about the involvement of faculty in the drafting of the RFP and the President stated that the FEA faculty had agreed to review the plans independently. He clarified that there was no question of mismanagement of funds because the funds have not yet been allocated and that the bid would proceed transparently. Another senator asked, in view of the AUB Code of Business Ethics, how close COO DeBin was to the CISCO bid and what justification there was for a single-source bid. COO DeBin clarified that CISCO had been engaged when he was employed at the American University of Sharjah and that AUB’s association with CISCO predates his presence at AUB. President Dorman stated that there are reasons within procurement to justify single-source in particular contexts if the costs are appropriate. He also stated that COO DeBin followed AUB ‘conflict of interest policy’ in that he had declared when he was hired to the BoT his previous links to CISCO. Another senator stated that there was no justification on a single-source approach and that the COO was insisting on CISCO despite

concerns by IT; the RFI mentioned a technology that only CISCO has (but President Dorman did not have the full information). COO DeBin responded that the RFI had been broadened to include other technologies. In response to a question as to whether the RFI was advertised on the AUB website, COO DeBin responded that he did not know but that 5-7 companies had responded to the RFI. A motion was **made of no-confidence in DeBin's role as COO. Vote 2014-35: Motion approved (25 in favor, 1 against and 2 abstentions).**

9. Follow-up on Senate Report to the BoT (sequence changed)

In response to several senators' requests for greater shared governance at AUB, the President noted that he had sent the report voted on at the November 2013 Senate to the BoT who were deliberating on it. At their meeting in March they will aim to finalize their written response to the Senate report. A senator stated that there is a need for greater checks and balances because some individuals are making decisions without enough accountability. Another senator noted that faculty members are not asking to be involved in everything but in key questions concerning the university's functioning.

7. Follow up on Faculty contracts

President Dorman stated that the SCFA had returned a draft of the faculty contract to legal counsel who had in turn raised 7 points. A senator briefed the meeting about the history of the exchanges concerning the faculty contract and that an email had been sent by the SCFA on February 17, 2014 to request a meeting with the AUB lawyer, COO DeBin, the President and the Provost.

12. Other business

A senator asked about the situation of tuition fees. President Dorman stated that the students had requested that tuition be frozen with a 0% increase which is not realistic. He had committed to looking at next year's budget. On the larger issue of future planning in light of rising costs, he plans to convene a university-wide commission on sustainability that would include faculty, staff, students and alumni. One senator noted that some students, following a message sent by the President, think that much of their tuition is going to faculty salaries. The President underlined the importance of transparency in dealing with students especially given the difficult times in the region.

Items 8, 10 and 11 on the agenda were not addressed due to lack of time.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Minutes recorded by J. DeJong, Secretary of the Senate