

**American University of Beirut
Minutes of the University Senate
Meeting of Friday, March 4, 2016**

Present: M. Abiad, F. Abu Salem, F. Afiouni, T. Amin, G. Araj, V. Araman, I. Baalbaki, A. Chalak, E. Shammass, M. Clinton, Z. Dawy, J. DeJong, H. Diab, I. El Hajj, M. Harajli, C. Harb, S. Harvey, E. Hitti, S. Hmaidan, H. Huijjer, N. Hwalla, G. Kanazi, A. Kayssi, F. Khuri (Chair), F. Maalouf, P. McGreevy, H. Muller, W. Nasr, I Nuwayhid, I. Osman (on invitation), H. El-Rassy, R. Sedehi, I. Saoud, S. Saleh, M. Sayegh, C. Smith, M. Suidan, A. Taher, C. Tarraf (representing T. Nizameddin)

Absent: M. Al-Ghoul*, B. Bashour*, J. Chaaban, D. Jamali*, S. Kanj*, R. Karami*, S. Khalaf, T. Mehmood*, T. Nizameddin, M. Salameh*, S. Zeineldine

(*= regrets notified before meeting or on leave)

The meeting came to order at 2pm.

1) Obituary for Mousa Nimah

Dean Hwalla read an obituary for Prof. Musa Nimah, Professor of Agriculture at the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences.

2) Approval of the minutes of February 12, 2016

The minutes were approved with a minor amendment sent via email.

[Item 5 was moved up to become item 3]

3) Proposal for a revision of the BS in Agriculture program

S. Hamadeh presented a proposed revision of the BS Agriculture program (keeping the same name and number of credits) to reflect new trends and market needs, the first major change in the curriculum since 1955. The revision aligns with the new FAFS strategy with a focus on food security. An extensive consultative process was undertaken with alumni and stakeholders and two external program reviewers provided input. There are two concentrations – sustainable agriculture and agricultural technology. New courses consist of 65 out of the 128 credit program. A motion was made **to approve the revision**. In response to questions, S Hamadeh clarified that AREC will be used within the program, and that rather than having courses on particular topics (such as poultry) the farming system approach will be stressed.

Vote 2016-19: The motion carried unanimously.

4) Voting of degrees for fall 2015 graduates

M. Salameh presented the new graduates as presented in the document circulated at the meeting. M. Sayeh, H. Huijjer, M. Suidan, N. Hwalla, I. Nuwayhid and S. Harvey recommended the awarding of degrees in the respective Faculties/Schools according to the document circulated. **A motion was made to approve the graduation of all recommended candidates. Vote 2016-20: The motion was passed unanimously.**

5) GE requirements for students completing double majors, dual degrees and second degrees

Z. Dawy explained the change in GE requirements for such students. The ADC recommended, based on input from FAS, a change that Z. Dawy had earlier in 2016 presented to the Senate; however, the motion was withdrawn from the Senate given the recommendation for more discussion with faculties. Subsequently consultations took place with Academic Affairs committees in all faculties and no objections were raised. Z Dawy therefore made a motion that **students seeking double major, dual degree, or second degree should satisfy the GE requirements of one of the majors or degrees. Students will nominate, with the approval of their academic advisor, the major for which they intend to meet the GE requirement.** In response to points raised Z. Dawy stated that all courses that are listed as part of the major requirements should be taken, irrespective of whether or not they are also used to satisfy the major's GE requirements. It was clarified in response to a question that dual degrees but not second degrees are eligible for financial aid. It was recommended that students be informed of this motion. **Vote 2016-21: The motion passed unanimously.**

[Action point: This should be added to the undergraduate catalogue as an addition to what is already written there; the Registrar should disseminate a message to students advising them of the change]

6) Provost presentation on monitoring report for MSCHE

Interim Provost Harajli presented the contents of a report to be submitted by April 1, 2016 to the Middle States Commission of Higher Education (MSCHE) – one of six accreditation recognized by the US Department of Education. He reviewed the steps since AUB's initial accreditation in 2004. In the report due April 1 AUB has been asked to clarify two issues: a) how planning is linked to the university budgeting process; and b) the approach to shared governance. In response to the first concern, AUB had formed two main committees – one on strategic and financial planning and the other on financial planning. Four sub-committees have been working on tuition, compensation, campus and the medical center, respectively. Faculties and strategic units were asked to prepare a five-year strategic plan. The aim is to incorporate campus and AUBMC budgeting eventually. On the second issue on shared governance, the tenure process is critical; the principle of tenure was approved by the Senate and Board of Trustees. An Implementation Design Committee has begun work. The MSCHE will notify AUB of its decision in July 2016. The President added that the work of the USFC and Senate representatives on the by-laws of student elections is another example of shared governance, as is the acquisition of a policy- management software. Dean Hwalla explained this software that will be used to document why and when changes are made to policies, according to PPRC agreed processes. A senator stated that the accreditation body has also raised lack of clarity about the role of the Senate.

7) Proposal for a Master in Science in Business Analytics

I. Osman presented the proposed program of 30 credits which would be the first such program in the region. Students would have an option between a 6 credit thesis plus 6 credits of electives vs. a 3 credit experiential project plus 9 credits of electives. IBM has pledged its support. OSB conducted 3 scenarios of projected demand and calculated that the worst case is for AUB to break even, and in the best case scenario to generate up to \$3 million with this program. A motion was made **to approve the program.** Senators asked who would be eligible for the program, and I. Osman clarified that they would need to have quantitative skills but in addition there would be a refresher course before the program. A senator

from FEA expressed regret that this is not an interdisciplinary program, but noted that there should be a strong market for such a program. I. Osman responded that he recognizes the need to combine engineering management skills with management sciences at OSB but the program needed to be operationalized quickly in order to be in the lead. A similar point was raised about the application of business analytics to public health. Dean Sayegh stated that consultations with other faculties in the development of new programs should occur before programs are presented at the Senate. A question was asked as to why this was an MS and it was noted that other institutions used the same title. Questions were raised about whether a program manager was needed for 40 students. A general point was made by another senator that there is a need for a template for budgets for graduate programs. Dean Harvey noted that the absence of such a program on business analytics is constraining other business programs at OSB and this new program would also support the undergraduate program. **Vote 2016-22: The motion passed unanimously.**

[Action point: The Provost's office to develop a budget template for graduate programs]

8) Any other business

A senator noted some inconsistency in the dissemination of obituaries, and after discussion it was agreed that the President would discuss it with the BoD and bring a recommendation to the Senate.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

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