

American University of Beirut
Final Minutes of the University Senate
Meeting of Friday, May 28, 2021

Present: M. Abiad, A. Abu-Alfa, F. Afiouni, E. Al-Chaer, A. Al-Hroub, T. Amin, H. Auji, I. Baalbaki, T. Bazi, G. Burris, S. Bou Jaoude, A. Chalak, R. Chedid, L. Choueiri, A. Daou, Z. Dawy, N. Dumit, N. El-Cheikh, H. El Rassy, M. Farah, L. Farhoud, A. Harutyunyan, S. Isber, H. Jaafar, K. Kabalan, F. Khuri, S. Mallat, N. Melhem, R. Mohtar, L. Musfy, M. Nachar, M. Nasrallah, T. Nezameddin, G. Saad, N. Saliba, A. Shihadeh, A. Sibai, Y. Sidani, R. Sultan, F. Talih, B. Tucker, G. Zaatari, S. Zein-el-dine

Absent: H. Darwish*, R. Nakkash*

(* = regrets notified before meeting)

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was held virtually using “Zoom”.

1) Approval of April 28, 2021 Senate meeting minutes

The minutes of April 28, 2021 were unanimously approved as presented.

2) Voting of Degrees

Vice Provost and Registrar, B. Tucker, presented the upgrades done on the banner system to directly produce the list of graduating students. He also circulated the list of graduates as an excel sheet via email. Dean El-Cheikh recommended awarding degrees to the indicated students in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS). **A motion was made to award degrees to the candidates in FAS. Vote 2020-41. The motion was approved unanimously.** Interim Dean G. Zaatari recommended awarding degrees to the indicated students in the Faculty of Medicine (FM). **A motion was made to award degrees to the candidates in FM. Vote 2020-42. The motion was approved unanimously.** Interim Dean Farhoud recommended awarding degrees to the indicated students in the Rafic Hariri School of Nursing. **A motion was made to award degrees to the candidates in Rafic Hariri School of Nursing. Vote 2020-43. The motion was approved unanimously.** Dean Shihadeh recommended awarding degrees to the indicated students in the Maroun Semaan Faculty of Engineering and Architecture (MSFEA). **A motion was made to award degrees to the candidates in MSFEA. Vote 2020-44. The motion was approved unanimously.** Dean Mohtar, recommended awarding degrees to the indicated students in the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences (FAFS). **A motion was made to award degrees to the candidates in FAFS. Vote 2020-45. The motion was approved unanimously.** Interim Dean Sibai recommended awarding degrees to the indicated students in the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS). **A motion was made to award degrees to the candidates in FHS. Vote 2020-46. The motion was approved unanimously.** Interim Dean Sidani recommended awarding degrees to the indicated students in the Olayan School of Business (OSB). **A motion was made to award degrees to the candidates in OSB. Vote 2020-47. The motion was approved unanimously.**

3) Graduation Ceremony Plans

President Khuri stated that the graduation ceremony plan for the class of 2021 will be as follows:

- June 3rd 2021 – Graduation ceremony for the HSON graduates on the Green Oval
- June 4th 2021 – Graduation ceremony for the FM graduates on the Green Oval
- June 5th 2021 – Graduation ceremony for the FHS graduates on the Green Oval
- September 3 & 4 2021 – Graduation ceremony for the FAS/MSFEA/OSB/FAFS graduates on the green field

As for the class of 2020, a graduation ceremony is being planned for October 8 & 9, 2021 on the green field.

During all ceremonies, social distancing and masking will be practiced. All graduating students will be vaccinated beforehand. Only students and faculty will be in attendance, and the ceremonies will be live broadcasted.

4) Proposed Budget for AY 2021-2022

CFO, D. Wickens, presented the main budget items and operating expenses for AY 2021-2022.

For AUB:

- An average accounting exchange rate of 12,500 LBP/USD will be adopted
- No increases in individual cost of internal services such as health insurance, parking ...
- No salary increases beyond the investment packages and academic promotions

For AUBMC:

- Revenue collections will follow the platform rate
- No volume increases assumed at the medical center
- 2.5% of gross patient revenues dedicated to needy patients

For Campus:

- No rate increase in tuition or dormitories fees. Students will continue to settle their fees at the exchange rate of 3900 LBP/USD/
- Expected decline of 400 undergraduate students
- Dormitories at 50% capacity

The university operating revenues are expected to drop by around \$300 million due to:

- Currency devaluation
- 400 less undergraduate students
- Loss of revenue from dormitories and other fees
- No foreseen increase in patient volumes
- Reduced interest income and auxiliary revenues

The operating expenses are also expected to drop by around \$301 million mainly due to:

- Salaries decreases by around 56% due to devaluation of LBP to 12500LBP/\$.
- Benefits decrease in line with devaluation and decrease in number of faculty and staff although benefits packages will remain unchanged
- Decrease in the budget for medical and pharmaceutical supplies
- Drop in utilities expenditures
- Decrease of loan interests and repayment charges

Based on the above, the budget forecast for AY 2021-2022 results in the AUB campus breaking even while AUBMC witnesses a deficit of around \$2.4 million.

The BoT will re-designate the income of \$50 million in unrestricted investments to fund 30+ Board Designated Professorships for 3 years. This will guarantee supporting these key individuals with fresh dollar amounts ranging between \$50,000 and \$100,000 a year. The criteria for selecting these individuals and the selection process will be carried out by Board of Deans in coordination with the Provost. The President will approve the final list. President Khuri stated that the Board Designated Professors are mission critical people whose departure will disrupt the operations at AUB and AUBMC. The number of designated professorships will be divided equally between the campus and the medical center.

Associate Provost Dawy presented an overview of the planned investment packages for faculty and staff for AY 2021-2022. Dawy reiterated that the planned “base” package budget \$100 million for a duration of 3 years. If this is to be divided equally between the years and between academic and non-academic staff, then each subset will get \$16.5 million annually. AUB currently employs around 1650 academic and 3750 non-academic personnel. Several scenarios to distribute the money amongst the constituents are being investigated and the details will be shared with the faculty at large early on during the month of June 2021.

VP Jaber presented and stated that the base program for non-academic staff is still under-development. It is being coordinated with AUB's labor union and the details will be announced when ready.

5) ICE Review Process

Prof. S. Bou Jaoude presented the process of changing the ICE review form. He started by stating that the ICE form includes two sections:

- Main section consisting of uniform university wide question addressing general teaching and learning issues.
- A second section customized for faculty members, programs, or faculties.

He then presented the processes for changing each of the two sections. **A motion was made to approve the ICE review process as presented. The motion was approved by a vote. Vote 2020-48 (29-1-0).**

6) Approval of the Academic Diploma in Nursing Administration

Professor L. Younan presented the academic Diploma in Nursing Administration. After answering a few clarifications, **a motion was made to approve the diploma as presented. The motion was approved by a vote. Vote 2020-49 (28-2-0).**

7) Approval of the Academic Diploma in Nursing Education

Professor Dumit presented the Academic Diploma in Nursing education Program. After answering a few clarifications, **a motion was made to approve the diploma as presented. Vote 2020-50. The motion was approved unanimously.**

8) Approval of SHARP Diploma

Professor Hajj Fuleihan presented the SHARP Diploma program. **A motion was made to approve the diploma as presented. Vote 2020-51. The motion was approved unanimously.**

9) Approval of Diploma in Islamic Studies

Professor Hanafi presented the Diploma in Islamic Studies Program. After answering a few clarifications, **a motion was made to approve the diploma as presented. Vote 2020-52. The motion was approved unanimously**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.

(Minutes recorded by G. Saad, Secretary of the Senate)