

**American University of Beirut**  
**Final of Minutes of the University Senate**  
**Meeting of Monday, June 5, 2023**

**Present:** A. Abu-Alfa, I. Abou Faycal, F. Afiouni, N. Al-Akl, A. Al-Hakim, F. Dahdah, R. Boustany, A. Daou, Z. Dawy, N. Dumit, T. Ghaddar, A. Ghauch, G. Honein, N. Hwalla, M. Jaber, A. Sibai, M. Khraiche, S. Kharroubi, F. Khuri, M. Massoud, L. Musfi, S. Nouredine, A. Olabi, A. Sabra, F. Ziadeh (for R. Sawaya), K. Scheid, A. Shihadeh, A. Sibai, Y. Sidani, R. Sultan, B. Tucker, R. Zurayk.

**Absent:** H. Abu-Khuzam,\* A. Al-Hroub, S. Altug, I. Baalbaki, P. Bou Khalil, J. Doumar, S. Karaki, S. Mallat, N. Melhem,\* M. Nasrallah, Y. Shaib,\* S. Zein-el-dine,  
(\*= regrets notified before meeting)

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

### **1- Approval of Senate meeting minutes of May 26, 2023**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the May 26, 2023, Senate meeting minutes. The motion carried **(26 with: 0 against: 1 abstain)**.

A Senate member moved to add to the meeting agenda an item on housing benefits. It was seconded and approved by majority.

### **2- Voting of degrees**

Registrar Tucker presented to the senate the lists of the students graduating in Spring 2022-23. Dean Dahdah recommended awarding the degrees to the students graduating from programs in FAS indicated in the circulated amended list. **Vote 2022-31: A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously (28 with: 0 against: 0 abstain)**. Prof. Ziadeh (for Dean Sawaya) recommended awarding the degrees to the students graduating from programs in FM indicated in the circulated amended list. **Vote 2022-32: A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously (28 with: 0 against: 0 abstain)**. Dean Nouredine recommended awarding the degrees to the students graduating from programs in HSON indicated in the circulated amended list. **Vote 2022-33: A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously (28 with: 0 against: 0 abstain)**. Dean Shihadeh recommended awarding the degrees to the students graduating from programs in MSFEA indicated in the circulated amended list. **Vote 2022-34: A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously (28 with: 0 against: 0 abstain)**. Interim Dean Olabi recommended awarding the degrees to the students graduating from programs in FAFS indicated in the circulated amended list. **Vote 2022-35: A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously (28 with: 0 against: 0 abstain)**. Dean Sibai recommended awarding the degrees to the students graduating from programs in FHS indicated in the circulated amended list. **Vote 2022-36: A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously (28 with: 0 against: 0 abstain)**. Dean Sidani recommended awarding the degrees to the students graduating from programs in OSB indicated in the circulated amended list. **Vote 2022-37: A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously (28 with: 0 against: 0 abstain)**.

### **3. Approval of Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics Coordinated Program**

Prof. O. Obeid presented to the Senate a Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics Coordinated Program at FAFS for approval. Prof. Obeid informed the Senate that the undergraduate program received accreditation from ACEND, and is composed of a three-year curriculum and a one-year

practicum (internship) at a hospital, totaling 1,200 hours. He added that the undergraduate Bachelor of Science (BS) program was launched in 2009 and became the first program outside the USA to receive accreditation. Prof. Obeid informed the Senate that starting January 1, 2024, graduates will need an MS degree to be eligible for the Registered Dietitian (RD) title and to take the RD exam, and as a consequence, the program was revised and transformed into a three-year BS program followed by a two-year MS program. He added that the proposed program structure consists of two years for the MS degree, including a summer session, with 11 credits assigned to the practicum and 29 credits for coursework, where the practical hours were reduced from 1,200 to 1,000, leading to 11 credits for financial reasons. He informed the Senate that FAFS will be the first in the region to offer the MS RD title, and thus there would be a possibility of attracting students from other universities who meet the basic requirements. For those who lack prerequisites, additional courses may be recommended before enrolling in the program. Prof. Obeid informed the Senate that the program adheres to the recommendations of ACEND.

**Vote 2022-38:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics Coordinated Program.

Interim Dean Olabi congratulated the department on their work, and acknowledged Prof. Hwalla's efforts.

The motion carried **(28 with: 0 against: 0 abstain)**.

#### **4- Housing Benefit**

A Senate member voiced her concerns regarding a recent email sent by Mrs. H. Bikhazi, director of benefits, regarding changes in the housing benefits. VP Jaber explained to the Senate that there was no change in the housing benefits, but rather changes to the housing model following the deterioration of the local currency. She added that this was discussed in two previous Senate meetings, covering the following main points:

1- Housing purchase plan (HPP): No changes from the previous years, in the policy the HPP payment is quoted in USD but historically it has always been paid in LBP. Last year, it was paid in local dollars. Discussions about potential changes were ongoing.

2- Off-campus housing: It was agreed with landlords to accept the rent in local dollars until December 2022. Negotiations for changes after this date have been ongoing on a case by case basis.

A new model has been implemented starting last year to consolidate faculty members in AUB-owned or AUB-affiliated buildings off campus, reducing the reliance on scattered buildings across the city, and with rental fees similar to on campus housing. These AUB-affiliated buildings are being treated as 'extended on-campus housing'.

3- On-campus housing: Payments were paid in full entirely in Lebanese pounds before. However, the plan was to have a single rate for both on and off-campus housing, with a percentage in USD which is subject to annual updates in line with the increases to the salary US dollar components.

VP Jaber added that the main point is to have one rate for on-campus and off-campus housing, however, implementation of the new housing model will take time. She added that no steps were missed in the process, and all decisions were thoroughly discussed with SCFA and in the Senate. She added that last year's message in August informed the community about the significant changes in the housing model, although the policy update was still pending due to ongoing developments.

Provost Dawy explained to the Senate that there was no change in the housing benefits, but rather in the housing model, where if a faculty rents an on-campus or off-campus apartment owned/rented by AUB, he/she would pay a fixed rent that includes electricity and utilities. He added that pre-2019 the

fees were set to a certain amount in 100% USD value, while in August 2022 the fees were set to 40% USD value in line with the 45% fresh dollars to faculty, and the recent email sent informed the faculty that the payments starting July 2023 will become 65% in fresh USD reflecting the increase in the USD component of the faculty salaries to 70%. A Senate member inquired about how would faculty members, who are benefiting currently from the old housing policy, be affected by the changes. VP Jaber explained that it is too premature to discuss the details now, emphasizing the need for a separate transition plan for grandfathering faculty after checking the numbers and all faculty would receive emails about that. A Senate member inquired about the amount to be paid by faculty members who live outside AUB in non-AUB affiliated buildings and they pay their own utilities. Provost Dawy and VP Jaber replied that they those will follow the 60-40% off-campus model as pre-2019. A Senate member suggested to resend an email explaining this to the faculty, since the email sent by Mrs. Bikhazi did not reflect what is under discussion. Provost Dawy and VP Jaber agreed with the last comment.

*There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.*

(Minutes recorded by T. Ghaddar, Secretary of the Senate)