

**American University of Beirut
Minutes of the University Senate
Meeting of Friday, 27 April 2012**

Present: M.A. Al-Alaoui, A. Abdelnoor, A. Abdel-Rahman, A. Al-Kutoubi, S. Chahine, N. Dajani, A. Dallal, P. Dorman (presiding), I. El-Hajj, J. Ghafari, R. Habib, S. Harb, H. Huijer, N. Hwalla, S. Isber, Y. Kamel (representing Academic Development Committee), S. Kenney, G. Matar, P. McGreevy, W. Nasr, S. Neaime, S. Nouredine, R. Afifi (for I. Nuwayhid), A. Jaffa (for M. Sayegh), S. Sadek, M. Salameh, S. Saleh, I. Saoud, F. Sleiman, M. Tabbal, S. Talhouk, J. Usta.

Absent: S. Arnaout, B. Barhoumi*, R. Brow, M. El-Sabban, G. Farag*, R. Foster*, D. Jamali*, Z. Kassaify, R. Khayat-Toubia, I. Lakkis, P. May, J. Melki, G. Najjar*, T. Nizameddin, J. Radulski, M. Suidan, A. Zenger.

(* = regrets notified before meeting or on leave)

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm.

1. *Approval of minutes*

Minutes of March 30, 2012 approved as amended (26-1-0)

2. *Proposal from the Board of Graduate Studies for establishing an MA in Transnational American Studies (CASAR, FAS) (See Attachment)*

Prof. Alex Lubin presented a background on the proposed graduate studies. He explained that CASAR initially offered courses leading to a minor and that the long term plan was to offer a full fledged degree. He indicated that there are six similar programs in the region and that AUB's program will focus on relationships, cultural, economic, and others, between the USA and the Middle East. CASAR played a leading role so far and the introduction of the graduate program will further enhance the University's impact in the USA and the region. Electives will be developed from related disciplines including, media, history, and English. No resources are required for launching the program as the Center has just moved into a new location and there are plans to transform an existing visiting line into a full time position, in addition to five currently available graduate assistantship positions. The Center has established close relations with American Studies programs in the USA with the hope of channeling AUB graduates to PhD programs offered by these Universities. The program offers two options; thesis and master capstone project. CASAR executive committee will act as advisory to students. The program is open to BA holders in the fields of humanities and social sciences and acceptances will follow University policies and regulations.

Motion: Approve Proposal from the Board of Graduate Studies (BGS) to establish an MA in Transnational American Studies (CASAR, FAS)

Vote 2012-32: Motion approved (unanimous)

3. *Proposal from the Academic Development Committee (ADC) for program revision and name change of the BSc in Landscape Design and Eco-Management to a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (LDEM, FAFS)(See Attachments)*

Representing the Academic Development Committee, Prof. Y. Kamel explained that the ADC approved the proposal with minor revisions and indicated that the proposal has been revised accordingly before being presented to the senate. He then gave the floor to Prof. Talhouk who explained that the proposed program revisions were necessary to provide students with a first professional degree. These changes will also enable the department to seek accreditation by the American Society of Landscape Architects. Both the current and revised program entitle students to join the Lebanese Order of Engineers. Once the revised program is approved, the department will implement a transition plan that will accommodate students currently enrolled.

Motion: Approve Proposal from the Academic Development Committee for program revision and name change of the BSc in Landscape Design and Eco-Management to a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture

Vote 2012-33: Motion approved (unanimous)

4. *Proposed Policy on Research Misconduct from the University Research Board (See Attachment)*

Prof. M. Tabbal, Chair of the URB, presented an overview of the efforts that have been initiated by the Office of the Provost in response to indications in the University self-study that pointed to the need for the University to develop a policy on research misconduct. He also indicated that several funding agencies are asking about this policy and requesting the University to produce reports on any research misconduct and to report how these were dealt with. He indicated that the proposed policy was approved by URB and it integrated feedback from the Board of Deans and the VP for Legal Affairs. He asked for senate approval of sections A and B in the document and senate feedback on section C. In response to inquiries by senators M. Tabbal indicated that according to the proposed policy there are no grounds to overturn a decision unless major new evidence is provided. The issues are dealt with at three levels; 1) the Provost consults with Dean and Faculty concerned, 2) a preliminary inquiry is conducted by a committee, 3) a full fledged inquiry is performed by the committee. It is unlikely that evidence is overlooked by all three levels unless it was not available at the time of assessment. The current policy is least intrusive yet it abides by international policy standards. If there are grounds to research misconduct then access to data and files will have to be made available. Investigators should keep original data for five years. Departments should have their own rules and regulations regarding record keeping because this depends on fields of studies. IRB should also abide to policies and regulations and should not interfere with researchers' methodology or cause bureaucratic delays that affect student research.

Motion: Approve proposed University Policy on Research Misconduct

Vote 2012-34: Motion approved (26-1-2)

5. *Briefing from the Animal Welfare Committee regarding cats on campus*

Prof. Abdelfattah explained that cats have become a serious nuisance and threat to AUB community health. He indicated that when cats are trapped into buildings they generate bad smells and defecate inside the premises. It was also pointed out that AUB campus was designated as a bird sanctuary and that this is affected by the presence of a large number of cats.

President Dorman proposed to delay discussion of this item since VP Radulski, representative of the Animal Welfare Committee is absent.

President Dorman left the meeting asking Provost Dallal to chair it.

6. *Other business*

Prof. Sleiman inquired about documents on promotion policy being circulated for review and bypassing the senate. The issue was further discussed. Some members noted that they have not seen the document. The Provost explained that there are no changes to policies or bylaws, and that the documents under discussion are procedures not policies that were introduced by the previous administration to clarify the process; these are the “Promotion Procedures” and the “Promotion Guidelines”, which are regularly revised after each promotion cycle in light of feedback from the Due Process Monitors and from comments communicated through the Deans from various committees involved in the promotion review process. This year, a key concern was that the use of two documents can be confusing, so an integrated document was produced to avoid redundancy and confusion, with very few additional edits that are not already in one of the first two documents. The integrated document was discussed in the BOD and already changed once in light of feedback from some Faculties (through the Deans); the last version of the document was sent through the Deans for additional discussion and feedback from the Faculties.

The meeting was adjourned at 4 pm.
Salma Talhouk, secretary