

American University of Beirut
Draft Minutes of the University Senate
Meeting of Friday January 27, 2012

Present: M.A. Al-Alaoui, A. Abdelnoor, A. Abdel-Rahman, S. Arnaout, B. Barhoumi, S. Chahine, N. Dajani, A. Dallal (representing P. Dorman, chairing), R. Foster, I. El-Hajj, M. El-Sabban, G. Farag, J. Ghafari, A. Hamadeh (representing J. Radulski), S. Harb, H. Huijjer, S. Isber, A. Jaffa (representing M. Sayegh), D. Jamali, S. Kenney, G. Matar, P. McGreevy, F. Moukalled (representing M. Suidan), S. Neaime, I. T. Nizameddin, S. Nouredin, I. Nuwayhid, S. Sadek, M. Salameh, S. Saleh, I. Saoud, F. Sleiman, R. Smith, M. Tabbal, , S. Talhouk, J. Usta, A. Zenger.

Absent: A. Al-Kutoubi*, R. Brow, R. Habib, N. Hwalla*, Z. Kassaify*, R. Khayat-Toubia, P. May, G. Najjar*, W. Nasr*, A. Shihadeh

(* = regrets notified before meeting or on leave)

The meeting was called to order at 2 pm.

1. *Approval of minutes of December 16, 2012*

Minutes of December 16, 2012 meeting were approved as corrected (29-0-0)

Provost Dallal announced that the senate will be meeting with the Board of Trustees most probably on February 21. He asked the Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs (SCFA) to propose an agenda for the meeting, and Senators were urged to send SCFA items that they would like to add on the agenda prior to February 3 when SCFA is scheduled to meet.

2. *Faculty of Medicine Revised Policy on Academic Tracks, Appointments, and Promotion*

Dr. Ziyadeh gave a presentation summarizing the policy document which was circulated to senators prior to the senate meeting. A discussion followed and included inquiries about whether the document was voted on in a faculty meeting and whether similar tracks were present in the school of nursing. Clarifications were asked about the different faculty lines and the moving between tracks. The Provost indicated that FM currently has a three track system as is the case in most Medical Schools, and that the proposed changes are an attempt to address irregularities and ambiguities, which is also happening in medical schools around the world. Dr. Ziyadeh explained that it took two years to finalize the document and feedback of faculty members was solicited and taken into consideration at several stages of document development. On the issue of the content of the document it was proposed that it be divided into two as some elements are directly concerned with promotion and others are related to appointments and academic tracks. It

was also suggested that only faculty of professorial rank should deliberate on promotion issues to avoid conflict of interest. The Provost asked Dr. Ziyadeh to reconsider discussing the document in the Faculty of Medicine in light of the feedback received from the Senate. In response to a suggestion that the new policy would not come to the Senate if the FM does not vote on it, the Provost reiterated that the promotion procedures are not decided upon by faculty vote.

3. Proposal on Freshman Admissions from University Admissions Committee

Drs. Nassif and Muhtasib presented key points of the proposal document which was circulated to senators prior to the senate meeting. Dr. Muhtasib explained that faculty readers and officers will read student applicants' files that do not fit clearly in pass or reject categories. Five faculty member readers have been identified so far and they will review each, in parallel with officers, 75 student files. A discussion followed and included inquiries regarding the fairness of faculty readers during assessment, the number of files to review, whether diversity was taken into consideration, whether students' statements and faculties' support letters are authentic, and whether applicants should be interviewed. Questions were raised regarding whether marginal students should be accepted or whether AUB should focus on high performers. It was pointed out that many freshmen students are unable to compete once at the sophomore level. If freshman year does not prepare students then the curriculum needs revision and this is independent from admission criteria. Dr. Muhtasib explained that the student files are very informative and that the process of reviewing files was tested and gaps addressed. The Provost indicated that reading files is the norm in universities around the world, and that the current proposal is only a small step and that the future aim is to develop capacity to read all applications.

Motion: To approve Proposal on Freshman Admission

Vote 2012-18: Motion approved (27 -1-1)

The Provost welcomed Interim Vice President for Facilities Robert Foster

4. Financial Ratio Analysis

VP Kenney gave a brief overview about the document that was circulated to the senate prior to the meeting, he explained the basis on which the benchmarking exercise was made, and then gave the floor to D. Wickens who presented the study and findings. The study addressed whether resources were sufficient and flexible enough to support the institution's mission, whether resources are managed strategically, whether asset performance and management support strategic direction, and whether the institution is living within available resources. The benchmark study was based on ten financial indicators which revealed that AUB has a strong financial situation that allows it considerable flexibility in terms of maintaining and enhancing current programs. AUB is also well positioned to invest in strategic initiatives. A discussion followed and included

issues related to the future financial outlook, tuition pricing strategy and student financial aid. Due to time limitation, the discussion was postponed till the next Senate meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm