

**American University of Beirut
Minutes of the University Senate
Meeting of Friday 27 May 2011**

Present: A. Abdelnoor, A. Abdel-Rahman, J. Andresen, S. Arweh (by invitation), B. Barhoumi, S. Chahine (by invitation), L. Choueiri, A. Dallal, J. DeJong, H. Diab, A. Dietrich (by invitation), P. Dorman (chairing), M. El-Sabban, L. Farhood, J. Ghafari, I. Hamati-Ataya, H. Huijer, S. Isber, A. Jaffa (for M. Sayegh), D. Jamali, M. Jurdi, A. Jurjus, S. Kenney, P. McGreevy, F. Moukalled, G. Najjar, W. Nasr, T. Nizameddin, I. Nuwayhid, I. Osman, J. Radulski, S. Sadek, A. Safeddine (by invitation), M. Salameh, S. Seikaly, F. Sleiman, R. Smith, M. Tabbal, S. Talhouk, D. Wrisley.

Absent: M.A. Al Alaoui*, G. Araj*, S. Arnaout, R. Brow, N. Hwalla, Z. Kassaiyf, A. Kayssi*, R. Khauli*, R. Khayat-Toubia, I. Lakkis, P. May.

(* = regrets notified before meeting or on leave)

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

President Dorman welcomed Acting VP of Facilities, Bassem Barhoumi, in place of Samer Maamari.

1. *Approval of minutes.* The minutes of the regular meeting of the senate on 29 April 2011 were approved unanimously as read.

2. *Voting of degrees, Faculty of Medicine.* The Senate voted unanimously to grant degrees to the May 2011 graduates listed in the memorandum circulated by the Registrar's Office and presented by Associate Dean A. Jaffa (**vote 2011-19**).

3. *Proposal from the Board of Graduate Studies to introduce changes in the functions of the Board of Graduate Studies and Faculty Graduate Studies Committees in light of the proposed Graduate Council.* A. Safeddine, Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies, introduced proposed changes in the BGS and Faculty Graduate Studies Committees resulting from the proposed creation of the Graduate Council. Provost Dallal added that the changes would streamline the functioning of the BGS which at present was carrying out both executive and academic functions. The Graduate Council would have a dedicated officer in each of the Registrar's Office and the Admissions Office who would report directly to the provost, leaving the BGS free to concern itself with academic matters. F. Sleiman pointed out that Section E of the proposal relating to Faculty Graduate Studies Committee Bylaws should be approved by faculties before approval by the senate. Since Sections B and C of the proposal concerned the functions and composition of the Graduate Council, whose establishment was an executive matter, only Section D concerning revisions to the Board of Graduate Studies called for action by the senate. There was some discussion whether there might be occasions when the senate could approve changes in bylaws of faculty committees before the faculties themselves. In any case a motion was proposed and seconded **to approve the proposed changes in the senate bylaws relating to the functions and composition of the Board of Graduate Studies.** On M. Tabbal's suggestion an editorial correction was made to the wording of the composition of the BGS. After discussion the question was called.

Vote 2011-20: The motion was passed by 2/3rds majority (For 23, Against 0, Abstention 4).

4. *Proposal from AUBMC to establish a Department of Neurology.* S. Atweh, Head of the Division of Neurology in the Department of Internal Medicine, said that specialization in neurology had existed within the Faculty of Medicine since the 1950s; the establishment of a separate department would be in keeping with the increasing importance of neurology and would involve no new programs or courses. In answer to a question from Dean Najjar he said that the benefits of having a separate department would be to students in neurology as well as neuroscience. In answer to a question from J. Andresen, Provost Dallal said that the administration had vetted the proposal in terms both of finance and of space. A motion was

proposed and seconded **to approve the creation of a Department of Neurology in the Faculty of Medicine.**

Vote 2011-21: the motion was approved unanimously.

5. *Proposal from the Board of Graduate Studies for a Masters degree in Finance, OSB.* S. Chahine presented the proposal by PowerPoint, showing that the demand for a professional one-year masters degree in finance was considerable and that it would generate income for the university. Two new faculty lines were envisaged. Most courses would be offered within OSB while some courses in financial economics would be offered within FAS. Dean Najjar added that from an outside perspective the proposal was in line with most accredited schools of business where an MF degree was offered alongside an MBA. In reply to a question from VP Diab, S. Chahine said that it was a terminal degree, not intended to lead into a doctoral program; a thesis or project was not part of such a professional degree, research methodology being embedded in particular courses. In reply to a question from D. Wrisley he added that a GRE requirement was not considered necessary for applicants. A motion was proposed and seconded **to approve the proposal for a Masters degree in Finance (MF).**

Vote 2011-22: the motion was approved unanimously.

6. *Proposal from the Board of Graduate Studies for a Master of Science degree in Human Resource Management within OSB.* D. Jamali presented the proposal by PowerPoint: she said that the demand for such a course was great, there being a need for HR expertise in banking as well as healthcare. The method of delivery of courses would be modular, as with the Executive MBA (2½ days per week, largely over weekends, for three weeks at a time), since the degree was designed for working professionals. Completion would be possible in one year with 30 credits, including a 3-credit project or practicum. Applicants had to have one year's experience in human resources. She proposed a motion which was seconded **to approve the proposal for a M.Sc. in Human Resource Management.** Dean Najjar added that, from an outside perspective the program would be an international trend-setter since there was no such existing program at present throughout the Middle East. As Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies, A. Safeddine said that it had consulted experts to scrutinize the proposal rigorously. After some discussion the question was called.

Vote 2011-23: the motion was approved unanimously.

President Dorman excused himself from the meeting leaving it under the chairmanship of Provost Dallal.

7. *Proposal from FAS to have a separate Psychology Department apart from the Social and Behavioral Sciences Department.* A. Dietrich said that there had been a separate Psychology Department from 1951 to 1976 when, to save resources at the outset of the civil war, it was merged with the Department of Sociology-Anthropology and with the Communication division of the English Department to form the SBS Department. Over the last seven or eight years there had been a large increase in the numbers of psychology undergraduate and graduate students, leading to difficulties of governance in a department with four independent disciplines. Since 2003 courses in psychology had been labelled separately from those in sociology-anthropology-communication, and no course was cross-listed. Having a separate department with its own identity would be a great benefit to students and would lead to new synergies, for instance with biology. It would be the fourth largest department in terms of student numbers. Dean McGreevy proposed a motion that was seconded **to establish psychology as a stand-alone department within FAS.** In answer to a question from D. Wrisley, R. Smith said that effectively since 2003 there had been little intellectual interaction between the psychology component of the SBS department and the components of sociology and anthropology.

Vote 2011-24: the motion was approved

8. *Proposed statement by the senate representative to the Board of Trustees.* A draft statement having been circulated by the senate representative, S. Sadek, before the meeting, senators complimented S. Sadek for his statement and made a few suggestions to add or subtract items. Provost Dallal read out a memorandum by President Dorman commenting on issues brought up in the statement. S. Seikaly said that the point of a statement by a representative of the senate was to present faculty views to trustees, and rebuttal was not part of the statement. S. Sadek said that he was grateful for the points raised by the President but he felt that even though his statement addressed some non-academic issues such as housing, nevertheless as representatives of faculty members senators were concerned with such issues which did need to be brought to the attention of the Board of Trustees. S. Talhouk regretted that the BOT would not have time to meet senators during its visit in June. Provost Dallal said that during other visits to AUB by trustees during the last two years he had gone out of his way to arrange meetings with senators, with members of faculties and with students, but that during the coming visit there was a very tight agenda of actionable items. W. Nasr said that he considered the senate representative's statement to be fair in requesting the BOT to take proper notice of the issues raised. In the end the senate representative thanked senators for their comments and said he would take them into account in his final statement.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

R. Smith, secretary