

American University of Beirut
Minutes of the University Senate
General Meeting of Friday 30 October 2009

Present: A. Abdelnoor, A. Abdel-Rahman, A. Abdul-Malak, H. Al-Harithy (by invitation), G. Araj, A. Dallal, N. Dajani, J. DeJong, H. Diab, P. Dorman (chairing), M. El-Sabban, L. Farhood, N. Ghaddar (by invitation), J. Ghafari, B. Hamad (by invitation), I. Hajj, K. Hindi, N. Hwalla, S. Isber, S. Jeffrey, M. Jurdi, A. Jurjus, S. Kenney, G. Matar (by invitation), P. McGreevy, L. Musfy, G. Najjar, A. Nasri, N. Nassif, S. Neaime, I. Nuwayhid, I. Osman, J. Radulski, S. Sadek, M. Salameh, S. Seikaly, N. Sinno-Saoud (by invitation), F. Sleiman, R. Smith, R. Sultan (by invitation), M. Tabbal, G. Zaatari (for M. Sayegh).

Absent: S. Arnaout, H. Huijer*, Z. Kassaify*, A. Kayssi*, R. Khauli*, M. Kisirwani, S. Maamari*, D. Wrisley*, R. Zurayk.

(* = regrets notified before meeting or on leave)

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

1. *Welcoming new senators.* The president read out the names of new senators welcoming them to the legislative body of the university: A. Dallal (provost), P. McGreevy (dean FAS) and M. Sayegh (dean FM, not present); S. Isber, S. Neaime, A. Nasri and M. Tabbal (FAS); A. Abdelnoor and M. El Sabban (FM); and Z. Kassaify (FAFS, not present).

2. *Approval of minutes.* The minutes of 24 June 2009 were approved unanimously as read.

3. *Observing a minute's silence to honour former colleagues Professor Emeritus Charles Abou-Chaar and Professor Emeritus Salim Maksoud.* N. Sinno-Saoud read out a memorial in honour of Professor Emeritus Charles Abou-Chaar. Dean Hwalla read out a memorial in honour of Professor Emeritus Salim Maksoud. The house stood for a minute's silence. Testimonies drafted in their honour are attached to these minutes and will be forwarded to their families.

4. *Elections to Senate Steering Committee and to vacancies on the Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs.* Nominations were made from the floor. A ballot was taken for the two nominees from FAS, A. Abdul-Rahman and S. Isber. The following senators were elected to the Senate Steering Committee:

FASF:	F. Sleiman	FHS:	M. Jurdi
FAS:	A. Abdul-Rahman	FM:	A. Abdelnoor
FEA:	A. Abdul-Malak	OSB:	K. Hindi

The president said that he would make an appointment of senator-at-large after consideration.

Nominations were made from the floor for the two vacancies on the Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs. The following senators were elected:

FAS:	A. Nasri	OSB:	I. Osman
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5. *FHS proposal to rename their B.S. degrees.* Dean Nuwayhid presented the recommendation from the FHS to change the name of FHS undergraduate degrees on university diplomas as follows:

1. From "Bachelor of Science major Environmental Health" to "Bachelor of Science in Environmental Health".
2. From "Bachelor of Science major Medical Laboratory Sciences" to "Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Sciences".

He stressed that these changes were in name only, in order for there to be consistency between what was stated in the catalogue and what was stated on university diplomas. He added that if the senate approved the recommendation, notice would be sent to the Ministry of Higher Education and to other higher bodies. The chair of the Academic Development Committee, N. Nassif, voiced his concern that the recommendation had not been made first to that committee. After deliberation it was felt that a recommendation for a change of name, without change of content, could be sent directly to the senate. The recommendation was approved unanimously (**vote 2010-01**).

6. Annual reports of senate committees and boards. Before proceeding with the reports, it was pointed out by Dean Hwalla that Appendix I of the Senate Bylaws had not yet been modified to include the Senate Committee on General Education, and the rules governing it, in accordance with the senate's vote (2008-38) of 26 June 2008. The President said that this would be corrected.

Board of Graduate Studies. The chairperson of the BGS, K. Hindi, presented a brief summary of its final report for 2008-09.

University Library Committee. G. Matar presented a summary of the committee's report.

University Disciplinary Committee. In the absence of Dean Kisirwani and pending receipt of a final report, the President asked senators to read the preliminary report of the UDC prepared by the committee's previous chairperson, K. Bitar.

University Publications Committee. The chairperson of the UPC, R. Sultan, presented a summary of its report. N. Dajani said that he was sad that such an important element of a university did not receive adequate funding and he requested the university administration to look into the matter. He added that in the 1980s AUB Press had had links with Syracuse University Press and he hoped that such links with other university presses might be reestablished.

University Research Board. N. Ghaddar presented the report of the URB for 2008-09 and said that a longer report was being prepared recommending various amendments to the way the URB worked with faculty research committees as well as amendments to procedures of review. She promised that the report would be corrected to include the names of committee members and chairperson.

Academic Development Committee. The chairperson of the ADC, N. Nassif, presented a brief summary of its report. There was discussion concerning courses chosen by special students coming from abroad based on entries in the university catalogue rather than on what might actually be offered. Such students should be informed as soon as the latter information became available.

Senate Steering Committee. The chairperson of the SSC presented the committee's report. He said that the vote taken by the senate in January 2009 (vote 2009-11) authorizing the SSC to prioritize issues arising from the Self-Study Report for future discussion in the senate was still to be put into effect.

Senate Committee on General Education. The chairperson of the SCGE, H. al-Harithy, presented a summary of its report stressing the importance of developing criteria of General Education in parallel with the development of course and program learning outcomes. She added that criteria were being developed for courses with a writing intensive component with the help of the Writing Center. N. Dajani said that he thought that the present GE criteria were unsatisfactory in that almost any course taught at AUB could be said to include elements of Humanities, Computational Skills and Science; moreover the same course might be taught in quite different ways by different teachers. Dean Najjar said that it was important for program and course learning outcomes to be aligned to mission statements. Provost Dallal said that these issues would be followed up by the committee in the course of the year.

Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs. The chairperson of the SCFA, S. Seikaly, presented a summary of its annual report. He pointed out the need for the university administration, as a matter of principle, to consult regularly with the SCFA.

University Admissions Committee. The chairperson of the University Admissions Committee, B. Hamad, presented a summary of its report for 2008-09. VP Diab underlined the importance of transforming the University Preparatory Program (UPP) into a full foundational program in order to increase diversity in student admissions, following the senate's vote on 29 May 2009

(vote 2009-21). I. Osman reinforced VP Diab's point by saying that the existing formula for admissions didn't capture many who had good potential, and he added that, as a member of the Unified Admissions Committee, he hardly interacted with the University Admissions Committee. Dean Hajj said that the Unified Admissions Committee seemed to work on its own and he recommended that the two committees work together. Dean Najjar said that the frame of reference for increasing the diversity of student admissions should be the Strategic Plan, and he proposed that a 2-plus-2 structure be considered whereby students be properly grounded for entry at the junior level. A. Abdul-Rahman asked the administration to remember the economic aspect of admission to AUB, that many students were too poor to enter AUB without financial support. N. Dajani recalled the practice of fifty years ago in which the top 10% of students were admitted from particular schools. M. Jurdi said the work of the Unified Admissions Committee was to implement decisions taken by the University Admissions Committee but that this year it would be looking at criteria of admission and working therefore closely with the latter committee.

After further discussion President Dorman thanked all committees for their work and committed their reports to file.

7. Potential issues to discuss in the senate during 2009-10. I. Osman thanked the administration for raising the morale of the faculty with its new guidelines on promotion but added that they needed further clarification particularly in setting uniform benchmarks for departmental promotion committees. President Dorman said that he realised that the process of implementing new procedures would take time but he reiterated his conviction that promotion files should be prepared within departments and he said that the present year was a good year to improve the guidelines in light of the extra year given for faculty to apply for promotion. He added that contract renewals would become more meaningful with longer contracts, something of which he was in favour. Provost Dallal said that a manual for chairpersons of departments would soon be released and that improvements to the promotion process over the course of the year would be made in close collaboration with chairpersons. In a point of order A. Abdul-Rahman said that the present concern was to establish issues to discuss in the senate in future, not to discuss the issues themselves. Accordingly the following issues were recommended for discussion in the senate during 2009-10.

1. Promotion procedures, including length of contracts and the role of service;
2. University fees and the overall cost of the university to students;
3. Budgets for academic units in comparison with administrative units;
4. Faculty salaries;
5. Opportunities for continuing education;
6. Alignment of teaching loads across all faculties;
7. Evaluation of teaching;
8. HIP and Plan B.

S. Sadek suggested that, in view of the importance of these issues, the senate meet more than once a month. President Dorman said that much work could be done by Ad Hoc committees devoted to particular issues.

8. Other business. There was none.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

R. Smith, secretary

**Professor Emeritus Charles Abou Chaar (1915 – 2009)
A Leading Scholar at the American University of Beirut**

Born in Egypt in 1915, Professor Abou-Chaar earned his bachelor's degree from AUB where he worked for several years before and after he obtained his PhD in pharmacognosy in 1961 from the University of Washington. He joined the Biology Department in 1977 following the closure of the School of Pharmacy. At the time, he had taught most of the pharmacists in the Arab World. He was an international expert in medicinal plant chemistry & he contributed to the development of pharmaceutical science.

Professor Abou Chaar was a founding member of the Lebanese Association for the Advancement of Science and the Order of Pharmacists, where he sat on the editorial board of the Lebanese Pharmaceutical Journal. In 1986, the Lebanese Ministry of Education awarded him the Education Gold Medal, First Rank; In 1993, he received the Bronze Medal of the World Food Day of the Rome-based FAO; and in 1994, he was awarded the Gold Medal of the Order of Lebanese Pharmacists and the United Nations FAO Memorial Medal on natural diversity. At the Biology Department, Professor Abou Chaar contributed significantly to teaching and research in botanical sciences. To the graduate students he was not only an advisor; he was a mentor & a furtherer. He was exemplary as a scientist, meticulous, dedicated and highly organized. For those who knew Professor Abou Chaar, we are certain they remember how humble he was. He addressed everyone with great respect.

Professor Abou Chaar stopped teaching at the Biology Department in 1985, but he never actually considered himself as a retiree. One of his latest and post retirement publications in 1991, was *The Woody Plants of AUB Campus*, which is a valuable documentation of all the woody trees and their locations across AUB campus.

Professor Abou Chaar was for many years the curator of the Post Herbarium. During the most difficult years of the civil war in Lebanon the Post herbarium was under his supervision. We owe it to him that the very valuable plant specimens from Lebanon & the Middle East are preserved. He continuously stressed the value of the herbarium as being one of the treasures of AUB.

Professor Abou-Chaar is succeeded by his children, Alexander and Mary as well as by his grandchildren.

Professor Abou Chaar, will always be an inspiration to all his students & colleagues. He was one of a kind & he will always be dearly missed.

Nada Sinno Saoud, Ph.D.
Biology Department
Post Herbarium curator

Professor Emeritus Salim Maksoud

On June 24, 2009, the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences lost one of its founders and dear professor of Irrigation for many years. Professor Emeritus Salim Maksoud was an expert and invaluable source on water resources and irrigation in the Middle East. After earning degrees in civil engineering and agricultural economics from AUB (BA 1940, BS 1945), Dr. Maksoud earned both an MSc. and PhD (1962) in engineering from the University of California at Davis.

He joined AUB as an adjunct professor in 1947, teaching in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences both agriculture and engineering courses, ultimately becoming head of the Agricultural Division in 1955, and a full professor in 1964 in FAFS. The development of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences in its early years was made possible through the dedicated and instrumental work of Dr. Maksoud. He carried this commitment and dedication for the faculty with him up to his final days. The generous donations he has made to FAFS have resulted in an on-going project aimed at conserving water in the Middle East.

Between 1966 and 1989, Dr. Maksoud simultaneously worked as an associate and consultant for Dar Al-Handasah while continuing to teach at AUB. He worked tirelessly to establish and lead the Resources and Environment Department and was actively involved in the design and supervision of more than 200 water-related projects in Africa and the Middle East. During his work with Dar Al-Handaseh, he trained many agriculture students who later became leaders in the region. Dr. Maksoud participated in numerous World Bank and United Nations projects and enthusiastically assisted with Lebanon's post-war reconstruction efforts.

Dr. Maksoud was also active in civic life, serving as president of the Litani Authority for more than 30 years and as a member of the board of several ministerial committees. His concern for Lebanon's water resources was reflected not only in his professional career and civic duties but also in his volunteer work. Well into his eighties, he served as head of Lebanon's National Hydrologic Committee where he contributed to many initiatives aimed at preserving and conserving Lebanon's diminishing water resources.

He is survived by his children, Wadih Maksoud, Mona Nawfal and Nada Maksoud all of whom are AUB Alumni and his AUB family.