

**American University of Beirut
Minutes of the University Senate
Meeting of Friday 25 February 2011**

Present: A. Abdelnoor, A. Abdel-Rahman, M.A. Al-Alaoui, M. Al Ghoul (by invitation), J. Andresen, G. Araj, S. Arnaout, L. Choueiri, A. Dallal, J. DeJong, H. Diab, P. Dorman (chairing), M. El-Sabban, L. Farhood, J. Ghafari, I. Hamati-Ataya, N. Hwalla, S. Isber, A. Jaffa (for M. Sayegh), D. Jamali, Z. Kassaify, A. Kayssi, S. Kenney, R. Khauli, P. May, P. McGreevy, F. Moukalled, G. Najjar, W. Nasr, I. Nuwayhid, I. Osman, J. Radulski, S. Sadek, M. Salameh, S. Seikaly, F. Sleiman, R. Smith, M. Tabbal, S. Talhouk.

Absent: R. Brow, H. Huijer, M. Jurdi, A. Jurjus, R. Khayat-Toubia, I. Lakkis, S. Maamari*, T. Nizameddin, B. Shayya, D. Wickens, D. Wisley.

(* = regrets notified before meeting or on leave)

Before calling the meeting to order President Dorman asked senators to accompany him to the front steps of Marquand House for the annual photograph.

The meeting was called to order at 2:08 p.m.

1. *Approval of minutes.* The minutes of the regular meeting of the senate on 28 January 2011 were approved unanimously as read.

2. *Observing a minute of silence to honour former colleagues, Professor Emeritus Costas Issidorides and Professor and Dean Kanaan Kano.* The Chairperson of the Chemistry Department, M. Al Ghoul, read out a memorial to honour Professor Emeritus Costas Issidorides. On behalf of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, Acting Dean Moukalled read out a memorial to honour Professor and Dean Kanaan Kano. The house stood for a period of silence. Testimonies drafted in their honour are attached to these minutes as Appendix I and will be forwarded to their respective families.

3. *Housing update.* VP Radulski went briefly through the three-page memorandum "Housing Facts and Figures at AUB" which had been circulated to senators with the meeting's agenda. President Dorman then explained the work of the Housing Task Force and of the sub-committee on housing in the neighbourhood of AUB. The purpose of the Task Force, he said, was to consider policies, the criteria by which different categories of housing were allocated, and why exceptions occurred. He mentioned also the need to improve residential facilities for students coming from abroad, adding that such plans had to be integrated with the present master plan. By the June meeting of the Board of Trustees he hoped to have proposals in place. J. DeJong, member of the Housing Task Force, added that selected interviews with faculty had revealed further concerns, firstly with the Housing Purchase Plan, which is considered insufficient, secondly with the law whereby rents may be increased without limit after three years, and thirdly with the termination of housing benefit after thirteen years when there is no security of academic tenure at the university. With regard to the circulated memo, S. Sadek questioned the proportion of housing allocated to senior administrative personnel rather than to faculty, and he wondered whether four-bedroom apartments on campus could not usefully be broken into two. I. Osman criticized existing policy that made it difficult for faculty to buy an apartment during their first three years. In answer to a further question from S. Talhouk concerning the proportion of on-campus housing allocated to administrative personnel, President Dorman said that indeed the Task Force was considering who in administration needed to be on campus all the time. S. Talhouk added that some apartments should be reserved for academic visitors, a suggestion supported strongly by W. Nasr. I. Osman suggested that dormitories might be used to generate income from short-term rentals during the summer. In reply to a question from R. Khauli concerning long-term planning, President Dorman said that the university was looking into the purchase of old buildings in Ras Beirut with an eye to their development. A. Abdel-Nour questioned whether the focus of long-term planning should only be on AUB's neighbourhood, which is among the most expensive in Beirut. Some senators wondered why the university had had no such long-term planning in the early 2000s before real estate prices started to rocket.

4. *Proposed revision to the policy on Emeritus Status.* Provost Dallal said that there were two differences in the proposed revision from the existing policy, firstly that the period of service would now be fifteen years instead of ten, and secondly that nominations should come from departments, without automatic initiation by Human Resources. In response to a comment from M.A. Al-Alaoui he defended the idea that emeritus status should not be automatic but an honour. Some senators questioned the need for a category of dean emeritus distinct from professor emeritus, since deans are invariably professors. J. Andresen wondered why there had to be a period of a year before someone retiring could enjoy emeritus status, and whether during the intermediate period such a person would cease to enjoy privileges such as use of the library. The provost said that there was a legal difficulty to immediate enjoyment of emeritus status. In response to a question from R. Khauli, Provost Dallal said that only the honorary title of emeritus had been considered, not that of others such as adjunct professor. He agreed to a suggestion from S. Sadek to remove the condition stated under item 3.2 that opinions of external referees might be sought. S. Seikaly proposed a motion which was seconded **to approve the proposed revision to the policy on emeritus status omitting item 3.2.**

Vote 2011-13: the motion was approved unanimously.

5. *Other business.*

1. In view of the recent circulation of emails to AUB faculty regarding the facility for loans from the Comptroller's Office, S. Seikaly requested that VP Radulski clarify a number of unclear points.
2. In reply to a question from I. Osman regarding email quota on the internet, Provost Dallal said that this is in process.
3. In reply to a request for clarification from I. Osman regarding hardship loans, VP Radulski said that the issue is being looked into.
4. In reply to a question regarding the recent financial performance of pension plans, VP Radulski said that a report would be circulated after the meeting.
5. Reporting on the recent three-day visit of trustees, President Dorman said that trustees were hugely energized by looking at improvements on the campus. He said that a number of meetings took place including two long sessions with the Academic Development Committee. The Executive Committee approved the recent recommendation by the senate on term limits. A new official logo and seal would soon be implemented.
6. In response to a question from J. DeJong, President Dorman said that the university is considering taking a delegation to New York to provide expert advice on the current situation in the Middle East.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

R. Smith, secretary

Appendix

Professor Emeritus Costas Issidorides

The Chemistry Department lost one of its most distinguished members, Emeritus Professor Constantine Issidorides. Professor Issidorides passed away on Saturday, November 13, 2010 at his home in Woodland, California, USA. He would have been 90 years of age, on December 15th, 2010. He is considered to be the founder of modern research in Organic Chemistry at AUB, as he published research results in prestigious international journals such as the Journal of the American Chemical Society and the Journal of Organic Chemistry.

Professor Issidorides is the co-inventor (with Professor Makhlof Haddadin) of the Beirut Reaction, named in honor of the city in which it was invented. This important reaction proved to be of great medicinal use as thousands of heterocyclic anti-bacterial compounds can easily be made through it,

such as the commercially trade names of Mecadox and Carbadox. Recently, Tirapazamine, a drug in its third stage of clinical testing as an anti-cancer drug (for the neck and head), is reported to be made by the Beirut reaction as well. The manufacturing and sales of these drugs by Pfizer corporation (the largest drug company in the World) yielded substantial royalties for AUB and Research Corporation Technologies of Tucson, Arizona, USA.

The internationally renowned Professors of Chemistry at UC Berkeley, Clayton H. Heathcock and Andrew Streitwieser Jr. stated in their second edition of their voluminous book Introduction to Organic Chemistry : "A special debt of thanks is due to Professor Costas H. Issidorides, American University of Beirut, who critically evaluated the entire 1200 pages of the second edition and made hundreds of useful suggestions, many of which have been incorporated in the edition".

Upon his retirement from AUB in 1986, the Lebanese Ministry of Education, in recognition of his outstanding services, decorated Professor Issidorides with a pure gold medal (first rank), the back of which was engraved, in Arabic fine font, with the wise saying: "Open a school you close a jail", which Professor Issidorides cherished fondly.

Professor Issidorides shall be greatly missed by AUB, the scientific community worldwide, and by all those who knew him.

Professor and Dean Kanaan Kano

It is with great sadness that we share the news that our colleague Kanaan Kano passed away on January 22, 2011.

Dr. Kano joined AUB in 1954 as an instructor and was promoted to the rank of assistant professor in 1957, associate professor in 1962, and then to professor in 1969, having obtained his PhD in 1963 from Yale University.

He was the first chairman of the Electrical Engineering Department when the Faculty of Engineering was reorganized and the Departments of Architecture, Civil, Electrical, and Mechanical Engineering were established. He initiated the master's degree program and was instrumental in the formulation of the faculty and student exchange program between the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture at AUB and the School of Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The program was funded by a \$500,000.00 donation from Gulf Oil Inc. for a period of five years.

After the tragic death of Dean Raymond S. Ghosn in 1976 and following a transitional period, Dr. Kano was appointed the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture where he served from 1977 to 1982, a very turbulent period for AUB and Lebanon.

In 1985, he joined the L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science at Syracuse University.

Dr. Kanaan Kano's academic career was remarkable. Besides prominence in research, he authored two books: *Physical and Solid State Electronics*, published by Addison-Wesley in 1972, and *Semiconductor Devices*, published by Prentice-Hall in 1997.

He was known among his colleagues for his firm personality, tenacious determination, and assertive leadership, and is fondly remembered by his students for the full-voiced, dense lectures of his didactic courses.

Dr. Kano is survived by his widow Elizabeth and their four children: Michael, Gina, Naela and Riad.

Our deepest condolences go to the Kano family, his relatives, his friends, and colleagues. His memory will dwell with us.

May his soul rest in peace.