

**American University of Beirut  
Minutes of the University Senate  
Meeting of Friday 7 January 2011**

Present: A. Abdelnoor, A. Abdel-Rahman, M.A. Al-Alaoui, G. Araj, S. Arnaout, R. Brow, L. Choueiri, A. Dallal, I. Dayya (for S. Kenney), J. DeJong, P. Dorman (chairing), J. Ghafari, H. Huijjer, N. Hwalla, S. Isber, A. Jaffa (for M. Sayegh), D. Jamali, A. Jurjus, Z. Kassaify, A. Kayssi, R. Khauli, R. Khayat-Toubia, P. McGreevy, J. Melki (by invitation), G. Najjar, W. Nasr, I. Nuwayhid, I. Osman, J. Radulski, A. Safieddine (by invitation), M. Salameh, S. Seikaly, F. Sleiman, R. Smith, M. Tabbal, S. Talhouk.

Absent: J. Andresen\*, H. Diab, M. El-Sabban, L. Farhood\*, S. Jeffrey, M. Jurdi, I. Lakkis\*, S. Maamari\*, F. Moukalled\*, T. Nizameddin, S. Sadek, B. Shayya\*, D. Wickens, D. Wrisley\*.

(\* = regrets notified before meeting or on leave)

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

1. *Approval of minutes.* The minutes of the regular meeting of the senate on 26 November 2010 were approved unanimously with minor corrections.

2. *Observing a minute of silence to honour former colleagues Dr. Peter Dodd and Emeritus Professor Sami Klink.* On behalf of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Dean McGreevy read out a memorial to honour Dr. Peter Dodd. On behalf of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, M.A. Al-Alaoui read out a memorial to honour Emeritus Professor Sami Klink. 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. *Proposal for a Master of Arts degree in Media Studies.* On the President's invitation, J. Melki presented the 22-page proposal that had been circulated to senators on 23 December. After defining media studies and pointing out that it was a growth area in the region, he said that the proposal aimed at a liberal, critical curriculum rather than a purely professional or practical one. He added that media studies in the department of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) had been expanding over the last few years with the establishment of a diploma and the construction of a laboratory, funded generously by the Khayyat family. Provost Dallal then proposed a **motion to approve the proposal** which was seconded.

In opening discussion, I. Osman said that the need for a master's degree in media studies was indeed pressing but he criticized the lack of administrative structure for setting up a program that crossed different faculties and had the potential to be more ambitious. He added that he had a 120-page proposal that could attract large European funding. In reply, Provost Dallal said that the proposal on the table was designed to be based in the SBS department with a limited number of elective courses taken from other faculties. He added that there would be a university-wide steering committee. Dean Najjar said that he wished that the Olayan School of Business had been consulted more fully in listing elective courses in business, since their being listed created an expectation of their being always offered, which could not be guaranteed; moreover would graduate students from SBS wishing to take business courses meet the stringent criteria required by the School for its own students? M.A. Al-Alaoui then made a number of suggestions to clarify terms such as "scientific method" and "critical skills" and he recommended that courses be given their own acronym like MES instead of SOAN.

As someone who had been teaching one course in anthropology per semester in SBS since 1998 R. Smith said that he had two reservations to the proposal. Firstly, it did not go far enough in being what could be a radical new degree in the region, inter-disciplinary and critical, housed perhaps in a new Center for Engaged Social Science. Instead it followed the usual tired logic of adding another degree to a small department already overburdened and under-resourced with two majors, six or seven minors, one diploma and four MAs. He recommended that the proposal be

returned to the Board of Graduate Studies, since it paid only lip-service to being liberal and critical, its nature being technical: both of the proposed new courses, SOAN 307 and 308, were technical in nature rather than critical. His second major reservation was in the effect that the proposed MA would have on the department. Contrary to the impression conveyed in the proposal there was no separate Media Studies Program but a communication component within a joint undergraduate degree in sociology-anthropology. Adding an extra faculty line specialized in communication or media studies, as proposed, would inevitably affect the balance of courses offered for the joint degree. Moreover, there was no consensus within the department about what the relation between communication and sociology or anthropology should be; a specialized MA in media studies could not ride on the back of a joint undergraduate degree in the absence of such agreement. In reply, J. Melki said that there had been unanimous approval of the proposal within the department and that he had subsequently consulted with a number of faculty members over the draft proposal. He added that it was a misunderstanding to label as technical many of the graduate seminar courses in media studies.

In further discussion G. Araj said that while a proposed MA in media studies would be a clear asset to the university and while there might be logistical problems in its implementation, division within a department should not affect discussion of the merit of the proposal within the senate. W. Nasr said that procedurally the proposal had been brought to the senate through the correct channels, and that initiative to establish a new program in the liberal arts should not be discouraged on account of calls for greater inter-disciplinarity. S. Seikaly added that discussion should focus on the proposal in hand, which he felt was justified. S. Talhouk, however, said that the university administration was to blame for the absence of clear guidelines in proposing inter-disciplinary programs, and she felt that re-discussion was necessary. I. Osman said that AUB's brand-name was at stake: did it want to be seen producing a bicycle instead of a Mercedes?

Dean McGreevy said that the proposed master's degree was not the same as a program with a more substantial business component and that he was in favour of its critical and humanistic aims. He recommended approval of the degree with the stipulation that discussion continue with the SBS Department, himself as dean, and Provost Dallal on two issues:

1. the final structure of the curriculum, with the possibility that minor changes may be introduced before the proposal is submitted to the Board of Trustees in March 2011; and
- 2 the optimal administrative structure for the media studies program.

The question was then called. There was a secret ballot.

**Vote 2011-07: the motion with the added stipulation was approved (For 18, Against 9).**

4. *Term limits of senate members.* President Dorman said that he was in favour of having this matter discussed at a later date in the interest of shared governance in the university. Limiting the term of senators would give a chance to younger faculty to participate in university governance. The matter could be brought to the senate perhaps by the Senate Steering Committee.

5. *Proposed Unified Graduate Policy.* Provost Dallal presented the proposed policy saying that it had been circulated within the university for some time and that feedback had been especially sought from Ph.D.-granting departments. Suggestions were made by various senators. Dean Najjar said that the issue of financial aid should be clarified. M.A. Al-Alaoui recommended modifying the tables on page 2 concerning Graduate Assistants and Graduate Research Assistants, and he said that provisions regarding dismissal of a graduate student, which seemed to him to border on the dictatorial, should be more clearly stipulated. Provost Dallal said that it was important that departments have flexibility in judging whether a student was progressing satisfactorily or not, since getting good grades in courses was not the same as making critical judgments in research. S. Seikaly questioned the wisdom of putting a Ph.D. student on probation since in his view there was a qualitative difference between doctoral research and research for a master's degree, and a doctoral student should not be discouraged once engaged in research. F. Sleiman commented that a Graduate Council, mentioned on pages 4 and 12ff. did not yet exist; and he added that the timing of assigning a thesis advisor should be clarified. I. Osman said that universities in Europe had a variety of grading policies which made the transfer of credits not

easy; he said that a conversion chart was available and he suggested clarifying the difference between the thesis and the non-thesis option stated on page 6. Dean Nuwayhid said that the Faculty of Health Sciences should be added to the faculties listed on line 2 of page 11 concerning the form of theses deposited in the Saab medical library, and he suggested adding an introductory sentence stating that different programs such as MBA and MPH have different requirements. Dean Najjar said that the clause at the bottom of page 6 requiring an MBA student to take 6 credits in pre-MBA courses should be dropped, since those requirements had now been changed. In reply to a question from S. Seikaly whether two examiners from outside Lebanon be required for a doctoral dissertation, Provost Dallal said that the university intended to appeal this to the ministry. In reply to a question from R. Smith, Provost Dallal said that modifications would be made to the Unified Graduate Policy as various matters (such as those concerning the proposed Graduate Council) were approved by the relevant committee, without having to return to the senate for its approval. The question was called.

**Vote 2011-08: the motion was approved (For 15, Against 1).**

6. *Other business.* There was none.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

R. Smith, secretary

## **Appendix**

### Peter Carter Dodd

Professor Peter Carter Dodd passed away on November 25, 2010 in Victoria, Canada. Born in Beirut in 1930 when his father Stuart Dodd was professor of sociology at AUB Peter spent his childhood and early adulthood in Beirut.

After graduating from Princeton he received his PhD in Sociology from Harvard University. In 1966 he joined AUB where he was professor of sociology until 1986 when he joined the United Nations, before becoming Director of the Fulbright Foundation in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Peter was married to Erica Cruikshank Dodd, a daughter of Dr. W. Douglas Cruikshank who was professor of medicine at AUB. She also taught art history at the AUB CS Program and the Department of History and Archeology from the 1960 to the mid-1980s.

Retiring to Victoria, Peter was active with the Canadian Institute of International Affairs (CIIA).

Prof. Dodd spent his life, together with his wife, encouraging understanding between the Arab world and the West. He was a great teacher, an outstanding colleague and a devoted and sincere friend. He earned the respect of his AUB colleagues and students for his scholarship, humility, and respect for others as well as for his profound understanding of the concerns of the Arab world. His unreserved empathy with the region's national struggles made him loved and admired by his students. He will always be remembered for his integrity and character.

Peter is survived by his wife Erica Cruikshank Dodd; their four children and families: Frances, Erica May, Alexander, Daniel; and his brother Bruce Dodd in Berkeley.

### Professor Emeritus Sami Abboud-Klink

It is with great sorrow that I announce the passing of Dr. Sami Abboud-Klink Tuesday, January 4, 2011. Prof. Abboud-Klink, a prominent professor, who effectively contributed to the development of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture.

Dr. Abboud-Klink joined AUB as a student in 1954 and then as a full-time assistant professor in 1968; he remained at AUB until his retirement as a Professor of Civil Engineering in 1993. Upon his graduation from the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture in 1958, Dr. Abboud-Klink worked as a professional consultant for two years and then in 1960 he joined Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in the U.S. where he obtained a Master's of Civil Engineering in 1961. Following that Dr. Klink spent two years in the U.S. working for prominent consulting offices. Back in Lebanon in 1963 he joined the Executive Council for Major Projects for the City of Beirut as head of the planning and design section and at the same time joined AUB as a part-time assistant professor. In 1966 Dr. Klink rejoined RPI where he earned another Master of Science Degree in Mechanics and his PhD in Civil Engineering. After which, he return to Lebanon and AUB to a full-time position in the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture in 1968. Emeritus status was awarded to Dr. Klink in 1995.

Dr. Abboud-Klink's academic career was marked his extraordinary energy and complete devotion to his work; this resulted in the prominence in his research and teaching. The research he did is highlighted by the pioneering work that led to a major contribution to the field of concrete structures through the introduction of fiber-glass as a major reinforcing element in concrete; this proved to have major advantages over the commonly used steel reinforcement. A patent was awarded for this new material/invention.

Throughout his career Dr. Abboud-Klink maintained a high level of professionalism in all his dealings and invariably gained the respect of his supervisors, peers, and students as a demanding teacher. Dr. Klink was the recipient of a number of honors and awards topped by the Medal of Honor awarded to him by the President of the Republic of Lebanon for his achievements and contributions to the field of engineering. Dr. Klink never ceased to stand firm in his belief and devotion to AUB, his profession, and his country. Dr. Klink is survived by his son Butros and grandchildren Sami, Rayan, and Aya.

As we meet in this assembly the funeral ceremonies are being held; services will be held for paying respect and offering condolence on Saturday, Jan. 8 and Sunday, Jan. 9, 2011, between 11:00 am and 6:00 pm, at the Rukad El-Sayedeh Church in Mhaidese (Bikfaya).

Our deepest condolences go to the Abboud-Klink family, to his sons Butros, and all his family, relatives, friends, and colleagues. His memory will dwell with us. May his soul rest in peace.