

American University of Beirut
Minutes of the University Senate
Meeting of Wednesday 23 June 2010

Present: A. Abdelnoor, A. Abdel-Rahman, A. Abdul-Malak, G. Araj, N. Batley (by invitation), L. Choueiri, N. Dajani, A. Dallal, J. DeJong, H. Diab, P. Dorman (chairing), M. El-Sabban, L. Farhood, J. Ghafari, I. Hajj, G. Hamadeh (by invitation), K. Hindi, H. Huijjer, S. Isber, A. Jaffa (for M. Sayegh), F. Jamali (by invitation), M. Jurdi, A. Jurjus, Z. Kassaify, A. Kayssi, R. Khayat-Toubia, M. Kisirwani, M. Massoud (by invitation), P. McGreevy, L. Musfy, S. Neaime, G. Najjar, A. Nasri, I. Nuwayhid, I. Osman, M. Salameh, S. Seikaly, F. Sleiman, R. Smith, M. Tabbal, S. Talhouk (for N. Hwalla).

Absent: S. Arnaout, S. Jeffrey*, S. Kenney*, R. Khauli*, S. Maamari*, N. Nassif*, J. Radulski, S. Sadek, R. Zurayk. (* = 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 special meetings of the senate on 4 and 8 June 2010 were both approved unanimously as read.

2. *Observing a minute's silence to honour former colleagues Dr. Fouad Salim Haddad and Professor Emeritus Azmi Hanna.* On behalf of the Faculty of Medicine, Department of Anesthesiology, A. Jaffa read out a memorial statement to honour Dr. Fouad Salim Haddad. On behalf of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Mathematics, H. Abu Khuzam read out a memorial statement to honour Professor Emeritus Azmi Hanna. Testimonies drafted in their honour are attached to these minutes and will be forwarded to their families.

3. *Voting of degrees, June 2010 graduates.* The Senate voted unanimously to grant degrees to the June 2010 graduates as listed by the Registrar's Office and presented serially by the respective Deans (**vote 2010-20**).

4. *Report on Board of Trustees decisions.* President Dorman said that the main item on the agenda of the general meeting of the Board of Trustees was the presentation of a master plan for the new medical centre; approval of the concept of master plan and of a preparatory phase budget followed the presentation. He said this was a big ten-year project that would require moving the auditorium of Issam Fares Hall and demolishing Faculty-I housing, to meet the cost of which – some three hundred and sixty million dollars – a dedicated campaign would have to be organized. Other decisions of the Board of Trustees had been to approve postponing a tuition increase on fifteen credits until 2011-12 and of holding the annual increase in fees on undergraduate tuition at 4 per cent over the next three years; approval of promotions and appointments, and of granting the status of professor emeritus to John Waterbury; and approval of various other items. In answer to a question from N. Dajani he said that the issue of faculty housing had now risen to the top of the Boards' consciousness, partly as a result of the demolition of Faculty-I housing and partly in recognition of the need to retain new faculty members coming from overseas. He added that a task force had been set up to look into the issues of faculty housing. In answer to a further question from N. Dajani the president said that he was well aware of the need for classrooms and offices for FAS, adding that the university had a duty to preserve the historic structure of FAS buildings while redesigning them internally. In answer to a question from A. Kayssi, the president said that the university would be borrowing a large sum of money in local currency at a favourable rate and he hoped this would kick-start the campaign to seek major donors.

5. *Report of the Senate representative to the Board of Trustees.* A. Abdul-Rahman, the senate representative, said that the senate's statement had been circulated to members of the board two weeks in advance of the general meeting, with the result that in the meeting board members were apprised of the senate's concerns. He felt that there had been progress on the issue of faculty housing, as already noted by the president, as well as on a new method of calculating interest on investment funds and on hardship withdrawal. F. Sleiman commented that in that case thanks were due to the Senate Committee for Faculty Affairs for having emphasized these issues.

6. *Proposal on restructuring Basic Sciences departments in the Faculty of Medicine.* Representing the Senate Academic Development Committee, M. Massoud summarized the process by which a task force had examined the restructuring of the basic science departments in the Faculty of Medicine, and its proposal had been approved first by FM then by the ADC. F. Sleiman proposed a motion, which was seconded, **to recommend to the senate merging the Departments of Human morphology and Physiology to become the "Department of Anatomy, Cell Biology and Physiological Sciences"**.

The motion was approved unanimously (vote 2010-21).

F. Sleiman then proposed a further motion, which was seconded, **to recommend to the senate renaming the other three existing departments as follows:**

- *Department of Experimental Pathology, Immunology and Pathology*
- *Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics*
- *Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology.*

A. Jaffa clarified the distinction between Laboratory Medicine, which related to clinical practice, and Experimental Pathology, which related to research.

The motion was approved unanimously (vote 2010-22).

7. *Proposal on periodic review of academic programs.* Representing the Senate Academic Development Committee, M. Massoud read out a proposed statement from the ADC. F. Sleiman proposed it as a motion, which was seconded, **to recommend to the Senate the Policies and Procedures within the document "Proposal on periodic review of academic programs", for the purpose of institutionalizing periodic review of academic programs, whereby all undergraduate and graduate programs and departments will be reviewed at least once every six years, provided no more than four departmental reviews are initiated in any one year. The review process shall consist of two main steps: a self study carried out by the department/program concerned followed by an external review and concluded by an action plan adopted by the Provost, Deans and Departments for implementation.**

In answer to a question from S. Seikaly, Provost Dallal said that the initiative for the move had come from the provost's office and was part of the ongoing process of re-accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). He emphasized that the important initial step would be a department's self-study, followed later by external review, and he added that it would apply particularly to those faculties not involved in professional accreditation. After some discussion, the question was called.

The motion was approved unanimously (vote 2010-23).

8. *HIP in Department of Emergency Medicine.* In answer to a request for clarification from G. Araj, M. Batley, director of emergency services, explained the process of deciding what treatment should be applied when a faculty member of AUB presented at the emergency room. He said that there were five levels of acuity, of which the first two were treated immediately within the ER while the other three might be referred for treatment as an extension of Family Medicine. G. Hamadeh, chair of Family Medicine, explained further

that the arrangement between ER and Family Medicine was essentially a matter of money, and he went into some detail of how procedures in the ER had been established over the last eight years: doctors treating patients in emergency were entitled to payment, but the amount was considered by the managers of HIP to be more than could be covered by the present premiums; some disparity in treatment of HIP patients therefore existed at present although it was a matter of continuing negotiation. N. Dajani recounted his own experience, as a contributing member of HIP, having had to wait for treatment in the ER while a colleague under other insurance cover had been treated immediately. F. Jamali said that, as acting chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine, he felt that everyone should be treated equally; moreover the population of HIP contributors was special in being part of the same community as the doctors; he was therefore committed to continuing negotiation with the managers of HIP and to securing rates for emergency treatment as beneficial as possible for HIP contributors. M. Batley added that the average time of waiting in an emergency room in the USA was 222 minutes, by which standard AUH was doing extremely well. In the absence of a quorum Provost Dallal called an end to further discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

R. Smith, secretary

Attachments: Memorial statements in honour of Dr. Fouad Salim Haddad and Professor Emeritus Azmi Hanna.