

**American University of Beirut**  
**Minutes of the University Senate**  
**Special Meeting of Friday 4 June 2010**

Present: A. Abdelnoor, A. Abdel-Rahman, G. Araj, L. Choueiri, N. Dajani, A. Dallal, H. Diab, P. Dorman (chairing), L. Farhood, J. Ghafari, I. Hajj, H. Huijjer, N. Hwalla, K. Hindi, S. Isber, A. Jaffa (for M. Sayegh), A. Jurjus, A. Kayssi, S. Kenney, P. McGreevy, G. Najjar, N. Nassif, S. Neaime, I. Nuwayhid, I. Osman, J. Radulski, S. Sadek, S. Seikaly, F. Sleiman, R. Smith.

Absent: A. Abdul-Malak, S. Arnaout, J. DeJong, M. El-Sabban, S. Jeffrey\*, M. Jurdi, Z. Kassaify, R. Khaulil\*, M. Kisirwani, S. Maamari\*, L. Musfy, A. Nasri, M. Salameh\*, M. Tabbal\*, R. Zurayk. (\* = regrets notified before meeting or on leave)

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

Provost Dallal requested that an additional item be included on the agenda concerning the new graduate admissions since its implementation was urgent. It was pointed out that at its last meeting on 28 May the senate had approved postponing discussion of this item until its next general meeting on 23 June while the present meeting was a special meeting with just three items on the agenda. The senate approved calling another special meeting of the senate on 8 June to discuss the proposal on graduate admissions policy from the Board of Graduate Studies.

1. *New tuition policy.* VP Kenney briefed the senate on the new tuition and financial aid policy in a 16-slide PowerPoint presentation; a print-out of the presentation was at the same time circulated to senators along with explanatory tables on (A) Summary of university expenses by academic and non-academic unit, and (B) Forecasted implications of the tuition and financial aid policy over the next five years according to six different options. In answer to questions, VP Kenney said that all students would be able to benefit from the new loan scheme for the full value of tuition independent of need; that the cost to the university of guaranteeing students taking loans from the Banque du Liban would be almost nothing; and that the proportion of expenses on academic to non-academic units is expected to increase from 75% in 2009-10 to 76.4% in 2010-11. President Dorman added that, in order to allay students' concerns over transparency, a proper mechanism would be put in place to oversee the administration of financial aid. S. Sadek said that it was unfortunate that tuition increase had been announced at the same time as the new policy on loans since the latter stood on its own. He added that tuition increase should be a last resort; students would like to see an alternative. F. Sleiman said that holding tuition increase to 4% over the next few years was welcome but with fees being charged up to 15 credits instead of 12 the increase to a parent might well be 25%. He also asked whether the university was adequately prepared if students who were unable to pay for more than 12 credits stayed at the university for a fourth year. On two further points President Dorman assured the senate firstly that no increase in the teaching load of faculty would accompany the charge on 15 instead of 12 credits and, secondly, that a student would be considered full-time when enrolled in 12 credits, not 15. The president added that he was in favour of students staying longer at the university since it was a unique period of their lives, and he hoped that the new financial aid policy would help students to do this. In reply to a point raised by N. Dajani that the university needed to improve its communication with faculty and students, President Dorman said that there would be a number of meetings over the coming months.

2. *Revised statement by the Senate representative to the Board of Trustees.* On a show of hands the revised statement was approved by the senate.

3. *Sabbatical-type leaves.* There being now no quorum, this item was postponed to the special meeting on 8 June 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

R. Smith, secretary