

American University of Beirut
Minutes of the University Senate
Special Meeting of Tuesday 8 June 2010

Present: A. Abdelnoor, A. Abdel-Rahman, A. Abdul-Malak, L. Choueiri, N. Dajani, A. Dallal, P. Dorman (chairing), N. Ghaddar (invited), J. Ghafari, I. Hajj, N. Hwalla, K. Hindi, S. Isber, A. Jaffa (for M. Sayegh), M. Jurdi, A. Jurjus, A. Kayssi, M. Kisirwani, P. McGreevy, N. Nassif, S. Neaime, I. Nuwayhid, I. Osman, S. Sadek, M. Salameh, S. Seikaly, F. Sleiman, R. Smith, M. Tabbal, R. Talhouk (invited).

Absent: G. Araj*, S. Arnaout, J. DeJong*, H. Diab*, M. El-Sabban, L. Farhood*, H. Huijjer*, S. Jeffrey*, Z. Kassaify*, S. Kenney, R. Khaulil*, S. Maamari*, L. Musfy*, G. Najjar, A. Nasri, J. Radulski, R. Zurayk. (* = regrets notified before meeting or on leave)

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

On Provost Dallal's request and with the approval of the senate item 3 of the agenda concerning sabbatical-type leaves was deferred to a meeting early in 2010-11 pending further consideration by the provost.

1. *Approval of minutes.* The minutes of the general meeting of the senate on 28 May 2010 were approved unanimously as read.

2. *Proposal on graduate admissions policy from the Board of Graduate Studies.* Provost Dallal introduced the draft statement of policies for the admission of graduate students to AUB approved by the BGS. He said that if approved by the senate the statement would be sent to the Registrar for inclusion in next year's catalogue. A task force on graduate admissions policies would make other recommendations in the future, and he mentioned in this regard setting up a Graduate Council separate from the Board of Graduate Studies concerned with the daily administration of graduate policies. A. Abdelnoor said that the status of visiting students should be clarified in regard to their payment of tuition fees, particularly regarding those attached to the Faculty of Medicine. K. Hindi, chairperson of the BGS, said in reply that the issue had been raised repeatedly and that no consensus had yet been reached. Other issues were discussed concerning automation of the whole process of admissions, consistency in language, visiting students again, and the various dates by which applications had to be received. N. Ghaddar and R. Talhouk, members of the aforesaid task force, noted editorial changes to the statement as these were suggested and agreed upon by senators. S. Seikaly proposed a motion which was seconded that **Students who hold a minor in the intended field of specialization, and who have attained a cumulative average of 80 in minor courses, may be considered for admission as Regular students upon the recommendation of the department and the approval of the Faculty Graduate Committee.** There was extensive discussion whether the motion could not usefully be broadened to include what departments considered adequate undergraduate preparation in the intended field of study.

The motion was passed (Vote 2010-18: 11 for, 7 against).

A further motion to approve the statement as amended was passed unanimously (vote 2010-19).

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

R. Smith, secretary