

**American University of Beirut
Minutes of the University Senate
General Meeting of Friday 28 May 2010**

Present: A. Abdelnoor, A. Abdel-Rahman, S. Arnaout, N. Dajani, J. DeJong, H. Diab, M. El-Sabban, L. Farhood, I. Hajj (chairing), N. Hwalla, K. Hindi, S. Isber, A. Jaffa (for M. Sayegh), M. Jurdi, A. Jurjus, A. Kayssi, S. Kenney, M. Kisirwani, P. McGreevy, L. Musfy, A. Nasri, N. Nassif, I. Nuwayhid, I. Osman, S. Sadek, M. Salameh, S. Seikaly, F. Sleiman, R. Smith, M. Tabbal.

Absent: A. Abdul-Malak, G. Araj, L. Choueiri*, A. Dallal*, P. Dorman*, J. Ghafari*, H.Huijer*, S. Jeffrey*, Z. Kassaify*, R. Khaulil, S. Maamari*, G. Najjar*, S. Neaime, J. Radulski*, R. Zurayk.

(* = regrets notified before meeting or on leave)

The meeting was called to order at 2:07 p.m.

On the suggestion of the chairperson, dean Hajj, and with the approval of the senate items 2 and 9 of the agenda concerning the new tuition policy and sabbatical-type leaves were moved to a special meeting of the senate to be called on 4 June 2010. On the suggestion of S. Seikaly and with the approval of the senate, item 5 concerning the graduate admission policy proposed by the Board of Graduate Studies was moved to the next regular meeting of the senate on 25 June 2010.

1. *Approval of minutes.* The minutes of 30 April 2010 were approved unanimously as corrected.

2. *Statement by the Senate representative to the Board of Trustees.* The senate representative A. Abdel-Rahman summarized the draft statement he had circulated with the meeting's agenda. There was extensive discussion on the content of all four items of the statement and suggestions were made about its form. Dean Hajj finally closed further discussion saying that written suggestions should be emailed by senators to A. Abdel-Rahman before Monday 31 May in order that he be able to submit a revised statement for the senate's approval in the special meeting of the senate on 4 June 2010.

3. *Voting of degrees, Faculty of Medicine.* The senate voted unanimously to approve granting the degree of Doctor of Medicine to the 69 candidates listed in the memo presented by A. Jaffa and prepared by the registrar's office dated 28 May 2010 (**vote 2010-16**). A. Jaffa recalled that on 6 May 2010 the senate had approved by circular vote (**vote 2010-15**) granting the degree of Doctor of Medicine to six candidates, whose names are appended to the same memo of 28 May. The senate also voted unanimously to approve granting the degree of Doctor of Medicine with distinction to the nine candidates against whose name appears the letter D on the same memo (**vote 2010-17**).

4. *Plan A/Plan B committee report.* VP Kenney said that the issue was still under discussion particularly concerning faculty members who were at the lower end of the salary scale. In answer to a question by S. Sadek he said that nothing had changed since VP Radulski's statement on the comparative benefits of Plan B over Plan A [senate minutes of 29 January 2010] but that attention now concerned inequity at the margins.

5. *Faculty Housing update.* VP Kenney said that this issue was discussed in the meeting of the BOT in May with the Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs, and that a committee had been formed to look into the question of revising the housing allowance. I.Osman said that the SCFA recommended the establishment of a special fund from which faculty members would be able to draw in order to purchase accommodation.

6. *Report of the meeting of the Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs with the BOT.* The chair of the SCFA, S. Seikaly, said that three items had been brought to the attention of the BOT in May: a) housing, b) retirement plan B, and c) university governance. The third item was unfortunately not discussed because the meeting was adjourned at 12 o'clock before the item was raised. The spokesperson of the SCFA for housing, J. DeJong, then reported that three issues were brought up: i) the desire of faculty to have housing close to the campus, particularly in light of the recent decision to demolish Faculty-I; ii) the recent increase in rents, particularly in al-Hamra; and iii) the difficulty of finding affordable good housing, especially close to the campus. She said that the present housing allowance was insufficient and that the present financial assistance to faculty members wishing to purchase housing was little help. VP Kenney said that the university was presently negotiating a loan of some 250 million dollars over ten years in order to be able to improve faculty housing, student housing, and the general infrastructure of the university.

On the question of retirement plan B, A. Kayssi said that there was discussion over the optimum proportion of stocks to bonds. He added that, for faculty members nearing retirement, trustees were sympathetic to a greater proportion of funds being allocated to a completely secure investment.

F. Sleiman said that he was dismayed that the issue of university governance had not reached a point of discussion, since it seemed clear that some trustees did not know what the function of the senate was.

7. *Other business.* N. Dajani said that item (b) of the minutes of 30 April concerning HIP insurance in emergency was still pending.

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

R. Smith, secretary