

**American University of Beirut
Minutes of the University Senate
Meeting of Friday 29 October 2010**

Present: A. Abdelnoor, A. Abdel-Rahman, M.A. Al-Alaoui, G. Araj, S. Arnaout, S. Atweh (by invitation), L. Choueiri, A. Dallal, J. DeJong, H. Diab, P. Dorman (chairing), A. El-Hajj (by invitation), M. El-Sabban, L. Farhood, J. Ghafari, I. Hamati-Ataya (by invitation), N. Hwalla, S. Isber, A. Jaffa (for M. Sayegh), D. Jamali, M. Jurdi, A. Jurjus, A. Kayssi, S. Kenney, R. Khauli, I. Lakkis, G. Matar (by invitation), P. McGreevy, F. Moukalled, , W. Nasr, N. Nassif (by invitation), T. Nizameddin, I. Nuwayhid, I. Osman, J. Radulski, S. Sadek, H. Sader (by invitation), A. Safieddine (by invitation), M. Salameh, S. Seikaly, F. Sleiman, R. Smith, M. Tabbal, S. Talhouk, D. Wisley.

Absent: J. Andresen*, R. Brow*, H. Huijer*, S. Jeffrey, Z. Kassaify*, R. Khayat-Toubia*, S. Maamari*, G. Najjar*, B. Shayya*.

(* = 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 23 June 2010 were approved unanimously as read.

2. *Welcoming new senators.* The president read out the names of new senators welcoming them to the legislative body of the university: F. Moukallad (Acting Dean, FEA), W. Nasr, Bassam Shayya (not present) and J. Andresen (not present) (FAS), A. Al-Alaoui and I Lakkis (FEA), S. Talhouk (FAFS), and D. Jamali (OSB).

3. *Elections to Senate Steering Committee and to vacancies on the Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs.* Nominations for the SSC were made from the floor. A ballot was taken for the three nominees from the faculty of Medicine, the two nominees from the faculty of Engineering and Architecture, and the two nominees from the faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences. The following senators were elected to the Senate Steering Committee:

FAFS:	S. Talhouk	FHS:	M. Jurdi
FAS:	A. Abdul-Rahman	FM:	L. Farhood
FEA:	S. Sadek	OSB:	D. Jamali

S. Isber (FAS) had already been appointed to the SSC by the president as senator-at-large. D. Wisley regretted the unprofessional manner in which the ballot was taken, without proper ballot papers and without the candidates having been properly introduced.

Nominations were made from the floor for the two vacancies on the Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs. The following senators were elected or reelected:

FAFS:	F. Sleiman
FAS:	M. Tabbal
FHS:	J. DeJong

4. *Granting a posthumous MD degree to John Abi-Hashem, Faculty of Medicine.* A motion to grant a posthumous MD degree to John Abi-Hashem was proposed and seconded. R. Smith said that he was unhappy at the manner in which the issue had come about since it involved comparison with the case of a student in FAS who had died tragically in January at the time of final examinations: firstly, he said, a question had been raised by the brother of John Abi-Hashem whether rules and regulations regarding the award of posthumous degrees had not been changed in the case of the FAS student; secondly it had been stated in a letter to the dean of FM by the president that FAS had recommended granting a degree posthumously to its student “on the basis of course work”, which strictly speaking was incorrect as FAS had recommended granting a degree to the student like any other student, not as a special case. M. Salameh said that indeed the FAS student had not been a special case for he had completed course requirements in

the three courses necessary for his graduation at the time of his death, and his grades were already posted on SIS. F. Sleiman said that the case should nevertheless have been brought to the attention of the senate as involving the award of a posthumous degree; and he requested that in future the senate should be informed of all special cases. W. Nasr said that if what the registrar said was true the FAS case was not a precedent for the FM case. Provost Dallal said that it had been made very clear to FM that the case of John Abi-Hashem should be judged on its own merits, not in relation to the FAS case. Associate Dean S. Atweh said that the FAS case had been mentioned only to explain why the case of Abi-Hashem was being considered by FM, not as a precedent: Abi-Hashem's records from 1972 had been examined, it was found that he had died during his year of internship, his fifth year of study, with only two elective clinical rotations to complete, and the faculty recommended granting him a degree posthumously because since 1984 an MD degree is granted at the end of the fourth year before the year of internship. John Abi-Hashem had thus completed all requirements for the MD degree according to present regulations. I. Osman said that if it was true that the Board of Trustees had refused to grant John Abi-Hashem a posthumous degree in the past, it would be necessary for the case to be brought to the BOT to rescind its previous decision. W. Nasr said that in the event that similar cases might be brought for consideration the senate should be prepared through its vote to admit the case of John Abi-Hashem as a precedent for the future. After further discussion the question was called.

Vote 2011-01: the motion was carried (25 for, 0 against)

5. *Annual reports of senate committees and boards.* President Dorman asked the chairperson of each committee to present its report.

University Admissions Committee. N. Nassif presented the report for the previous chairperson B. Hamad. There were no comments.

Academic Development Committee The chairperson N. Nassif presented the report summarizing the committee's activities during 2009-10. He said that some important issues, notably that of faculty workload, would continue to be discussed during 2010-11.

Board of Graduate Studies. A. Safieddine presented the report. S. Seikaly regretted the absence of a timetable of meetings that might allow departments to present recommendations in good time. In answer to a question from G. Araj Provost Dallal said that the existing master's program in Clinical Psychology was housed in the department of Social and Behavioural Sciences of FAS, and that an appropriate response would be made by the BGS if FM were to recommend another program in clinical psychology. A. Abdelnoor said that the proposed program in clinical psychology in FM was a certificate program rather than a master's program.

University Disciplinary Committee. In the absence of Dean Najjar, the annual report of the UDC was taken as read. In answer to a question from J. Ghafari about impersonation by students from other universities in final examinations, I. Nuwayhid said that the case had been fully investigated and those concerned had been punished appropriately.

University Library Committee. G. Matar, chairperson of the ULC, presented the report. S. Seikaly expressed concern at the large number of journals whose subscription had been cancelled without, he felt, adequate consultation with departments. Provost Dallal said that on the contrary all departments had been consulted, moreover it was open to anyone to recommend subscription to a particular journal.

University Publications Committee. H. Sader, chairperson of the UPC, presented the report, saying that future activity of the committee depended on commitment by the university to maintain a university press.

University Research Board. M. Tabbal, chairperson of the URB, presented the report. A. Abdelnoor commented that the report showed the outlay in grants without giving an idea of what was accomplished with the grants. I. Osman hoped that research reports of faculties might be combined into a university-wide report.

University Committee on Student Affairs. No report was received.

Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs. S. Seikaly, chairperson of the SCFA, said that he was sure that the two major issues with which the committee had been concerned during 2009-10 would continue to exercise the committee during 2010-11, namely the operation of Plan B

and the dire situation with regard to housing for faculty. President Dorman commented that the BOT hoped to be present at AUB for its annual meeting next June.

Senate Steering Committee. F. Sleiman, chairperson of the SSC, presented the report. He said that the actions of the committee amounted to the agendas of meetings of the senate throughout the year.

Senate Committee on General Education. A. El-Hajj, chairperson of the SCGE, presented the report. I. Osman voiced his concern that professional skills recognized by the Lebanese Baccalaureate were being squeezed out by university requirements of General Education.

Provost Dallal said that an Enrollment Task Force was looking into the matter.

President Dorman thanked all committees for their work and committed their reports to file.

6. *Potential issues to discuss in the Senate during 2010-11.* The following issues were proposed.

1. Promotion policies.
2. Unified Bylaws.
3. Sabbatical-type leaves.
4. Tenure. President Dorman said that he would like there to be discussion on what tenure could or could not provide, what the financial implications of reinstating tenure might be, and what advantages it could bring to AUB.
5. Term-limits to membership on committees, for instance allowing a maximum of two consecutive terms on a committee in the interest of greater involvement by faculty members in university governance.

W. Nasr asked the Senate Steering Committee, in coordination with the provost, to set priorities for these items. I Nuwayhid recommended stating precise objectives of discussion on an issue in order to move forward from sometimes very full previous discussions.

7. *Other business.* F. Sleiman asked that a mechanism be activated that would allow money in a member's Memo Account to be kept in a bank after retirement.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

R. Smith, secretary