

American University of Beirut
Final Minutes of the University Senate
Meeting of Friday, October 6, 2022

Present: I. Abou Faycal, A. Abu-Alfa, H. Abu-Khuzam, F. Afiouni, N. Al-Akl, A. Al-Hroub, I. Baalbaki, S. BouJaoude, A. Daou, Z. Dawy, S. Elbassuoni, L. Farhoud, T. Ghaddar, A. Ghauch, N. Hwalla, G. Honein, M. Jaber, M. Khraiche, S. Kharroubi, F. Khuri, S. Mallat, M. Massoud, J. Maalouf, N. Melhem, L. Musfi, M. Nasrallah, A. Olabi, A. Sabra, K. Scheid, Y. Shaib, Y. Sidani, A. Shihadeh, A. Sibai, R. Sultan, F. Ziyadeh, R. Zurayk

Absent: S. Zein-el-dine, J. Doumar*, S. Altug*, R. Boustany, P. Bou-khalil, N. Dumit*, S. Karaki

(* = regrets notified before meeting)

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m.

1- Observing a moment of silence to honor Dr. M. Haddadin, Dr. R. Saliba and Dr. A. Saad

President Khuri called to stand for a moment of silence in the memory of Prof. M. Haddadin. FAS Interim Dean, S. Boujaoude, read out an honorary statement about M. Haddadin. President Khuri informed the Senate of the recent passing away of Prof. Robert Saliba from MSFEA. Dean A. Shihadeh added that he would be emailing a formal announcement shortly. President Khuri called to stand for a moment of silence in the memory of former FAFS Dean A. Saad. Interim FAFS Dean Olabi read out an honorary statement about Professor Emeritus and former FAFS A. Saad.

2- Approval of June 7, 2022 Senate meeting minutes:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 7, 2022 and seconded. The minutes were approved as circulated with a vote of 29 (for)- 0 (against) – 2 (abstain).

3- Voting of Degrees for Summer 2022 Graduates

Interim Dean Boujaoude recommended awarding degrees to the indicated students in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS). **A motion was made to award degrees to the candidates in FAS. Vote 2022-01. The motion was approved unanimously.** Acting Dean Ziyadeh recommended awarding degrees to the indicated students in the Faculty of Medicine (FM). **A motion was made to award degrees to the candidates in FM. Vote 2022-02. The motion was approved unanimously.** Interim Dean Farhoud recommended awarding degrees to the indicated students in the Rafic Hariri School of Nursing. **A motion was made to award degrees to the candidates in HSON. Vote 2022-03. The motion was approved unanimously.** Dean Shihadeh recommended awarding degrees to the indicated students in the Maroun Semaan Faculty of Engineering and Architecture (MSFEA). **A motion was made to award degrees to the candidates in MSFEA. Vote 2022-04. The motion was approved unanimously.** Interim Dean Olabi recommended awarding degrees to the indicated students in the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences (FAFS). **A motion was made to award degrees to the candidates in FAFS.**

Vote 2022-05. The motion was approved unanimously. Dean Sibai recommended awarding degrees to the indicated students in the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS). **A motion was made to award degrees to the candidates in FHS. Vote 2022-06. The motion was approved unanimously.** Dean Sidani recommended awarding degrees to the indicated students in the Faculty of Suliman S. Olayan School of Business (OSB). **A motion was made to award degrees to the candidates in OSB. Vote 2022-07. The motion was approved unanimously.**

4. President's Khuri welcoming new Senate members:

President Khuri welcomed the following new members to the Senate: Dean of Student Affairs N. Al-Akl; and faculty members from the various faculties: **FAS:** K. Scheid, J. Doummar, H. A. Sabra; **HSO:** G. Honein; **FHS:** M. Massoud; **MSFEA:** M. Khraiche; I. Abou Faycal; **FAFS:** R. Zreik. He also announced that T. Ghaddar of FAS had kindly agreed to serve as Senate Secretary.

5. Report on the September 2022 meeting of the Board of Trustees:

The President briefed the Senate on the BOT meeting of September 2022. The BOT inaugurated the newly renovated Dar Al-Handasah Architecture Building during their visit and the Ayman and Sawsan Asfari Institute building. The BOT elected a new trustee member who is an AUB graduate, Fouad Tamer.

6. Annual reports of Senate Committees and Boards, 2021-22

The annual reports of the Senate committees and boards were circulated before the meeting. The chairs of the following committees/boards were invited to highlight key points and respond to questions from Senate members: Senate Admissions Committee; Board of Graduate Studies; University Disciplinary Committee; Library Committee; University Publications Committee; University Research Board; University Committee on Student Affairs; Academic Development Committee; Senate Steering Committee; Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs.

President Khuri suggested to the involved senate committees (mainly to the Board of Graduate Studies, Library Committee and University Publications Committee) to encourage students to publish, after a question about establishing an AUB journal for graduate students was raised. Dean Shihadeh pointed out that it is an expectation in engineering and the physical sciences that graduate students publish their work in international peer-reviewed journals, and that building and operating at AUB the infrastructure for a journal for graduate student work may not be the best use of time and money. Associate Provost, F. Afiouni welcomed the coordination with the publications committee on this matter due to her involvement in the MRVP and URVP programs.

President Khuri asked SCFA to work on the gender discrimination of the current AUB's HIP system.

7. Elections to Senate Steering Committee (SSC) and Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs (SCFA)

Elections took place for the members of two Senate committees after Provost Dawy explained the committees' function and elections rules. The nominees and elected committee members were as follows:

Senate Steering Committee (SSC)

FAS: A. Ghauch (was nominated and elected by acclamation)

FM: M. Nasrallah (will continue to serve)

MSFEA: L. Musfi (will continue to serve)

FAFS: S. Kharroubi (will continue to serve)

FHS: N. Melhem (will continue to serve)

OSB: F. Afiouni (will continue to serve)

HSOIN: G. Honein (was nominated and elected by acclamation)

Secretary of the Senate: T. Ghaddar

Senate member appointed to the SSC by the President: R. Sultan

Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs (SCFA)

FAS: S. Elbassuoni (elected with 14 votes) [also nominated was R. Sultan (14 votes); 3 abstentions, but withdrew and agreed to serve as Senator at Large for SSC based on a request from President Khuri]

FM: A. Abu Alfa (will continue to serve)

MSFEA: M. Khraiche (elected with 20 votes) [also nominated was I. Abou Faycal (9 votes); 1 abstention]

FAFS: N. Hwalla (will continue to serve)

FHS: M. Masoud (elected by acclamation)

OSB: A. Daou (will continue to serve)

HSOIN: N. Dumit (elected by acclamation)

8. Election of two faculty members to serve on the University Promotion and Tenure Committee (UPTC) during AY 2022-23

Provost Dawy explained the guidelines and asked the Senate to elect 2 new members (out of 24 nominees) to the UPTC. The elections were performed over 2 rounds due to the large numbers of nominees. In the first round, the nominees from only FAS and FM were divided into 2 pools,

where 2 members of each of these two faculties were selected by voting and added to the rest in a final pool for the second round.

The results of the first round for FM and FAS were as follows:

FM:

First round: R. Mahfouz (7 votes)

Second round: R. Nasr (15 votes) [also nominated was N. Zgheib (11votes); 4 abstentions]

FAS:

First round: H. El Rassy (13 votes)

Second Round: K. Makdisi (13 votes) [also nominated was W. Raji (12 votes); 1 abstention]

The results of the second round were as follows:

UPTC Member 1: H. El Rassy (16 votes) [also nominated was R. Mahfouz (11 votes); 4 abstentions]

UPTC Member 2: N. Hwalla (15 votes) [also nominated was R. Mahfouz (11 votes); 5 abstentions]

9. Approval of Proposal: AUB Online 5-term calendar

Dr. Asfour presented a proposal for a 5-term calendar for “for-credit” AUB online programs. The 5 terms (F1, F2, S1, S2 and summer terms) consist of 7 weeks each, during which students can apply at any stage and accepted up to 2 weeks prior to the term start. Late applications are automatically considered for the consecutive term. Students can skip a term in certain disciplines and rejoin at any stage on a condition that no sequential courses are missed out during this stage.

A Senate member raised a question about the minimum number of students required to keep a program running. Dr. Asfour explained that this depends on the program and that the respective Dean has to decide depending on cost. Another Senate member inquired about the courses delivery methods and the instructors’ remuneration. Dr. Asfour explained that each program has its own material delivery methods that insures high quality and high engaging learning practices. Provost Dawy explained that the Deans of the different faculties are currently working on which programs would be offered online and their approvals will follow AUB’s guidelines and regulations similar to any other new in-person academic program. He also informed the Senate that what’s at stake is just approving the online calendar and at a later stage new programs will be discussed before their approvals.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the AUB Online 5-term calendar. Vote 2022-08. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Other business

A Senate member inquired about the early start of the academic terms. President Khuri explained that this is mainly due to the fact that issuing grades is done late by faculty members and the Registrar needs time to finalize the list of graduates, bearing in mind that the BOT needs to have beforehand a set time agenda (up to 5 years ahead).

President Khuri made a few remarks and announcements; He asked the Senate to relay to faculty, to address female professors and administrators the same way they do with the males. He announced that AUB was granted the UNESCO-Hamdan Award for its "TAMAM Project for School-Based Educational Reform". He also informed the Senate that the students' enrollment numbers look good up to date, but will have the final figures by end of October.

A Senate member requested that SCFA work on a proposal on how to mitigate the complete depletion of the Lebanese pound part in the faculty and staff salary in the near future due to the high increase in schooling tuitions that will result in much higher taxes.

A Senate member inquired about the possibility of reinstating the home-leave benefit. Provost Dawy asked the Senate member to bring this up at the faculty level before sending a request to SCFA to work on a proposal.

Another Senate member asked the Senate to revise AUB's policy on public service. President Khuri recommended to study the policy well and "digest it" before bringing it to the SSC for discussion.

A Senate member made a remark concerning the discrepancies in the number of teaching hours between the TTh and MWF courses for the coming Spring semester. The Provost noted the issue, which would be mitigated soon.

A Senate member inquired about the late distribution of the ICE's to faculty members last semester. The Provost explained that this was mainly due to technical issues related to license expiry. This is being worked on and will be resolved soon.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 4:37 pm.

(Minutes recorded by T. Ghaddar, Secretary of the Senate)