

**American University of Beirut
Minutes of the University Senate
General Meeting of Friday 27 February 2009**

Present: A. Abdel-Rahman, A. Abdul-Malak, G. Araj, S. Arnaout, K. Bitar, N. Cortas, N. Dajani, N. Darwiche, J. DeJong, P. Dorman (chairing), L. Farhood, N. Ghaddar (by invitation), J. Ghafari, I. Hajj, K. Hindi, H. Huijjer, M. Jurdi, A. Jurjus, A. Kayssi, S. Kenney, M. Kisirwani, G. Najjar, W. Nasr, I Nuwayhid, I. Osman, J. Radulski, S. Sadek, M. Salameh, S. Seikaly, B. Shayya, F. Sleiman, R. Smith, R. Zurayk.

Absent: R. Dean*, H. Diab*, R. Haddad, N. Hwalla*, R. Khauli*, S. Maamari*, W. Masri, L. Musfy*, N. Nassif*, M. Nimah, M. Obeid, D. Wrisley*.

(* = regrets notified before meeting or on leave)

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.

1. *Approval of minutes.* The minutes of 30 January 2009 were approved as read.

President Dorman welcomed N. Dajani newly elected by FAS to replace L. Choueiry who is on leave.

2. *School of Nursing representation on Senate General Education Committee.* The secretary read out part of a motion approved by the senate on 30 May 2008 stating that the composition of the Senate Committee on General Education should include four elected members from FAS and “five other members, each representing one of the other faculties: FAFS, FEA, FHS, FM and SOSB”. After some discussion it was agreed that representation of the School of Nursing on the Committee was an internal matter within the Faculty of Medicine.

3. *The role of teaching and service in the promotion process [item 6 of the agenda].* N. Darwiche opened discussion by saying that although the criteria for promotion regarding research were clear, those regarding teaching and service were not, and this resulted in junior faculty giving priority to research over teaching and service. Dean Bitar said that in regard to teaching a committee had been formed in FAS three years ago which had in turn been succeeded by the formation of a university committee that was still in operation. W. Nasr confirmed this. Regarding the evaluation of service R. Zurayk pointed out that FHS had produced an excellent set of guidelines that could usefully be circulated to other faculties. There was discussion about the greater importance of service in FHS, FM and FAFS than in other faculties and of the different weight each faculty might give to the three components of research, teaching and service. There was discussion concerning alternative measures of teaching effectiveness and the need to balance quantitative measures with other forms of assessment. Dean Najjar said that for peer evaluation of teaching, some template was necessary for comparison to be fair, and that in the evaluation of service client feedback was important. Dean Cortas said that, in order to improve quality, the threshold of promotion in each of the three categories should be increased slightly every year. VP Kenney said that perhaps incentives could be introduced to reward service and research in a similar manner to rewards for excellence in teaching. President Dorman said in conclusion that members of the university committee on teaching effectiveness should be invited to submit a report to the senate by the end of the Spring semester, and he asked that the FHS document on the evaluation of service be circulated to other faculties.

4. *Integrated Faculty Bylaws [item 5 of the agenda].* W. Nasr distributed a two page memo outlining principles and guidelines for the unification of bylaws. He said that the process was a long one and that it would be useful to go over basic principles. F. Sleiman as a point of order said that this item was for discussion, not action, since the documents had not been circulated sufficiently in advance of the meeting. Dean Cortas said that the documents produced by the provost’s office were excellent but that the amendment of faculty bylaws required faculty involvement and this required time. Dean Bitar suggested that the documents should go back to the faculties for discussion and amendment; he added that the flow-charts were extremely useful. Acting Associate Provost N. Ghaddar said that the

documents were intended to facilitate discussion, not to force compliance. Dean Nuwayhid suggested that the provost's office liaise with the different faculties as consultation in each faculty proceeded. President Dorman said that he strongly endorsed the need for discussion of the document in each faculty and he requested that a revised proposal be submitted to the senate in its meeting at the end of May 2009.

5. *HIP update [item 4 of the agenda]*. I. Osman said that as stakeholders in HIP senators would have liked a report to have been circulated beforehand. President Dorman endorsed the request and asked that a report on HIP be presented at the next meeting of the senate.

President Dorman now having to leave he was asked to indicate when a new provost would be appointed. He said that the two shortlisted candidates had recently had a full range of interviews with faculty, students and administration at AUB, and he expected that a recommendation to the Board of Trustees would be made by mid-March.

6. *Proposed title of Preceptor Associate*. Dean Nuwayhid read out the following statement regarding the new academic title of Preceptor Associate.

This title is granted to current practitioners who are expected to supervise students in their practicum/internship in conjunction with a faculty member, on a non-remunerated basis. They should preferably have a Masters degree or higher or have a BA/BS degree and extensive professional experience. They should normally have a proven record of service as preceptor.

Candidates are recommended by the Coordinator of the Program, and approved by the Chair (when applicable) and by the Dean/Director after consultation with the Advisory Committee. The title is for a limited period not to exceed one year, subject to renewal following appropriate assessment of performance and/or need.

Preceptor Associates are not eligible for AUB benefits.

He said that preceptors were selected under a strict process and that the title of preceptor associate was given after only two or three years' proven record as preceptor. He added that recognition of the role of Preceptor Associate was necessary for accreditation, and that it applied mainly to FHS, SoN and FAFS. The title of Associate, which applied also in other faculties, was restricted to those who conducted research. He proposed a motion, which was seconded, **that the title of preceptor associate be approved**. There was discussion concerning the academic qualification of preceptors. Dean Nuwayhid reiterated that qualification for the title depended chiefly on successful practical experience. A motion of amendment **to drop the word "normally"** was seconded. After further discussion **the motion of amendment was approved by a clear majority (vote 2009-12) and the original motion without the word "normally" was approved unanimously (vote 2009-13)**.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Richard Smith, secretary