

American University of Beirut
Minutes of the University Senate
General Meeting of Friday 30 January 2009

Present: A. Abdel-Rahman, A. Abdul-Malak, G. Araj, S. Arnaout, K. Bitar (chairing), N. Cortas, N. Darwiche, R. Dean, H. Diab, L. Farhood, J. Ghafari, I. Hajj, A. Hamadeh (for J. Radulski), K. Hindi, H. Huijer, N. Hwalla, A. Jurjus, A. Kayssi, S. Kenney, W. Masri, L. Musfy, W. Nasr, N. Nassif, I. Osman, S. Ramia (for I Nuwayhid), S. Sadek, M. Salameh, S. Seikaly, B. Shayya, F. Sleiman, R. Smith, R. Zurayk.

Absent: I. Bashour, L. Choueiri*, J. DeJong*, P. Dorman*, R. Haddad, M. Jurdi*, R. Khauli, M. Kisirwani, S. Maamari*, G. Najjar, M. Obeid, D. Wrisley*.

(* = 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 9 January 2009 were approved as read.

Acting President Dean Bitar read out notices in memory of former president David Dodge and former interim president and Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences James Cowan. Dean Cortas then took the floor and spoke in memory of Professor Kamal Hemady of the Department of Surgery, former chief of the Division of Urology. The house observed a minute's silence in their memory. Testimonies drafted in their honour are attached to these minutes and will be forwarded to their families.

2. *Voting of M.D. degree.* On Dean Cortas' recommendation, the senate voted unanimously to approve granting the degree of Doctor of Medicine to Fadi Kaddoura (**vote 2009-08**). On a question of clarification raised by F. Sleiman, Dean Bitar said that the degree would be effective from the date of the senate's vote.

3. *Solicitation of comments on proposed sick leave policy for academics.* Dean Bitar introduced the proposed policy by saying that, there having been previously no sick leave policy for academics, the proposal had been considered by the Board of Deans which had voted in favour of its adoption; the proposal had therefore been forwarded to the senate for its consideration. After some preliminary discussion a motion was proposed and seconded **that the draft policy be referred to the Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs**. On points of clarification raised by R. Zurayk, A. Hamadeh said that academic staff, unlike non-academic staff, did not fall under Lebanese labour law and that the issue of how long a sick employee was paid was distinct from that of entitlement to HIP benefit. F. Sleiman asked whether the proposal applied to all academic instructors or only to those in the rank of assistant professor and above. S. Sadek said that it was unclear in the proposal what would happen after the period of paid sick leave was exhausted. Dean Bitar said that, in his opinion, the policy would apply to those under contract, and that renewal of contracts was a separate academic matter. After further discussion, **the motion was approved unanimously (vote 2009-09)**.

A. Hamadeh informed the senate that the new Life Insurance and Accidental Death and Dismemberment Policy on death benefit would become effective from 1st February.

4. *Senate action log, 2007-08.* A. Abdul-Malak, chair of the Senate Steering Committee, presented the senate action log for 2007-08 together with the list of motions in the senate during 2007-08. In answer to a question from I. Osman, he agreed that members should be elected to the Employee Benefits Committee for 2008-09 but said that that Committee did not fall under the senate's purview.

5. *Discussion of senate role in university governance.* A. Abdul-Malak, chair of the Senate Steering Committee, introduced a memorandum dated 21 January 2009 containing recommendations made in Chapter 3 of the Institutional Self-Study Report on Re-accreditation entitled "Leadership, Governance and Administration". He said that, following discussion in the senate on 9 January 2009 [item 3], the

Senate Steering Committee had prepared the memorandum for the senate's consideration. He proposed the following motion which was seconded: **The senate undertakes to address the issues raised and recommendations made in Chapter 3 of the self-study report in relation to the role of the Senate. The senate further instructs the Senate Steering Committee to prioritize the issues to be discussed and place them on the agenda of future meetings.** Dean Hwalla asked why the Senate Steering Committee needed the senate's authorization for action on this matter when it was already empowered to bring matters before the senate. K. Hindi, a member of the SSC, said in reply that the SSC preferred that the whole issue of university governance be reviewed rather than that particular issues be brought to the senate piecemeal. After further discussion the motion was withdrawn and a substitute motion was seconded omitting the reference to Chapter 3 (...recommendations made in the self-study report...). F. Sleiman, as a point of order, said that the motion was unnecessary and he moved to table it. **The motion to table was defeated (vote 2009-10: for 6, voting members present 26).** After further discussion **the substitute motion was approved by a clear majority (vote 2009-11).**

6. *Other business.* F. Sleiman requested that the Policies and Procedures website (<https://pnp.aub.edu.lb/>) be made reachable in future from the Academics menu on the main AUB website, not just from the Administration and Services menu as at present.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Richard Smith, secretary