

American University of Beirut
Minutes of the University Senate
General Meeting of Friday 9 January 2009

Present: A. Abdel-Rahman, A. Abdul-Malak, G. Araj, L. Choueiri, N. Cortas, N. Darwiche, I. Dayya (for S. Kenney), R. Dean, J. DeJong, H. Diab, P. Dorman (chairing), L. Farhood, J. Ghafari, I. Hajj, K. Hindi, N. Hwalla, M. Jurdi, A. Jurjus, A. Kayssi, R. Khauli, S. Maamari, L. Musfy, G. Najjar, W. Nasr, N. Nassif, I. Osman, J. Radulski, S. Sadek, H. Sader (for K. Bitar), M. Salameh, S. Seikaly, B. Shayya, F. Sleiman, R. Smith, D. Wrisley, R. Zurayk.

Absent: S. Arnaout, I. Bashour, R. Haddad, H. Huijer*, M. Kisirwani, W. Masri, I. Nuwayhid, M. Obeid.

(* = 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 28 November 2008 were approved as read.

2. *FEA amended committee bylaws.* Dean Hajj presented proposed amendments to faculty bylaws in the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, explaining that the amendments had been made in response to a call by the provost's office two years ago for each faculty to work towards the preparation of unified faculty bylaws. The proposed amendments had been approved by FEA and had been sent to the provost's office. Not having received a response from the provost's office, however, and following the example of FAS whose amended committee bylaws were approved by the senate at its last meeting on 28 November, he was bringing the amended faculty bylaws of FEA for the senate's approval. It was important, he said, for a faculty to operate according to up-to-date bylaws. He proposed a motion which was seconded **that the new faculty bylaws of FEA be approved as presented**. After considerable discussion President Dorman ruled that the best way to proceed towards unified faculty bylaws would be for each faculty to submit its proposed amendments to the provost's office for further action, as originally envisaged. The motion was withdrawn.

3. *Report of Accreditation Work Group III on leadership, governance and administration.* W. Nasr, now chairing, announced by way of introduction that the university reaccreditation committee had met earlier in the day and had approved a document to be submitted to the commission for reaccreditation. The document had been two years in preparation. Last April, each working group, including Group III, had been asked to prepare its report. The draft document had subsequently been circulated twice to the faculty. The process of preparation having now ended, any discussion of a working group's report in the senate would have no effect on that process. Questions were subsequently raised by senators Seikaly and Osman about the justification of bringing a particular working group's report to the senate in isolation from the whole and without the report having been circulated at least four days beforehand. A. Abdul-Malak, chair of the Senate Steering Committee, replied that, firstly, the draft document had been circulated to all faculty, and secondly that, four senators having requested the steering committee to put before the senate the issue of governance, the steering committee had thought it valuable to do so as a point of information. The issue of governance, he added, was of great importance, particularly in regard to the role of the senate, the senate's relation to the Board of Deans and to the university executives, and to its general effectiveness. W. Nasr repeated that the self-study accreditation report had been circulated and, as required, input from the constituencies of the University solicited. While a fair amount of the provided input was integrated into the self-study report, the Steering Committee was not bound to accept all suggestions. After further discussion, a motion to adjourn by F. Sleiman was seconded and passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Richard Smith, secretary