

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

Present: A. Abdel-Rahman, A. Abdul-Malak, G. Araj, S. Arnaout, K. Bitar, N. Dajani, N. Darwiche, J. DeJong, H. Diab, L. Farhood, N. Ghaddar, J. Ghafari, N. Hwalla (chairing), M. Jurdi, A. Jurjus, A. Kayssi, S. Kenney, R. Khauli, M. Kisirwani, W. Masri, F. Moukalled, L. Musfy, G. Najjar, W. Nasrallah (by invitation), N. Nassif, I Nuwayhid, M. Obeid, I. Osman, J. Radulski, S. Sadek, M. Salameh, S. Seikaly, B. Shayya, F. Sleiman, R. Smith, D. Wisley, F. Ziyadeh, R. Zurayk.

Absent: P. Dorman*, R. Haddad, K. Hindi, H. Huijjer*, S. Maamari*, M. Nimah.

(* = 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 27 February 2009 were approved as corrected.
2. *Summary of Board of Trustees' decisions.* Acting President Dean Hwalla read out a summary of decisions taken by the Board of Trustees in its meeting on 20 March 2009, as stated in a memorandum from the president dated 23 March 2009. N. Dajani asked for it to be noted that it had been the tradition for the Senate to be the first body to be informed of the appointment of all senior appointments.
3. *Voting of degrees, February graduates.* On recommendations of the Deans or Associate Deans of the different faculties, motions to approve the granting of degrees to those named in the registrar's list of February 2009 were passed unanimously.
4. *Election of the senate representative to the Board of Trustees' annual meeting.* A. Abdul-Malak, I. Osman and R. Zurayk were nominated for election. A ballot was taken in two stages resulting in the election of R. Zurayk by a majority of voting members.
5. *Proposed amendment to the Student Code of Conduct from the Library Committee.* The chair of the University Library Committee, W. Nasrallah, presented the proposed amendment to the Student Code of Conduct by which a new clause I.B.1 would be added relating specifically to library misconduct and clause I.A.4.d would be deleted. He argued that misconduct in the library, as a central institution of the university, should have its own subsection in the Student Code of Conduct, and that it was essential that the authority of library staff in matters of student misconduct be upheld. D. Wisley said that the Student Code of Conduct concerned procedure for dealing with student misconduct throughout the university, whether classroom, campus or library, and that it would be better to handle all cases coming before a higher disciplinary body under the same general headings. Dean Bitar complimented the Library Committee for its work but said that some provisions would benefit from editorial work to make them more flexible. N. Dajani proposed a motion, which was seconded, that **the proposed amendment to the Student Code of Conduct be referred back to the University Library Committee for reconsideration in the light of the senate's recommendations.** There was further discussion. D. Wisley said that the issue of authority within the library should be handled separately from the section on types of disruptive behaviour, for instance in Appendix 2B where special mention could be made of the library. There was some discussion whether the proposal should be referred to an Ad Hoc Committee since it concerned student affairs and discipline as well as the library.
The motion was carried by a clear majority (vote 2009-14, voting members present 30).
6. *Proposal for new undergraduate program: Extended four-year BSc in Nutrition and Dietetics.* The chair of the Academic Development Committee N. Nassif said that the proposal had been considered

by the ADC which had made some recommendations that were incorporated in the document circulated to senators. He proposed a motion, which was seconded, that **the new four-year undergraduate program in Nutrition and Dietetics be approved as circulated**. There was discussion over the need for a separate four-year degree. Dean Hwalla said that Lebanese law required a six-month internship to follow three years of undergraduate training and that what was proposed was to include that period within an extended four-year program during which students would be supervised by AUB faculty. A further reason for the new program was to meet requirements for professional accreditation for those wishing to practise in the US. She added that the new program would select only the top students of those who completed the three-year program. On a question from Associate Dean Ziyadeh over the different capabilities of the four hospitals where students would complete their internship, Dean Hwalla said that students would select the hospitals they wanted. After further discussion the question was called.

The motion was carried (vote 2009-15: 21 for, voting members present 25).

7. Proposal for new undergraduate program: BA/BSc in Applied Mathematics. The chair of the Academic Development Committee N. Nassif said that the proposal had been considered by the ADC which had made some recommendations that were incorporated in the document circulated to senators. He said that the new program could be put into operation using existing resources of the Mathematics Department since only one new course would have to be added to what the department already offered. He proposed a motion, which was seconded, that **the new undergraduate program in Applied Mathematics be approved as circulated**. Some questions of clarification were sought and there was a call for minor editorial changes in the proposal.

The motion was carried unanimously (vote 2009-16).

8. HIP update. VP Radulski said that, following a request from Dean Cortas to comment on some financial aspects of the report, he proposed either going through other parts of the report or postponing the presentation. Associate Dean Ziyadeh confirmed Dean Cortas' request. I. Osman circulated his own response to the report and suggested that, since the issue was important, a special meeting of the senate might be convened to discuss HIP. After some discussion a motion was proposed and seconded **to postpone discussion until the next regular meeting of the senate**.

The motion was carried unanimously (vote 2009-17).

9. Other business. F. Sleiman asked that the listing of officers of the university in the different faculty catalogues should be a matter for the senate's attention at its next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Richard Smith, secretary