

American University of Beirut
Minutes of the University Senate
General Meeting of Friday 30 May 2008

Present: A. Abdelnoor, A. Abdel-Rahman, A. Abdul-Malak, A. Al-Alaoui, K. Bitar, N. Cortas, J. Dargham, N. Darwiche, M. Darwish, R. Dean, M. El-Sabban, I. Hajj, P. Heath (chairing), K. Hindi, H. Huijjer, N. Hwalla, M. Jurdi, S. Kenney, R. Khauli, M. Kisirwani, L. Musfy, G. Najjar, N. Nassif, I. Osman, J. Radulski, M. Salameh, S. Seikaly, F. Sleiman, R. Smith, H. Zurayk.

Absent: H. Abu Khuzam, A. Al-Kutoubi, G. Araj*, H. Diab, L. Farhood*, R. Haddad, S. Jeffrey, M. Khawaja, A. Lyzzaik, S. Maamari, M. Nimah, M. Obeid, O. Obeid, S. Sadek, B. Shayya, J. Waterbury*.

(* = 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 28 March 2008 were approved as read.

2. *Report on the Senate Steering Committee meeting with trustees.* M. Jurdi, chair of the Senate Steering Committee, said that members of the Senate Steering Committee, the Senate Representative and the chair of the Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs met trustees for almost an hour on 2nd May. Some fourteen trustees were present at the meeting which was chaired by President Waterbury. Four issues were addressed to the trustees: (a) the role of the senate in university governance, (b) the long-term development of AUB as a center of graduate training and research, (c) salary adjustments for inflation, and (d) the need for an independent faculty association. M. Jurdi said that the meeting had been very interactive and she hoped that in future such a meeting would be held every year when members of the board of trustees visited AUB.

3. *Voting on degrees.*

a. *Doctor of Medicine.* By a circular vote 16-19 May 2008 the senate voted to approve granting the degree of MD to the two students mentioned in Dean Cortas' memo dated 15 May 2008.
Vote 2008-28 (31 for, voting members 38)

b. *FEA Master in Urban Planning and Policy.* Dean Hajj explained the need to modify the title of the degree granted to the two students mentioned in his memo dated 5 May 2008 from Master in Urban Planning to Master in Urban Planning and Policy.

Vote 2008-29: granting of the degree under the modified title to the two afore-mentioned students was unanimously approved.

4. *Recommendations of the Academic Development Committee.* N. Nassif, chair of the Academic Development Committee, presented the following three recommendations of the ADC.

a. *Establishment of a new senate standing committee on General Education.* The chair explained that, following a decision by the senate on 25 May 2007 (2007-033), the ADC had a series of meetings with the Provost and the Dean of FAS as a result of which it was recommending that the procedure followed in FAS regarding General Education be implemented in other faculties with the aim that all GE provisions be included in the catalogue of 2009-10. He proposed the following motion which was seconded: **that the senate establish a new senate standing committee on General Education. The main function of this committee is the supervision of General Education implementation across all**

university undergraduate curricula. This consists in proposing to the senate procedures for:

- a. **Uniform interpretation of General Education categories (Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Quantitative Thought);**
- b. **Approval of courses proposed by AUB departments and faculties to be considered as valid for students' graduation requirements.**

The committee shall be composed of:

- **Four elected members from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, each representing one of the General Education categories;**
- **Five other members, each representing one of the other faculties: FAFS, FEA, FHS, FM and SOSB.**

There was discussion whether faculty representation should be specified more precisely. A senator asked whether the motion required amendment of the senate bylaws. The secretary read out Article IV, Section 1.1 of the senate bylaws: "Standing committees and boards may be established and existing ones dissolved by a simple majority vote of the senate." A senator expressed his concern that implementation of General Education provisions be a participatory bottom-up process involving consultation with academic departments and programs.

Vote 2008-30: The motion was carried (21 for, voting members present 25)

b. *Change of name of a department in FAFS.* The chair of the ADC proposed the following motion which was seconded: **that the Animal Science department in FAFS be renamed as the department of Animal and Veterinary Science.** There was discussion concerning the difference between Veterinary Science and Animal Science.

Vote 2008-31: The motion was carried (23 for, voting members present 25)

c. *Awarding simultaneous dual degrees.* The chair of the ADC proposed the following motion which was seconded: **Students may, upon approval of the faculty concerned, complete the requirements for a second degree while registered in another faculty at AUB. In such a case, a student will be granted two degrees at the time of graduation. If tuition fees differ, a student will pay the higher tuition fee.** There was discussion concerning the mechanics of dual registration, on the grade requirements of a student allowed by a faculty to read for a second degree, and on whether the proposal if implemented would lead to an increase in the number of students registering for courses. Dean Bitar said that the proposal was intended to help students and increase diversity in undergraduate careers; no change would be involved in existing degree requirements; each faculty would continue to decide whether or not to admit a student to study for a second degree according to existing regulations. After further discussion the motion was called.

Vote 2008-32: The motion was carried (20 for, voting members present 22)

5. *Senate action log follow-up.* A revised table of senate motions during 2006-07 had been circulated prior to the meeting. VP Radulski said that in regard to vote 2007-013 there had been some further action regarding the different Plans A and B, and he hoped that by October 2008 there would be a new carrier of HIP. There was some discussion concerning whether participants in Plan B could nominate beneficiaries, VP Radulski saying that such nomination was required to follow Lebanese civil law.

6. *Statement by the Senate Representative to the Annual BOT meeting in June 2008.* A draft statement had been circulated prior to the meeting by the Senate Representative, A. Abdel-Rahman. Some senators asked whether it was necessary for a representative to go to New York since there was no restriction on American citizens visiting Lebanon, indeed the Board of Trustees had recently come to AUB and had met representatives of the senate. Other senators

queried both the order and the form of issues addressed: was it wise to put the issue of tenure first? might the statement not simply refer to the President's final statement on tenure? should the senate representative's statement reflect only decisions of the senate or could it reflect his own views? A senator said that the statement should include points of information, since in the meeting with the BOT on 2 May it was apparent that not all trustees were aware of how the senate was constituted. Another senator said that the draft statement gave the impression that the senate was more concerned with faculty benefits than academic issues. Another senator expressed the hope that trustees would consider supporting more long-term faculty development. After further discussion, it was resolved that the Senate Representative would circulate an amended statement for approval.

7. Deadline for submission of annual reports of senate committees and boards. The chair of the Senate Steering Committee reminded chairs of senate committees and boards to submit their annual reports before the end of June in order that they be presented to the senate for discussion at the first meeting of the senate in October 2008.

8. Recommendation of the Board of Graduate Studies that the Executive MBA (EMBA) and the Corporate Executive MBA (CEMBA) be put outside the purview of the Board. K. Hindi, chair of the BGS, explained the board's recommendation, saying that it was the result of a bench-mark study in the SOSB, that professional degrees were unlike academic degrees, and that in many business schools in the USA professional degrees were outside the purview of their boards of graduate studies. The proposal would give the SOSB greater flexibility. A senator pointed out that the proposal should be presented to the senate in written form to give senators the opportunity to consider its implications in depth. Another senator pointed out that degrees of the SOSB are voted on in the senate and that there should be some overview of all degrees it votes on by the board of graduate studies. After further discussion it was resolved to submit a written recommendation before a future meeting of the senate.

9. Other business. A senator reminded deans that they had agreed to hold elections to the senate before the beginning of an academic year.

The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.

Richard Smith, secretary