

**American University of Beirut
Minutes of the University Senate
Regular Meeting of Friday 26 October 2007**

Present: A. Abdelnoor, A. Abdel Rahman, A. Abdul-Malak, H. Abu Khuzam, A. Al-Kutoubi, K. Bitar, N. Cortas, J. Dargham, N. Darwiche, M. Darwish, R. Dean, H. Diab, L. Farhood, I. Hajj, P. Heath, K. Hindi, H. Huijjer, N. Hwalla, M. Jurdi, S. Kenney, M. Khawaja, M. Kisirwani, S. Maamari, L. Musfy, G. Najjar, N. Nassif, O. Obeid, I. Osman, J. Radulski, S. Sadek, M. Salameh, S. Seikaly, B. Shayya, F. Sleiman, R. Smith, J. Waterbury (chairing), H. Zurayk.

Absent: G. Araj, M. El-Sabban, R. Haddad, S. Jeffrey, R. Khauli, A. Lyzzaik, M. Nimah, M. Obeid.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

1. *Approval of minutes.* The minutes of 28 June 2007 were approved.

2. *Observing a minute's silence to honour former colleagues Dean Farid Hanania, Professor George Zarour and Professor Levon Melikian, and Honorary Marshall Nabil Ashkar.* The house observed a minute's silence. Testimonies drafted in their honour are attached to these minutes and will be forwarded to their families.

3. *Welcoming new senators.* The President welcomed the new VP for Finance, S. Kenney, and new elected senators F. Sleiman (FAFS), J. Dargham and N. Nassif (FAS), A. Abdul-Malak, L. Musfy and M. Darwish (FEA), and M. Khawaja (FHS).

4. *Appointment of a member of FAFS to a grievance committee.* The President referred the appointment to the newly formed Senate Steering Committee.

5a. *Senate Bylaws regarding election to Senate (Article I, Section 4): "Election of members shall be made prior to October 1".* Provost Heath introduced the issue saying that whereas the existing Bylaws stipulated that election of members to the Senate should be made before October 1, the practice in more than one faculty during the last few years has been to hold elections in October. After some discussion it was agreed that elections to the Senate would in future be held in conformity with the Bylaws.

5b. *Amendment to the Bylaws initiated by the President.* The President introduced a memorandum of proposed amendments to the Senate Bylaws, in order that they conform with the motion adopted on April 27 2007 that the chairpersons of Senate Committees and Boards be appointed from amongst serving senators. [Vote 2007-017: "All chairpersons of Senate Committees or Boards will be elected, or appointed, from among serving Senators, thereby ensuring that they are aware of Senate deliberations as well as reporting directly to it, on an annual basis, on the work of their Committees or Boards."] There was some disagreement amongst Senators whether the change entailed an amendment to the Bylaws, hence requiring approval by the Board of Trustees (Article V), or simply a change in the rules of procedure of committees and boards, which could be made by a simple majority vote of the senate (Article IV, Section 1, item 1c). Provost Heath proposed the following motion which was seconded: "This is a change of the Bylaws for the practical purpose of resolving this issue."

Vote 2008-001

The motion was adopted (25 for, 1 against).

6. *Election to Senate Steering Committee (SSC) and Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs (SCFA).*

The following senators were elected to the Senate Steering Committee:

FAFS:	O. Obeid	FHS:	M. Jurdi
FAS:	N. Nassif	OSB:	K. Hindi
FEA:	A. Abdul-Malak	SNursing:	L. Farhood
President's appointee:	N. Darwiche		

The following senators were elected to vacancies in the Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs:

FAFS:	M. Nimah
FEA:	M. Darwish
FHS:	M. Khawaja
SM:	A. Al-Kutoubi

7. *Senate Committee Reports.* Chairpersons were requested to forward their reports for 2006-07 to the Senate Steering Committee for discussion at the next Senate meeting.

8. *Potential issues to address during 2007-08.* The following items were proposed.

1. *Role of the Senate.* Although last year's report by the Ad Hoc Committee on the role of the Senate had resulted in recommendations being adopted by the Senate in its meeting of April 27 2007, the feeling was expressed that there was a continuing need to address the issue of the Senate's role. The president said that a Senate web-page would be created in the near future.
2. *Admission to the university.* Dean Bitar suggested that the whole process of admission to the university should be reviewed by the Senate in view of an apparent lack of correlation between admission measures such as SAT and student academic performance.
3. *Tenure.* Associate Dean Hindi (OSB), chairperson of the Task Force on Tenure, said that he hoped to have his final report completed by the next Senate meeting.
4. *Teaching effectiveness.* The president said he thought there was an urgent need for robust measures of teaching and teaching effectiveness, especially if tenure is adopted in the university.
5. *General Education.* Provost Heath reminded the Senate that during the course of 2007-08 the Academic Development Committee of the Senate would be overseeing reviews made by the different faculties and schools concerning the implementation of the proposed General Education program.
6. *Academic grievance procedure.* This issue was put forward in light of continuing perceived discrepancies.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

Richard Smith, secretary