

Senate Newsletter

Dec. 2002

The AUS Faculty Senate continues to diligently address Faculty concerns and matters arising from different aspects of shared governance. Of particular interest are recommendations currently under consideration arising from the Council of Dean's retreat. Senate President has already been receiving feedback on various aspects of these recommendations, and is compiling them for discussion on the Senate floor. These are issues of crucial importance in that they pertain to such matters as the curriculum, the status and profile of future AUS faculty, sponsored research and external consultancy, as well as the role of one of the major committees at AUS, the UCRCP. The AUS Faculty Senate has also received for input the proposed calendar for the next academic year. In order to keep faculty abreast of the most recent developments, and in accordance with the FOP, Senate President Al Homoud agreed with Chancellor Thompson that a Faculty Assembly for the faculty Assembly will be held on December 10, 2002. Of special interest is the updated on the Faculty Handbook that was recently approved by the Board of Trustees at its Oct. 2002 meeting, except for two pending sections: patents and copy rights and sabbatical leave. The Senate is currently discussing an appropriate policy to govern sabbatical leaves. Moreover, the senate, is also discussing a proposal from the Board of Trustees, the possibility for AUS to adopt a "public service requirement" from students, as well as.

On a different front, all senate standing committees are currently up and running, with additional *ad hoc* committees formed to tackle matters of particular importance such as recommendations for amendment of the Grievance code, given the far-reaching implications of this document for faculty, or issues of academic advising which are of crucial importance to the student body. Other *ad hoc* committees include compilation of Senate standing procedures so that they be made available to all forthcoming senates, an *ad hoc* committee in charge of preparing a visit and address from His Highness Dr. Sheik Sultan Bin Mohamed Al Qassimi, President of AUS, as well as a committee in charge of preparing a Senate-sponsored Panel on an issue of contemporary concern. As part of the

activities planned by the Senate social affairs committee a series of Senate sponsored seminars are being planned. Finally, Senate filing activities are being completed with a detailed document inventory, as President Al Homoud pledged to present the next Senate with a thoroughly completed and up to date, senate filing, administrative, communication and related information system. In this regard, in an effort to ensure institutional memory and benefit from past experiences, the Senate President personally followed up and received feedback from all past committee chairs. He has also been receiving detailed programs of work by chairs of current Senate standing committees, and endeavored to ensure coordination and collaboration between Senate and university committees, and avoid overlap. The Senate President communicated to all senators and chairs of committee emphasizing Section Three of the faculty organization plan (FOP), which states that "the senate shall have the authority of the faculty to recommend establishing, monitoring, and modifying all-university academic policy matters.

The Senate President is also pursuing with the Administration matters of concern to faculty that were brought to his attention by fellow senators. Finally, access to Senate website has been extended to all faculty, and Senate President Al Homoud is inviting colleagues to resort to the "message icon" to communicate any concerns, suggestions, or queries to him.