

I. The Faculty Senate Welcomes AUS New Chancellor

Dr. Winfred L. Thompson shares his approach with the faculty representative body

On behalf of the faculty Senate, President Azm S. Al Homoud extended a warm welcome to Chancellor Winfred Thompson wishing AUS well under his guidance. Chancellor Thompson shared with the Faculty Senate his eagerness to work on the development of the university in the light of the significance of AUS in the region, at a moment when education is particularly important in this region. He noted that he had several discussions with Past Chancellor Dr. French on issues, and that their approaches are generally similar. However, he hopes that the faculty senate and administration will give him leeway to conduct business in his own style. Chancellor Thompson informed the Senate that he would resist the temptation to state a grand vision and instead focus on the following issues:

- a) Complete local accreditation process
- b) Dedicate more time to meet and improve goals of eliminating government subsidy
- c) Undergo the Middle States accreditation process
- d) Develop and implement tools for the assessment of student learning and for larger institutional assessment
- e) Continue efforts to improve goals that relate to having larger pool of students on campus, retention of faculty, staff and academic officers
- f) Establish two Planning Committees for strategic long term development of the AUS: Academic Planning Committee (to focus on program assessment and development) and Resource Planning Committee (to focus on sources of funding and endowments)

II. AUS Faculty Senate President: The Welcoming Message

Senate President Al Homoud started his term by extending a welcoming message to all incoming and returning AUS faculty, expressing his best wishes to them for a most successful academic year 2002-2003. He introduced to them the representatives in the Senate from the respective schools, as well as the officers of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC), who will serve for one year in the senate session that started on May 1, 2002. These members are as follows:

Voting Members:

Azm Al-Homoud SOE (President)
Nada Mourtada-Sabbah CAS (Vice President)
Samia Rab SAD (Senate Secretary)
Marwan Abukhaled CAS (SEC Member)
Gregor Weiss SAD (SEC Member)
Nasser Qaddoumi SOE (SEC Member)
Sofiane Sahraoui SBM (SEC Member)
James Grant SBM (Senate Member)
J. Reagan McLaurin SBM (Senate Member)
Ronald Williams SBM (Senate Member)

Louis Mottola SBM (Senate Member)
Amanda Magrath CAS (Senate Member)
Basim Boulos CAS (Senate Member)
Kassem Saleh CAS (Senate Member)
Maher Bahloul CAS (Senate Member)
Pelly Shaw CAS (Senate Member)
IEP CAS (Senate Member) – to be elected
Mark Pilkington SAD (Senate Member)
Mehdi Sabet SAD (Senate Member)
Philip Sheil SAD (Senate Member)
Jamal Abdalla SOE (Senate Member)
Rached Dhaoudi SOE (Senate Member)
Tariq Ozkul SOE (Senate Member)

Non Voting Members:

Hani El-Kadi SOE - Past Senate President
Winfred Thompson, Chancellor
Amr Abdel-Hamid, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
George Debin, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration
Martin Giesen, Dean, School of Architecture and Design
Leland Blank, Dean, School of Engineering
Robert Cook, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Wadiah Atiyah, Dean, School of Business and Management

Professor Al Homoud also assured faculty of his intention, with fellow senators, as their representatives, to candidly address faculty concerns, keep them updated, seek their feedback, and coordinate senate activities closely with them. President Al Homoud announced that in the academic year 2002-2003, the Senate will begin its executive committee meetings on Sept. 10, 2002 and its regular Senate meetings on Sept. 24, 2002.

He reminded faculty that such documents as the Faculty Handbook, FOP, Grievance Code, list and mandate of senate committees and other relevant material, as well as approved minutes of both SEC and Senate meetings are available to all faculty at the Senate address on the local Network Neighborhood: Prime/Staff/Senate. It is to be noted, however, that the Senate is now constructing an official website that will be officially announced very shortly.

The Senate President also pointed out that faculty who are not members of the Senate may be present at Senate meetings, which are held in the Senate Conference Room in the Main Building. Faculty will always be informed about the agenda and timing of such meetings. Senate President Al Homoud emphasized the need for Faculty collaboration in order to enhance the Senate efforts in serving the Faculty well.

During the first meeting for the academic year 2002-2003, the Senate President was also keen on requesting a moment of silence to reflect upon three causes of dismay: the untimely death of a colleague, Dr. Sameh Kamel, Assistant Professor of Public Administration, the continued loss of life in struggle for free Palestine, and the

anniversary of the tragic deaths during the collapse of the World Trade Center in New York on September 11, 2001.

III. Senate Business:

The Senate has been diligently working towards the fulfilment of the terms of the FOP (in terms of its committees' elections, and its orientation sessions), as well as endeavouring to address faculty concerns. In this regard, the Senate President reported that the two grievance cases that were pending when he started his term in office were handled with care and in a timely fashion until their completion. Furthermore, with the start of the academic year 2002-2003, the Senate has been actively busy:

a. Elections pertaining to the various Senate committees have been conducted in a most timely fashion, early during the semester, so as to ensure that the committees be fully operational. The SEC selected the chairs of these committees from among Senators, in conformity with the FOP. (Information about Senate committees is available in the Senate folder and will be posted in the Senate website upon its final completion, very shortly).

b. Under the terms of Article III, Section Five I-A of the FOP is expected to conduct two annual orientation meetings each academic year: one for chairs of the committees of the Senate, and another for new Senators. In conformity with the FOP, President al Homoud thus held two orientation sessions, in which he introduced new senators to the procedures governing senate deliberations, and briefed the newly appointed chairs of committees about the mandates of their respective committees. He informed the committee chairs that he had requested feedback from their predecessors, and pledged to keep them posted about any feedback that he might receive. In this regard, the Senate Secretary is in the process of thoroughly updating the Senate file.

c. The SEC has also approved the formation of an ad-hoc committee to study any feedback received by the Senate President, suggest necessary amendments to the grievance code and process in compliance with Chapter X of the Faculty Handbook, and report to the Senate through the SEC. It further acknowledged the need for an ad hoc committee that would concern itself with Senate procedures, and a third one that would be in charge of looking into suggested amendments to the handbook. [Mr. Pdt: Please check how definitely you want to phrase these statements under c]

d. The Faculty representative body was also very active in addressing faculty concerns, as conveyed to and through senators, such as matters pertaining to problems of parking, social security, evaluation of academic administrative team, the inquiry into the potential effect of Staff benefits on faculty development, as well as matters arising out of concern for amendments or omissions from the Faculty handbook. Upon the President's request for prompt action on the matter, the SEC authorized the formation of an ad hoc committee to look into the latter issue in a most timely manner. A Senate student fund (Faculty Senate Student Award) was established, and the Senate President pledged that funds, contributions, and attributions would be handled by an ad hoc committee formed for that purpose under a seal of strict confidentiality.

e. The Senate welcomed two new "team members": Professor John W. Fox as Senate Parliamentarian for the year 2002-2003, and Mrs. Samia Metwalli as Senate administrative secretary.

Last but not least, the Senate seems well determined, under its new leadership to host a series of senate/scholarly activities, by hosting a series of lectures or sponsoring panels related to matters of interest to senators and faculty. These are still inchoate plans pending Senate approval. The faculty will be kept posted on all such activities.