

Dear Colleagues:

Today's Senate meeting marks the last regularly scheduled meeting of the Senate session 2003-2004. While we have agreed to hold an additional meeting on April 20, to complete the remaining items of business that are on our especially full agenda for today, I would like to take this opportunity in my last formal address to you, to express my deeply felt gratitude for the great learning experience that we have forged together, and for the support that I have felt, and that each and every one of you has expressed throughout my mandate.

We came together from our many different units and various vantage points, and over time we came to be a particularly cohesive and effective team. The expression that the whole is far greater than the sum of its parts could not be any more appropriate than here. I would like to genuinely thank you all, my fellow senators and ex officio members of the Senate term 2003-2004 for generously giving of your time and very considerable efforts in long meetings, in which we deliberated issues at the very heart of this unique University. This has been a grand experiment in co-governance.

I would also like to thank Chancellor Thompson for contributing generously to the weekly three-hour meetings of the Senate Executive Committee. Sometimes we agreed, and sometimes we disagreed, but the interaction has been candid and genuine to address the crucial issues facing our University as it continues on its upward trajectory. In the same spirit of candid exchange, I trust that Chancellor Thompson will be willing to address any questions pertaining to aspects of the recent reorganization at AUS. Thank you all for going the extra mile, and for a job well done.

Before we turn to business as usual, I would like to wish President-Elect Sofiane Sahraoui every success in fulfilling his mandate.