



American University of Sharjah
Faculty Senate 2005-2006

PRESIDENT REPORT

for the Senate Meeting # 2

Date: Tuesday September 20, 2005.
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Place: Senate Meeting Room.

Dear Colleagues,

Let me first express on behalf of the Senate the condolences for Vice Chancellor Mosbo for the loss of his mother.

I would like now to formally welcome our new Senators from SBM, Senator Baghstani and Senator Grant. Yesterday, I was informed that Senator Giesen from IEP resigned from the Senate as she received a leave of absence. I requested Dean Cook to conduct an election to replace her seat.

The first SEC meeting for this academic year was on September 6. All the five elected members of the SEC attended the meeting. Both Chancellor

Thompson and Vice Chancellor Mosbo attended as well. I will report to you the results of the meeting.

The Senate ad-hoc committee for “reviewing the student evaluation of teaching questionnaire” submitted a report last semester to the Senate standing committee on Faculty Evaluations and Standards of Performance. The report was discussed in the SEC meeting and it was agreed that the committee needs to continue its work after meeting with both the Chair of the Senate standing committee and the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs to clarify the mandate and the expected outcome of the committee work.

The Chair of Academic Affairs Committee, Senator Gadalla, inquired from the Chancellor about the 14 or 15 weeks academic calendar. After discussion, Chancellor Thompson made it clear that the 15 weeks calendar will continue till he is presented with strong reasons to change it to 14 weeks. However, the committee will continue to develop guidelines for generating the Calendar. These guidelines will ultimately come to the Senate for approval.

In a related issue, the Academic Calendar Committee which is an administrative committee has now two members from the Senate as I appointed Senator Deiab and Senator Sadik to serve on this committee.

The SEC discussed as well the formation of Faculty Personnel Committees in light of the administrative decision to continue with the same formation process used last year. Both the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor assured that the Senate represented through the president will be informed about the formation of the UCRCP. The Vice Chancellor office through Dr. Alhasani indeed kept me informed about the process.

The SEC debated the issue of having faculty in administration positions serving on FPC under the condition that they will not have a chance to evaluate a candidate twice during the same process. The issue came to vote and passed by three supporting votes against two objecting votes. The VCAA accepted the SEC recommendation and informed the deans of his decision to adapt it.

During the meeting, a question was raised regarding the situation of the FPCs that were already formed before our vote. The response of

the Senate president was that rulings should not be retroactive. However, this response was not formally adopted nor rejected by the SEC.

During the summer, the Director of Graduate Studies and Research informed the senate president that there have been some changes in the policy on External consultancy and Research Grants. The changes reflected some of the comments made during debating the policy on the Senate floor. The most notable change is the separation of external consultancy from external research grants. These policies are still with the administration. Vice Chancellor Mosbo informed the SEC that the external consulting policy is ready but the external research policy is still under his review.

As expected, the hot topic of the meeting was the new policy on fringe benefits. We went through many discussions. Several ideas floated during the meeting. As I reported to all faculty, I felt that there is a room to elevate the injustice experienced by those negatively affected by the policy. **I can be wrong**, but I have no reason so far to conclude this. I believe this can be a good opportunity to reach a different level of cooperation and mutual understanding between faculty and administration

for the good of AUS and all of its members. I sincerely hope that the coming weeks will prove that I judged the issue properly.

Outside the SEC activities, I am reporting the following senate president activities:

- I requested the deans to conduct elections among the faculty in their units to elect one of the units' senators to serve on the Senate Committee on Elections.
- I request from the chancellor to explain the process of moving through the rolling contract renewal and the types of letters faculty should receive and when they should receive it. I believe I will get a reply to these questions soon.
- I also expressed concerns about the delay in issuing the letter for merit increase. I requested that the timeline for issuing these letters is communicated to faculty.
- I discussed with the chancellor the inflation rate in the UAE. Based on the discussion, I am planning after consulting with SEC members to form a committee to monitor the real inflation rate through an index of basic consumer items. I will be glad if anyone guides me to faculty with experience in this field.

Finally, the Senate President, the Senate Vice President, the Past Senate President and the Past Senate Secretary met with Vice Chancellor Mosbo to highlight the issues of concerns raised by the faculty last year regarding the new faculty ranks. I believe that the meeting gave a very strong indication that the relationship between the Senate and the Vice Chancellor will be that of cooperation and mutual understanding.

Thank you and I now open the floor for questions on the Chancellor's report and the Senate President's report.

Ahmed Mokhtar, President