



American University of Sharjah
Faculty Senate 2005-2006

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

for the Senate Meeting # 4

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

Dear Colleagues,

I would like first to announce that our Senate Parliamentarian Deborah Wilson will be leaving us soon. In behalf of the Senate, I thank Deborah for her valuable contribution to the Senate. I also announce that last Senate Secretary Milton Gilbertson has accepted my request to be the new Senate Parliamentarian.

I also take this opportunity to formally congratulate Dean Atiyah and Interim Dean Al-Assaf for their new positions. The Senate is looking forward to working with you as well as with the new SBM Dean Dr. Malcolm Richards.

The SEC meetings #4 and #5 were held on November 8th and December 6th as scheduled. I will report to you the results of these two meetings.

The SEC discussed in details the modified policy on external consulting during the November meeting. The SEC voted to get an explanation for the 27% overhead. I received two days ago from VC DeBin a large document to this regard. I am not sure yet if this is what the SEC is looking for. The SEC also requested to change the percentages allocated to the department and the school. The administration accepted the idea of making the change but decided on different proportions. In December meeting, the SEC voted to bring the modified policy to the Senate floor. A vote on the policy is expected today.

Members of the SEC expressed concerns about the FPC work process. The SEC passed a motion requesting reports from FPC chairs on their own concerns with the process. The reports need to include feedback on the guidelines for evaluation, which were distributed by VC Mosbo as agreed with the Senate. As the evaluation process for rolling contracts came to its end, VC Mosbo did request the Deans few days ago to get the feedback. The Senate is looking forward for this feedback.

The SEC inquired about the changes that might be made to the policy voted by the Senate regarding the length of contracts for new faculty. The SEC was informed that a final decision is not made yet. Chancellor Thompson indicated that most probably it will be either 2 + 2 or 3 + 3 contacts.

Following a reminder in the SEC and as per the Senate motion, VC Mosbo sent the president of the Senate the clarifications on how the merit increases will be allocated this year. As per the Senate motion, the Senate President shared this clarification with all faculty.

Outside the SEC meetings, the Senate President conducted a series of separate meetings with the Chancellor, the VCAA, and the VCFA regarding a variety of issues. I would like to report the following:

The Senate president requested deadlines to be set for notifying faculty about the merit increase and the renewal of the rolling contracts. It was agreed to set the end of September as the deadline for merit increase notification and the end of December as the deadline for rolling contract renewing notification. Faculty who do not receive the notification by the deadline needs to take action as an administrative error could have occurred. If a faculty member has an issue with the merit increase and the faculty argument was accepted, the effect on the salary is applied retroactively from September paycheck.

The Senate President found it important to remind faculty that their email messages and files that reside on AUS servers remains as AUS property. As such, it can be accessed by the University Auditor if there is a reason to do so and after taking permission from the Chancellor.

The term “shared governance” was discussed and it was clear from the discussion that its meaning within AUS context requires definition that is more accurate. An ad hoc Senate Committee on defining shared governance is currently in the making.

I would like also to report the following Senate activities:

The elections for the new Senate are underway. The results are announced in CAS, SBM, and SA&D. The results for SOE are promised by tomorrow. The election for the new SEC is to be held after the break in a special meeting for the new Senate.

The Senate ad hoc committee on Fringe Benefits almost finished its work. The committee work was supported by having VC DeBin as an ex-officio and with a meeting with Chancellor Thompson. I will share the report of the committee with the SEC and will bring it to the Senate. The feedback I got from both Chancellor Thompson and VC DeBin on the committee work allows me to be cautiously optimistic.

Finally, the Senate President was asked by Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr Nadia Alhasani to have two Senate representatives in the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. Senator Faiq and Senator Deiab accepted my request to serve in this capacity.

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

Ahmed Mokhtar, President