



American University of Sharjah
Faculty Senate 2005-2006

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

for the Senate Meeting # 5

Date: Tuesday January 24, 2006.
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Place: Senate Meeting Room.

Dear Colleagues,

I would like first to officially welcome Dr Malcolm Richards as an Ex-officio member of the Senate. I also welcome our new parliamentarian Milton Gilbertson.

The SEC met last Tuesday in an extra-ordinary meeting. I will report on the items discussed during the meeting.

The SEC discussed the report of the Senate ad-hoc committee on Fringe Benefits. Various issues were raised and many questions were asked. Ultimately, the SEC voted (4 to 1) to put the report on the Senate floor for discussion and voting. The SEC also voted (6 to 0) to recommend the option "percent of average salary". The SEC voted as well that the benefit plan for all faculty is to be unified as fast as legally possible. This vote was (3 to 0).

Some SEC members inquired about the status of the hiring guidelines. These guidelines - which were developed by a Senate committee - passed the Senate after few amendments. Chancellor Thompson informed the SEC that these guidelines also passed the COD after some amendments. The SEC expressed concerns that these guidelines are not always followed to hire new faculty. VC Mosbo promised to inquire about this issue and to inform the SEC about the status of these guidelines.

An inquiry was made on the method to determine merit increase. It was agreed that the COD will develop a method. This method will then go to the Senate floor for discussion and recommendation.

An inquiry was made regarding the existence or not of a university policy for hiring faculty who works in other UAE universities. Chancellor Thompson clarified that there is no university policy to prevent such hiring. However, there is a gentlemen-agreement among UAE universities to hire each another faculty only after taking permission.

Finally, the SEC accepted the request from the director of Human Resources to relocate the Senate room. This allows the HR department to use the current Senate room to satisfy their space needs.

Other than the SEC meeting activity, I would like to report that the SEC along with the Deans met for the annual SEC retreat. The theme of the retreat was brainstorming on achieving AUS mission. The objective was trying to reach a common understanding on why we are here, where we are going, and how we get there based on the spirit of AUS mission statement. The agenda included discussions about defining the American model for institutes of higher education, the meaning of the common notion “that AUS is thoroughly grounded in Arab culture”. We discussed if we are really the leading educational institution in the region. We identified AUS strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. We also tried to define the types of values that we want our students to graduate with.

I believe this retreat was a successful one. Chancellor Thompson asked the Senate President and VC Mosbo to go to the next steps building on the discussions in the retreat.

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

Ahmed Mokhtar, President