



July 3, 2020

Dear AUB Community,

I know that you are eager to know our plans for the fall 2020 term, and you will be glad to learn that we have been hard at work to prepare for a safe return to campus life this fall semester.

Faculty and staff are developing flexible yet enriched learning models that can adapt to the uncertain trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic and the political situation in the country. Our goal is to bring as many as possible of our community together safely on AUB's beautiful campus, while accommodating for individuals who may not be able to join us in person. AUB campus and its facilities offer students the experiential learning opportunities and rich social and cultural life that are exceptional both regionally and beyond. We want to assure our new and continuing students of our commitment to providing them with the legendary AUB campus experience that is integral to the university's history of excellence.

### **Safety first**

As we plan for the return to campus, your health and safety remain our top priorities. The AUB Expert Committee on COVID-19 continues to monitor public health guidance and the Ministry of Public Health directives and to make recommendations guided by data, evidence, and the deep expertise of our scientific and public health communities. We are also closely monitoring the developing socio-economic situation around us in Lebanon and will keep the community fully updated if it necessitates further modification of our plans.

### **Instruction**

Today, I am pleased to share with you that AUB's fall term will begin on September 1, 2020 as scheduled. We are preparing to conduct classes spanning a continuum of experiences, from the on-campus to the on-line, with hybrid combinations of the two where possible. This approach will provide the flexibility necessary for our students to benefit from the AUB experience while at the same time ensuring their uninterrupted progress towards their degrees. We have learned a lot from last year by listening to you and our faculty and we are certain next year's learning experience will be fulfilling.

Online instruction will be still be used for large classes and portions of smaller ones. This direction will allow for proper physical distancing in classes with limited seating, but will also benefit those of you who may not be able to return to Beirut or to campus immediately. Many of our fall classes will include a blend of in-person and virtual experiences with the goal of bringing every student to campus on a regular basis.

**Campus life**

The AUB experience involves much more than classroom instruction and academics. We plan to open our residence halls to a safe capacity, while granting priority to those students who require them most. We plan to open cafeterias, and are exploring ways that healthy food can be enjoyed in a safe environment. The Charles Hostler Student Center will be available for students to enjoy sports within the confines of the rules and measures relating to COVID-19. Clubs and social life are also critical elements of what AUB offers and we are creating opportunities to participate in student life in ways that respect the safety of all. All other student support units including counseling, career guidance and co-curricular learning will be available and operational.

**Hope**

I am looking forward to welcoming you back to campus. We all learn and grow together. AUB achieves progress when all of its students, faculty, and staff mutually reinforce one another, when we share ideas and work together to ensure success. Particularly in these challenging times, we must marshal our hope. Hope for the future of AUB, hope for your personal futures, and hope for the future of Lebanon and the world.

Best regards,

Fadlo R. Khuri, MD  
President