

For Immediate Release



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## **AUB Renovated Green Field reopens** **with a friendly match between faculty and students**

The University Sports office and the Office of Student Affairs at the American University of Beirut (AUB) organized a friendly football match between faculty and students, marking the reopening of the newly renovated Green Field at the Charles W. Hostler Student Center (CHSC).

After the completion of the CHSC in 2008, AUB renovated the Green Field by replacing its natural grass with artificial turf, which provided the look and feel of natural grass as per FIFA standards. However, after almost nine years of use for sports activities and other events such as commencement, the turf became worn out and was in major need of replacement to make sure athletes are playing on a safe and cushioned surface. To address this, the entire football field and part of the running track were renovated this year in coordination between the Dean of Student Affairs, the office of University Sports, and the Facilities Planning and Design Unit.

Director of Facilities Bassem Barhoumi told us about the renovation of the Green Field: “In addition to high performance and safety benefits, the FIFA-accredited representative visited the site and reported the outcome of the completed works. AUB’s renovated sports turf met the FIFA quality program for football turf standards and requirements,” said Barhoumi. “This offered a complete solution to keep our sports turf system in optimum condition,” he added.

Speaking to us about the idea behind the football match, Director of University Sports Ghaleb Halimi said: “We thought of having a friendly match between the university's athletic students and its faculty and administrators to mark the reopening of the Green Field. The first team was formed of captains of the different university varsity teams, both men and women, such as the football team, swimming team, rugby team and others. Whereas the second team consisted of university professors, doctors of the university’s medical center, and some of the administrators, and was headed by its captain Dr. Fadlo R. Khuri, president of AUB, who welcomed the idea of the game, knowing that he is a fan of football. ”

After the match ended with a positive draw between the two teams, Halimi said: "The result was absolutely fair because the faculty team played hard and proved themselves. The atmosphere was very positive, and the president congratulated us and praised this effort. The professors also welcomed this activity which contributed to strengthening the bonds among them, and some asked for the match to be played on a regular basis. And, of course our players were happy and excited about this special event."

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**Note to Editors**

**About AUB**

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,500 students. AUB currently offers more than 130 programs leading to bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full-service 420-bed hospital.

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