

For Immediate Release



AUB president briefs community representatives on final budget proposal

Beirut, Lebanon- 05/05/2014 - American University of Beirut (AUB) President Peter Dorman held a meeting today in College Hall with members of the University Student Faculty Committee (USFC), the USFC's Tuition Increase Committee, the University's Board of Deans, and representatives of the University Senate Steering Committee and the Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs. In the meeting, President Dorman shared the high level outcome of weeks of collaborative work to render a budget that is responsive to the needs of AUB families, yet still affords appropriate resources to advance academic and operational priorities. An executive summary of the budget will be released after the Board of Trustees adopts the budget on May 30.

In his briefing to the University community representatives, President Dorman laid out what he calls "the capstones of our revised budget proposal" including

- A proposed three percent increase in tuition for current students and a five percent increase in tuition for new students
- A freeze in dormitory and technology fees
- Increased funding for faculty merit increases
- No adverse impact on AUB academic and research functions

President Dorman pointed out that numerous cost-savings innovations have been proposed to the administration by the campus community, acknowledging that all of the recommendations were taken under advisement and many were implemented. The President recognized the extraordinary level of community interest and participation in this year's budget process.

"I have real appreciation and respect for the many among you who have questioned, challenged, and critically evaluated the enormously complex process of building our University budget," he said. "Collectively and individually, we have shared our opinions, observations, and perceptions on what constitutes effective fiscal management. There was an astonishing amount of dialogue and discussion. In all cases, what surfaced in these interactions was a common passion for, and sincere commitment to, our own AUB."

The President highlighted several points relative to next steps once the budget is adopted by the Board of Trustees. "As part of our commitment to a more open and transparent budget process going forward, we will be releasing a series of documents that explain expense allocations more clearly, particularly those funded by tuition," he said. "Among the documents – following careful study – will be a three-year forecast to be shared with the families of incoming

students so they can project tuition expenses over the course of their undergraduate enrollment.
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President Dorman said that in the coming months, the University will announce concrete ways to engage the stakeholder community more effectively in identifying opportunities to generate revenue and efficiencies, and to ensure long-term institutional sustainability.

Recognizing that the 2014-15 budget contains many exceptional provisions, he added, “This three percent tuition increase is a one-time occurrence. The administrative cuts made to reach this point cannot be sustained indefinitely if AUB is to advance – or even simply maintain – its standing as the premier institution of higher education in the Middle East.” He continued, elaborating on the institution-wide commitment to securing additional funds for scholarships and financial aid to deserving students. “Increasing our budget for financial aid through philanthropy is an institutional priority and one we will pursue with great vigor. We realize our obligation to ensure appropriate funds are accessible to support bright, motivated students who meet AUB’s rigorous standards for admission.”

In closing, the President addressed issues relative to the relationship between AUB’s academic campus and AUBMC.

“AUBMC remains an integral component of our university community and part of our identity across the region. The growth of the medical center and the expansion of its capacity for research and medical innovation are of the utmost importance for our institutional success and well-being. While we will continue to invest in the vision for the medical center, it is important to reiterate that these investments are not drawn from tuition revenue.”

Finally, the President commended students and faculty for their participation in the fiscal health and welfare of AUB. “That we have arrived at this point together – as one university community – is cause for pride and satisfaction. We have reduced by half the projected burden on AUB families and we have preserved our readiness to move forward with critical academic priorities.”

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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 100 programs leading to the 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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