

July 2, 2019

Dear Members of the AUB Community,

I am delighted to announce that the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) has reaffirmed its [accreditation](#) of the American University of Beirut (AUB) for eight years until the academic year 2027-28. The decision, communicated in a [letter](#) from MSCHE President Elizabeth H. Sibolski on June 29, 2019, completes a three-year [self-study](#) process which evaluated the institution across [seven Standards for Accreditation, 15 Requirements of Affiliation, and eight Criteria for Compliance](#) with accreditation-relevant federal regulations. The commission reaffirmed AUB's accreditation without making any additional recommendations or requirements.

[A six-member team of peer evaluators](#) visited AUB during March 3-6, 2019. They spent three days holding several meetings with faculty, students, staff, administrators, and trustees in order to learn more about AUB and address any questions about the institution and its [Self-Study Report](#). They also toured campus and AUBMC to inspect buildings and facilities, including the Charles Hostler Student Center.

In its [final report](#), the MSCHE Evaluation Team found AUB “to be a beacon of higher education quality and best practices in a country and region that presents educational needs and is increasingly served by a University providing American liberal arts education, research, and service. The administration provides great vision while understanding the challenges and opportunities that exist, and the faculty and staff exhibit a strong dedication and commitment to students, one another, and the broader community. As in every institution of higher education, AUB is constantly adjusting practices, policies, and strategies; the administration is dedicated to working with faculty, staff, and students in a spirit of shared governance to move the institution forward.”

The team also commended AUB on a number of initiatives, including “the development of an integrated and visionary strategic plan that touches all areas of the university and is being supported by an ambitious and on-track capital campaign, the remarkable and unique move to reinstate tenure after a thirty-year period of suspension due to war so as to increase the stature of faculty with the complementary goal of growing impactful research, the commitment to increasing financial aid to address regional needs and ensure a diverse community, a robust General Education curriculum, and an enthusiastic student body.”

This successful outcome would not have been possible without the leadership of Provost Mohamed Harajli, who guided the self-study process and chaired the [Self-Study Steering Committee](#) (SSSC), or the contribution of the members of the eight working groups who discharged their duty to faithfully evaluate the state of the institution and its educational mission. Credit goes to the Office of the Provost for raising the bar for future accreditation work, and in particular to Mrs. Boushra Rahal Alameh, assistant to the provost for academic affairs and director of institutional accreditation, who directed the process from its [design](#), to the Evaluation Team visit, to the submission of the Self-Study Report, the Documentation Roadmap and the Compliance Report. Provost Harajli and Mrs. Rahal will now work closely with AUB stakeholders across the community to implement 13 [areas for improvement](#) that emerged from the self-study process.

Sincere thanks are owed to Dr. Saouma Boujaoude who co-chaired the SSSC, the dedicated self-study co-chairs and the committee members, the editorial team of Mr. Martin Asser, Dr. Lina Choueiri, and Dr. Syrine Hout, and to Mr. Najib Attieh, the Self-Study Report designer. Congratulations to everyone at AUB for achieving a well-deserved confirmation of the excellent work we are undertaking in educating tomorrow's leaders and in preparing for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Sincerely,

Fadlo R. Khuri
President