



Statement of The American University of Kurdistan's Board of Trustees

The American University of Kurdistan

June 14, 2021

The Board of Trustees of the American University of Kurdistan, chaired by His Excellency Masrour Barzani, convened on June 14, 2021. The Chairman briefed the Board on the challenges facing the Region due to COVID 19, economic pressures, and reduced federal support, noting the government's efforts to diversify the economy and invest in infrastructure and renewable energy.

The Board approved the memo appointing Dr. Najar to the Board and confirmed his membership on three committees: Academic and Student Affairs, Advancement, and Facilities.

To address concerns raised by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE), the Board approved an amendment to the Bylaws establishing a five year term limit for the Chairman. The Board also approved the revised AUK Mission Statement to ensure clarity and measurability.

The Finance Committee presented the first revision of the 2021/22 Budget. The Board unanimously approved the revised budget. During the session, several Trustees pledged contributions in support of faculty professional development, the University's e library, and student scholarships. The Board noted that the budget for AUK's membership in the International Association of Universities would be included in the next budget revision.

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee presented recommendations resulting in several actions. The Board voted unanimously to confer degrees upon 25 graduating students. The Board approved the appointment of Dr. Khedir Ramazan Khedir as Dean of Arts and Sciences, and approved faculty promotions for Dr. Reda Abdel Aziz and Dr. Mustafa Ameen. The Board also approved renaming the Information Technology program to Computer Software and Security and the Interior Design program to Design.

Additionally, the Board endorsed sixteen academic policies and guidelines, including policies on enrollment, program development, scholarships, academic evaluation, and academic integrity.

The Board discussed opportunities for partnership with the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF), following concerns about the security situation in Kabul. The Board unanimously approved offering financial aid and courses to female AUAF students and expressed support for exploring further collaboration, including opportunities for AUAF faculty to teach from AUK.

The Audit Committee presented drafts of the audit reports for 2018, 2019, and 2020, including AUK's net assets with additional details to be finalized before submission to the full Board.

The Advancement Committee reported on institutional fundraising efforts and the work of the Office of Advancement, including initiatives to build a culture of philanthropy and strengthen relationships with internal and external stakeholders.

In other business, the Chairman reiterated his vision of positioning AUK as a leading institution in the Region. The Board discussed national university rankings, entrepreneurship development, and opportunities for hosting conferences to elevate AUK's prominence. The President shared upcoming plans for the K 19 Education Task Force Conference chaired by the AUK President and the Middle East Peace and Security Forum.

Dr. Honar Issa,
Secretary of the Board of Trustees