



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

The American University of Kurdistan

May 28, 2023

The Board of Trustees of the American University of Kurdistan, chaired by His Excellency Masrour Barzani, convened on May 28, 2023. The Chairman welcomed the Trustees and provided an overview of the political and economic developments in the Kurdistan Region and Iraq, including the ongoing discussions between Erbil and Baghdad. He noted the recent Paris court ruling affecting Kurdistan's oil exports, explained the history of the 1973 pipeline agreement, and expressed optimism regarding the new oil export mechanism agreed upon between the KRG and the Iraqi government. He affirmed that these developments would help stabilize the region and support AUK's operations.

The Chairman emphasized the importance of diversifying the Kurdistan Region's economy, strengthening innovation, and supporting the emergence of a "knowledge nation." He highlighted AUK's critical role in fostering entrepreneurship and preparing graduates to contribute to economic diversification. He expressed appreciation to the Board, the President, and the administration for their efforts.

The Board reviewed the recommendations of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. The Board approved the conferral of degrees to 156 graduates from the Class of 2023 and approved the Academic Calendars for 2023–2024 and 2024–2025. The Board also authorized AUK to establish benchmarks for potential collaboration with the American International School. Additional approvals included the implementation of benefits and deans' stipends, the promotion of Dr. Khedir Ramazan and Dr. Omar Abdulghafour to Associate Professor, and the adoption of eleven academic and administrative policies, including the Student Grievance Policy, Scholarship Policy, and Academic Advising Policy.

The Board received the report of the Facilities Committee and reviewed proposals related to campus development. The Committee presented recommendations on the design of the Men's Residence Hall, the President's Wall, and future efforts regarding a Memorial Garden. The Board approved the design and costs associated with the President's Wall. The Board also approved a proposal to design infrastructure upgrades for campus utilities funded by the Office of Duhok's Governor.

The Advancement Committee presented a single recommendation, and the Board unanimously approved the Philanthropic Fundraising Policy.

The Communications Committee recommended adopting the Leopard as the official AUK Mascot based on the results of a student survey. The Board unanimously approved the decision. The Board also approved four policies: the Social Media Policy, Website Management Policy, Event Management Policy, and Communication Policy.

The Trusteeship Committee presented several action items, including the approval of Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad as the new Chair of the Advancement Committee and the renaming of the Finance Committee to the Finance and Administration Committee. The Board unanimously approved Dr. Barbara Brittingham as a new Trustee and also approved the Vice President Evaluation Policy. The Annual Review Subcommittee was renamed the Annual Review and Compensation Subcommittee.



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The Board reviewed the nomination process for the Vice President for Administration and Finance. Following a thorough screening and evaluation of candidates, the Board unanimously approved the hiring of Mr. Omed Zawity for the position.

The Finance Committee presented Revision 0 of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The Board approved the budget, which projects total revenues expenditures. The Board also approved fourteen administrative and financial policies, with the Leave Policy being revised and approved following detailed discussion.

Under Other Business, the Board approved a change to the President's evaluation cycle, reducing it from five years to three years. The Board recognized the distinguished service of Provost Nazar Numan, who will retire in July 2023. The Board unanimously voted to honor Dr. Numan with the title of Provost Emeritus in recognition of his decades of contributions to academia and to AUK.

Dr. Honar Issa,
Secretary of the Board of Trustees