



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

### **The American University of Kurdistan**

*November 1–2, 2025*

The Board of Trustees of the American University of Kurdistan convened for its Board Retreat on November 1, 2025, chaired by the Board Secretary, followed by the full Board meeting on November 2, 2025, chaired by His Excellency Masrour Barzani.

During the Retreat, the Secretary introduced the theme Strategic Leadership for Impact: AUK's Path Forward, outlining objectives to evaluate progress toward the mission, align institutional priorities with regional needs, and define strategic directions for the next three to five years. Trustees reviewed KPI results, benchmarking data, survey findings, and facilities progress. They discussed improving academic advising, accelerating curriculum review, and strengthening employer engagement. The Retreat also examined Kurdistan's economic landscape and its implications for academic development, emphasizing the need for interdisciplinary programs, applied research partnerships, and new graduate offerings. Governance discussions focused on committee effectiveness, board composition, and establishing an accountability framework with regular progress reporting. The Board agreed on next steps that include refining mission language, expanding KPI dashboards, and preparing a summary of Retreat outcomes for consideration by the Full Board.

At the Full Board Meeting on November 2, 2025, the Chairman thanked members for their continued commitment. The Board reviewed committee recommendations and approved several academic actions, including degree conferral for sixteen students, the Policy on Department Chair, the Faculty Excellence Award, and promotions for Dr. Reda Adel Azim to Professor and Dr. Mohammed Ali Namuq to Associate Professor.

The Board also approved the appointment of new Trustees – Dr. Tod Laursen – the Chancellor of the American University of Sharja, Dr. Kirk Kolenbrander – senior administrator and faculty at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Ayad Michael Mirza – former partner of Deloitte in Iraq, based on recommendations from the Trusteeship Committee. From the Facilities Committee, the Board approved the schematic designs for both the Amphitheater and Building B. The General Audit and Risk Committee's recommendations were also accepted, including approval of Directors and Officers Liability insurance providing two million dollars in coverage and Kidnap and Ransom Liability insurance providing five million dollars in coverage.

The Finance and Administration Committee presented several items that the Board approved, including Draft 1 of the FY 2025–2026 Budget, the Employee Tuition Benefit, the Policy of Leave for Non Instructional Staff, and the Policy of University Transportation Services. The Development Committee provided an update on advancement related matters for the Board's awareness. Minister Ali Sindi presented the outcomes of the Board Retreat and outlined next steps for integrating its recommendations into Board and administrative planning.

In other business, the Board approved the appointment of Dr. Bronté Burleigh Jones, Chief Financial Officer of American University, as a Trustee. The Chairman emphasized AUK's important role in capacity building for government entities, and the President noted ongoing collaborations through the Colleges and the Center for Academic and Professional Advancement.

The Board of Trustees expresses its appreciation to the University community for its continued dedication and reaffirms its support for AUK's mission to provide high quality, American style education that prepares principled leaders for the Kurdistan Region and beyond.

Dr. Honar Issa,  
Secretary of the Board of Trustees