



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

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

*November 13, 2021*

The Board of Trustees of the American University of Kurdistan, chaired by His Excellency Masrour Barzani, convened on November 13, 2021. The Chairman opened the meeting by offering condolences to Dr. Lazgin Zeebaree for the loss of his daughter and expressed sorrow over the passing of Dr. Sinisa Prvanov, Chair of Design. He thanked the Trustees for their ongoing dedication to committee work and emphasized AUK's ambition to advance high quality education in support of the Kurdistan Region. He also noted the significance of the upcoming Middle East Peace and Security (MEPS) Forum scheduled for November 15.

The Board received a presentation on the AUK Strategic Plan 2021–2026. The President highlighted the strategic planning process, the Plan's alignment with accreditation efforts, and its three guiding principles: improving campus facilities, increasing revenue streams, and ensuring quality education through accreditation and industry engagement. The Board discussed campus expansion priorities, including a male residence hall, additional academic facilities, and a convention center. After deliberation, the Board unanimously approved the AUK Strategic Plan 2021–2026.

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee reported on its November 3 meeting. The Board approved the Academic Calendar 2021–2022 and endorsed the establishment of an Innovation and Entrepreneurship Lab, a Testing Center, and an Office of Grants Management. A list of 43 prospective Fall 2021 graduates was presented, and the Board voted unanimously to confer degrees upon them.

The Facilities Committee presented updates following a campus tour conducted on November 9. The Board approved allocation of locations for the Building Information Modeling Lab, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Lab and Fab Lab, Skills and Simulation Nursing Lab, and Media Lab and Radio Station. The Board also approved allocating funds for the conceptual design of new facilities and charged the Facilities Committee with overseeing the process.

The Finance Committee presented Revision 1 of the 2021–2022 Budget, which incorporated funding for the conceptual design project. The Board unanimously approved the revised Budget.

The Advancement Committee presented its Annual Plan and the Gift Acceptance Policy. The Board unanimously approved both. The Board also discussed registering AUK in the United States as a 501(c)(3), establishing an endowment and fundraising mechanism, and adding an online donation button on the AUK website. The Board unanimously approved AUK's U.S. registration and the addition of a fundraising button.

The Audit Committee presented the three year auditing report prepared by Ernst & Young. Based on the Committee's recommendation, the Board unanimously approved the audit reports for FY 2018, FY 2019, and FY 2019/2020.

The Board reviewed two policies: Non exempt Overtime Policy and External Communication Policy. Concerns were raised regarding the latter, particularly around restrictions on communication with the Board. The policy was withdrawn from voting. The Board unanimously approved the Non exempt Overtime Policy.

Dr. Honar Issa,  
Secretary of the Board of Trustees