



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

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

*November 13, 2022*

The Board of Trustees of the American University of Kurdistan, chaired by His Excellency Masrour Barzani, convened on November 13, 2022. The Chairman welcomed Dr. Dawood Atrushi to the Board and expressed appreciation for the University's recent accomplishments, including the successful award of a third U.S. Department of State grant.

The Chairman briefed the Board on regional developments, including ongoing negotiations over oil and gas issues between the Kurdistan Regional Government and the Iraqi federal government, the first major agricultural export from Kurdistan to the Gulf States, and the establishment of a state of the art data center in Erbil to support digitization initiatives. He highlighted the creation of the Kurdistan Institute for Innovation and emphasized the importance of enhancing education through the Kurdistan Accrediting Association for Education (KAAE).

The Board received the Audit Committee's report. Ernst & Young presented the University's financial statement for Fiscal Year 2020–2021, reporting net assets, an increase from the previous year. Revenues reported significantly higher than the prior fiscal year due largely to U.S. Department of State grant funding, and donations from the various organizations and donors. The Board unanimously approved the financial statement and authorized a one time audit of the initial Department of State grant.

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommended several updates to University structure and policies. The Board approved adding the title of Vice Provost, adjusting the title of the Provost, and renaming the Director of Advancement as Director/Vice President of Advancement. The Board also approved AUK's membership in the International Association of Universities. Six policies – English Language Proficiency, Probation and Dismissal, Civic Honor, New Employee Orientation, Holiday and Campus Closure, and Professional Development Grants – were adopted unanimously. The Employee Code of Conduct Policy was deferred for revision.

The Advancement Committee reported on the AUK delegation's trip to the United States, including meetings with government officials, corporations, and the Kurdish diaspora. An alumni reunion was held in October with 115 participants. The Advancement Office reported total revenues and expenses for the year. Friends of AUK, a U.S. registered 501(c)(3), has been established to facilitate fundraising. The Board approved accepting twenty scholarships from Genel Energy for underrepresented students.

The Communication Committee presented its revised committee charge, which the Board approved unanimously. The Board also approved the University's Branding Book with amendments clarifying the symbolism of the AUK logo.

The Facilities Committee presented recommendations on several capital and operational items. The Board approved a design fee to Chalabi Architekten & Partner for the Men's Residence Facility and Sports Center, funds for the renovation of the campus warehouse, and funds for equipment and furniture for the Electronic and Telecommunications Engineering Lab. Four information technology related policies – Email, Data Classification, Network Account, and Information and Computer Resources – were approved with modifications.

The Trusteeship Committee presented multiple actions for approval. The Board unanimously granted Minister Bernard Kouchner the status of Emeritus Trustee. The terms of Dr. Sarwar Pedawi as Treasurer and Dr. Honar Issa as Secretary were renewed through June 2025, following a performance evaluation. The Board also approved providing a professional development program for the Secretary at Harvard University. In addition, the Board approved hiring Dr. Cornelius Kerwin as an external reviewer of Board performance.



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The Finance Committee reported on the close out of Fiscal Year 2021–2022, noting that revenues exceeded estimates by 17% and expenses decreased compared to projections. The Board approved Revision 1 of the Fiscal Year 2022–2023 Budget, with projected revenues and expenditures. The Board also adopted the AUK Reward and Recognition Policy.

Under Other Business, the Board approved acceptance of a \$2.55 million U.S. Department of State grant to support accreditation efforts, student support services, and the establishment of radio and video production facilities. The Board also approved accepting 200 Chairman's Scholarship for Excellence awards provided by the Ministry of Higher Education. The resignation of Governor Farhad Atrushi from the Board was accepted unanimously.

Dr. Honar Issa,  
Secretary of the Board of Trustees