



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

The American University of Kurdistan

October 3, 2020

The Board of Trustees of the American University of Kurdistan, chaired by His Excellency Masrour Barzani, convened virtually on October 3, 2020. The Chairman welcomed the Trustees and congratulated Dr. Randall Rhodes on assuming the presidency of AUK. He briefed the Board on the recent developments in the Kurdistan Region, including the challenges posed by COVID 19, regional security concerns, and the importance of prioritizing high quality education for AUK's students and faculty.

The Chairman expressed appreciation to Governor Farhad Atrushi for his service and contributions over the past six years and welcomed the recommendation to appoint Governor Ali Tatar as a new Trustee. The Board unanimously approved his appointment.

The Board reviewed and approved the reformation of the eight standing committees: Academic and Student Life, Advancement, Audit, Communication, Facilities, Finance, Trusteeship, and Executive. Each committee's composition had been reviewed and recommended for approval based on prior discussions.

The Finance Committee presented the second revision of the 2020/21 Budget. Following clarifications and discussions, the Board unanimously approved the revised Budget. The Board also approved changing the University's fiscal year cycle from July–June to August–July to better align with the summer term.

The Board approved revisions to the AUK Organizational Chart, including restructuring academic units, creating the Office of Enrollment Management, establishing Staff and Student Senates, reorganizing reporting lines, and renaming and repositioning key administrative offices. These changes were adopted to strengthen governance, efficiency, and institutional development.

Following recommendations from the relevant committees, the Board approved the Procurement Policy and the Emergency Response Procedures Policy with the requirement that provisions concerning full scale terrorist attacks and armed conflict be embedded. The Social Media Policy was approved with one abstention.

Upon the recommendation of the Academic and Student Life Committee, the Board voted to confer degrees upon three prospective graduates expected to complete their requirements at the end of Fall 2020. The Board also approved seven academic policies, including the Grievance and Appeal Process Policy, Student Rights Policy, and a set of academic procedures related to course auditing, grading, examinations, and incomplete grades.

In other business, the Board received updates on faculty and student concerns. Members emphasized that personnel matters should not be addressed at the Board level and should remain within the authority of the President. Appreciation was extended to the University leadership for securing a grant from the U.S. Department of State.

Dr. Honar Issa,
Secretary of the Board of Trustees