



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

The American University of Kurdistan

September 19, 2019

The Board of Trustees of the American University of Kurdistan, chaired by His Excellency Masrour Barzani, convened on September 19, 2019, at the AUK Campus. The meeting took place on the historic day of AUK's first commencement ceremony, marking an important milestone in the University's growth and mission. The Chairman welcomed the Trustees and expressed appreciation for their contributions to reaching this significant occasion. He also briefed the Board on current developments within the Kurdistan Regional Government and highlighted key national priorities, including constitutional matters, Erbil-Baghdad relations, security challenges, economic diversification, healthcare and education reform, and public-private partnerships.

The Trustees received updates from committee meetings held with academic and administrative staff. After extensive discussions, the Board approved several major decisions aimed at strengthening academic quality, operational structure, and institutional governance. These decisions included approval of the Accreditation Proposal, which establishes the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Planning and authorizes the recruitment of a Vice President for Administration and Finance. The Board also authorized funds for basic engineering laboratories and for nursing laboratories to be allocated in two phases over the current and following year. Additionally, revised governance language clarifying faculty oversight responsibilities, academic authority, and hiring protocols was approved.

The Board discussed the proposed Faculty Workload Policy and voted unanimously to postpone consideration until the next meeting in order to allow further financial review. During the commencement related agenda item, the Board voted unanimously to confer degrees upon AUK's first graduating class, marking an important moment in the University's history.

The Secretary presented the results of the Board's self evaluation and the evaluation of the Secretary's performance, both conducted in accordance with the Board's Bylaws and Policies. Trustees discussed action plans to strengthen Board effectiveness, including matters related to fundraising responsibilities and opportunities for leadership development.

Further administrative actions taken during the meeting included the appointment of Dr. Honar Issa as Secretary and ex officio Board Member for a three year term, the appointment of Dr. Sarwar Pedawi as Treasurer for a three year term, the appointment of Minister Bernard Kouchner as Board Member for a three year term, and approval to hire an external auditing firm in accordance with NECHE standards. The Board entered executive session to evaluate University performance and concluded that the meeting was constructive and forward looking.

Dr. Honar Issa,
Secretary of the Board of Trustees