

AOU- University Council

Statutes of the Arab Open University

Approved by the University Board of Trustees# 30

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Article (15): The University Council

The university will have a council called “The University Council” which includes the membership of:

1. University President (chairman)
2. University Vice Presidents
3. Deans of the Academic Program in the headquarters
4. Branch Directors/Rectors in Branch Countries.
5. Director of Quality Assurance & Accreditation Department
6. Director of Admission & Registration
7. A representative of the teaching staff for each university's campus in the branch country to be elected by the teaching staff of each respective branch
8. It is possible to include as members of the University Council –upon suggestion by the University Council and approval from the Board of Trustees – an administrative staff representative, students, alumni representative or any consultant for one renewable year.
9. The University Council convenes for at least *three* regular annual meetings; it can also convene for exceptional meetings when need be; most meetings are to be held virtually through video conferencing or online applications.

Article (16): University Council Jurisdiction

1- The University Council is entitled to the following responsibilities:

- a. Assessing & developing the university's performance considering its general policy, strategy and plans based on the annual reports presented by the University President.
- b. Discussing the annual fiscal plan for the University and its end of year balance and offering its recommendations about the budget to the Board of Trustees.
- c. Discussing the Administrative, Financial and Academic Bylaws and other executive regulations and approving them.
- d. Discussing the plans for internal bylaws before presentation to the Board of Trustees for approval.
- e. Suggesting the establishment of deanships for academic programs, university branches and teaching and research centers and presenting suggestions to the Board of Trustees.
- f. Strengthening the bonds between different university branches and centers and coordination between them in terms of teaching, research, and examinations.
- g. Approving Study Plans for the University Academic programs and deciding on Study material and methods and media of teaching.
- h. Suggesting criteria for accepting new students and the numbers to be admitted being presented to the Board of Trustees.
- i. Granting Certificates and Academic degrees.
- j. Establishing the committees needed for the work of the University Council.
- k. Devising the bylaws concerning Student Behavior and the relevant Disciplinary Procedures.

- l. Establishing the criteria for the respective academic programs and the necessary conditions for granting certificates and academic degrees according to the approved bylaws.
- m. Establishing and approving criteria for the equivalence of subjects completed by students at other academic institutions.
- n. Establishing Honorary Certificates, prizes and scholarships and granting them according to the relevant bylaws.
- o. Suggesting cooperation agreements with other academic institutions.
- p. Approving quality assurance criteria, developing them, and following up on the application of these criteria in the domains of teaching, research, and community service.
- q. Examining any matters presented to it by the Board of Trustees and the University President.

2-The University Council can delegate any of its responsibilities and jurisdiction to the University Rector or any committees it establishes.

3- The University Council establishes a list of internal bylaws to organize its work procedures.

Article (17): University Council Permanent Committees

- 1. The University Council shall formulate permanent central committees and temporary committees' specific responsibilities during the academic year including but not limited to the academic committee, central examination committee, quality assurance accreditation academic and institutional standards committee, Information Technology, planning & development, scientific research, and financial committee.
- 2. The committees will be formulated by the university council from members that are able to achieve the aims and objectives of these committees and to present their reports to the university council in coordination with the university president.

3. The Committees remits are determined in the respective rules and regulations and accordingly the university council sets forth their mode of operation.
4. The above-mentioned committees may be chaired by the president of the university, or he/she may delegate one of the vice presidents as chairs. The committees will include representative members from the headquarters and AOU branches.