

Minutes of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Open University – Meeting No. (44)

Date: 18 December 2025

The Board of Trustees of the Arab Open University held its 44th meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, 18 December 2025, in person at the University's headquarters in Bahrain, headed by HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, with the attendance of the following members, in alphabetical order:

Dr. Ali Fakhro – Member

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Henaei – Member

Prof. Mohammed Al-Zakari – Member

Prof. Mosaed Al-Haroun – Member

Dr. Maitha Al-Shamsi – Member

Mr. Nasser Al-Qahtani – Member

Eng. Yousuf Al-Bassam – Member

The following also attended via videoconference:

Mr. Qutaiba Al-Ghanem – Member

Prof. Mufeed Shehab – Member

Dr. Wissam Fattouh – Member

Prof. Yousuf Al-Ibrahim – Member

By invitation of the President of the University, the following also attended:

- Prof. Naif Al-Mutairi – Vice President for Academic and Research Affairs
- Prof. Omar Al-Jarrah – Vice President for Planning and Development

Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah, Co-Chair, apologized for her absence from the meeting.

Mr. Mohammed Salim, Chief Financial Officer at the Headquarters, attended part of the meeting by invitation of the President of the University.

Mr. Saud Mudhhi, Lecturer – Headquarters, Secretary of the Board.

Agenda Items:

No.	Item
	Screening of a video for the Founder's Day of the University, the late HRH Prince Talal bin Abdulaziz, may Allah have mercy on him
1	a) Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting No. (43) b) Review of the University's actions regarding the decisions of Board Meeting No. (43)
2	Interim report on University buildings
3	Summary of the University's Annual Report for 2024/2025
4	Summary of the University's Financial Performance Report for 2024/2025
5	a) Audit Committee Report No. (40) b) Approval of the University's financial statements for 2024/2025
6	Approval of the Higher Diploma in Culture
7	Approval of the policy for writing off students' financial liabilities
8	Current status of opening University branches in Morocco and Yemen (oral report)
9	Review of the University's activities (conferences and scientific seminars) in its countries
10	a) Appointment of a Director of the University in Egypt b) Renewal of contracts of some University Directors
—	Any other business

Proceedings of Meeting No. (44)

HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Talal opened the 44th meeting of the Board, welcoming Their Excellencies and Distinguished Members of the Board of Trustees, and expressing his pleasure at holding the meeting at the University's headquarters in Bahrain – Manama. He then gave the floor to the President of the University, Prof. Mohammed Al-Zakari, to review the agenda. He began his remarks by stating that the University was founded by the late HRH Prince Talal bin Abdulaziz, may Allah have mercy on him, in 2002, and that it has now reached nearly twenty-four years of institutional work and educational contribution in the Arab world.

Before proceeding to the agenda items, a short film was shown documenting the University's celebration of its Founder, HRH Prince Talal bin Abdulaziz, may Allah have mercy on him, indicating that this celebration has become an annual tradition since last year, whereby each branch university commemorates the Founder's Day in appreciation of his legacy, his developmental and humanitarian role, and his pioneering leadership in establishing this unique educational institution. Prof. Al-Zakari then proceeded to review the agenda of the meeting, and HRH the Chairman requested any additions to the agenda. The item of financial disengagement between "AGFUND" and the Arab Open University was added under "Any Other Business," and the Board approved this addition.

Item One

a) Approval of the Minutes of the previous Board Meeting No. (43):

Decision No. (A/1/44):

Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting No. (43).

b) Follow-up on the implementation of the Board's decisions from its previous Meeting No. (43):

Decision No. (B/1/44):

a) The Board of Trustees was informed of the follow-up on the implementation of the decisions of its Session No. (43).

b) The Board of Trustees recorded its thanks and appreciation to Mr. Qutaiba Al-Ghanem, Member of the Board of Trustees, and the Arab Gulf Programme for Development (AGFUND) for their donation of one million US dollars to the Artificial Intelligence Center of Excellence project, and to the University for its in-kind contribution.

Item Two: Interim Report on University Buildings

Decision No. (2/44):

a) The Board of Trustees reviewed the report on University buildings and approved all the projects and executive procedures contained therein.

b) When proceeding with the Dammam and Lebanon building projects, the Board directed that the availability of sufficient funds for construction be ensured without affecting the University's performance and financial position, and that the possibility of external financing options such as full or partial loans be studied.

c) To benefit from specialists in asset management and financing in managing this file.

Item Three: Summary of the University's Annual Report for 2024/2025

Decision No. (3/44):

The Board of Trustees reviewed the summary of the Annual Report for the year 2024/2025.

Item Four: Summary of the University's Financial Performance Report for 2024/2025

Decision No. (4/44):

The Board of Trustees reviewed the University's financial performance for the academic year 2024/2025.

Item Five:

a) Audit Committee Report No. (40)

b) Approval of the University's financial statements for 2024/2025

Decision No. (5/44):

- a) The Board of Trustees approved the recommendations of the Audit Committee as stated in its Report No. (40).
- b) The Board of Trustees approved the University's financial statements for the year 2024/2025.

Item Six: Approval of the Higher Diploma in Culture

Decision No. (6/44):

The Board of Trustees approved the Higher Diploma in Culture.

Item Seven: Approval of the policy for writing off students' financial liabilities

Decision No. (7/44):

The Board of Trustees approved the proposed policy for the treatment of outstanding receivables owed by students across the Arab Open University countries.

Item Eight: Current status of opening University branches in Morocco and Yemen

Decision No. (8/44):

- a) To refrain from opening any premises or implementing programs in Yemen at the present time due to the lack of stability and unclear accreditation, while continuing to accommodate Yemeni students in existing University branches and studying alternative formulas to serve them without legal or political risks.
- b) To continue completing the licensing procedures for the University in Morocco in accordance with official requirements, without tying expansion to a single track and by studying potential alternatives and partnerships without compromising the University's mission or exposing it to legal risks.

Item Nine: Review of the University's activities (conferences and scientific seminars) in its countries

Decision No. (9/44):

The Board of Trustees was informed of the activities, conferences, and seminars conducted by the University in its countries during the year 2024/2025.

Item Ten: Appointments and Renewals of University Directors/Presidents

Decision No. (10/44):

- a) The Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Prof. Mohammed Samir Amin Hamza as President of the Arab Open University in Egypt for a period of three years.

b) The Board of Trustees approved the renewal of the appointment of Dr. Yara Abdullah as Director of the Arab Open University in the Lebanese Republic for a period of three years effective from 01/02/2026.

c) The Board of Trustees approved the renewal of the appointment of Dr. Ali bin Mohammed Al-Shahrani as President of the Arab Open University in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for a period of three years.

Any Other Business

Decision No. (11/44):

a) The Board of Trustees approved the financial disengagement between the Arab Gulf Programme for Development (AGFUND) and the Arab Open University, while maintaining the strategic partnership.

b) The Board of Trustees approved the amendment of Article (32) of the Statute to read: "Surplus funds of the University over and above its annual expenditures shall be disposed of as follows:

1. 10% as a reserve to meet the University's emergency needs.
2. 90% for the development of the University and the expansion of its various activities, and the Board of Trustees may allocate part of this percentage to support the Student Fund."

Decision No. (12/44):

The Board of Trustees approved the renewal of the Presidency of Prof. Mohammed bin Ibrahim Al-Zakari for the Arab Open University in the Arab world for a period of four years effective from 20 January 2026, in accordance with Article (18) of the Statute, and authorized the Chairman of the Board to review the adjustment of his financial status and remuneration for the previous period.

At the conclusion of the meeting, HRH the Chairman of the Board expressed his sincere thanks to all Members of the Board of Trustees for their attendance and positive participation, wishing them success and continued progress.

The meeting concluded at 2:00 p.m.

Abdulaziz bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud
Chairman of the Board of Trustees