

Minutes of the 42nd Board of Trustees Meeting of the Arab Open University
Dated: December 24, 2024

The Board of Trustees of the Arab Open University held its 42nd meeting at 10:00 AM Kuwait time on Tuesday, December 24, 2024, in person at the Four Seasons Hotel in Kuwait. The meeting was chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University, with the following members in attendance, listed in alphabetical order:

- Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Hinai, Member
- Prof. Abdulmonem Othman, Member
- Mr. Qutaiba Al-Ghanem, Member
- Prof. Mohammed Al-Zakari, Member
- Dr. Mosaad Al-Haroon, Member
- Dr. Maytha Al-Shamsi, Member
- Mr. Nasser Al-Qahtani, Member
- Dr. Wissam Fattouh, Member
- Prof. Youssef Al-Ibrahim, Member
- Eng. Youssef Al-Bassam, Member

The following members attended via video conference:

- Dr. Ali Fakhro, Member
- Prof. Mufid Shahab, Member

The meeting was also attended by invitation from the University President:

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

Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah, Co-Chair, apologized for not attending the meeting. Eng. Abdullah Baqshan, Board Member, was absent from the meeting.

Mr. Mohamed Salem, Head of Accounts at the headquarters, and Mr. Feras Jergis, External Auditor, attended part of the meeting by invitation from the University President.

The meeting was recorded by Mr. Saud Mudhi, Board Secretary – Headquarters.

Agenda Items of the Meeting:

- | No. | Item |
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| 1 | A. Approval of the minutes of the 41st Board of Trustees meeting. |

No.	Item
	B. Follow-up on the implementation of decisions and recommendations from the 41st Board of Trustees meeting.
2	Review of the latest developments in the university buildings.
3	Report on the impact of constructing new buildings on increasing student numbers.
4	Review of the summary of the annual report for 2023/2024.
5	Review of the university's financial performance for 2023/2024.
6	A. Approval of the Audit Committee's recommendations from its 38th meeting. B. Approval of the financial statements for the 2023/2024 financial year.
7	Report on the progress of the Fifth Strategic Plan.
8	Internal sustainability report for the university.
9	Approval to write off the outstanding balances of student accounts in Palestine.
10	Review of events: A. International Conference on Smart Management and Innovation in Smart Cities for Sustainable Development – Kuwait. B. Founders' Day of the Arab Open University.
11	Renewal of contracts for some of the university's leadership staff.
12	Any other business.

Proceedings of the 39th Meeting

His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud opened the meeting of the Board of Trustees, welcoming the esteemed members of the board and the university family to the 42nd meeting held in Kuwait. He began by remembering the founder of the university, the late Prince Talal bin Abdulaziz, may God have mercy on him. He also conveyed the greetings of the Co-Chair, Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah, to the members of the board, wishing them success in their efforts.

His Royal Highness then invited Dr. Mohammed Al-Zakari, the University President, to present the agenda. Dr. Al-Zakari proposed adding two items to the "Any Other Business" section: 1) Delegating the authority to the University President to approve expenditure on the university's construction projects, and 2) Approval of the university's academic plans in Saudi Arabia. The board approved these additions, and the meeting proceeded with the following discussions.

Agenda Items:

Item 1: A. Approval of the Minutes of the 41st Board of Trustees Meeting:

The minutes of the 41st Board of Trustees meeting were sent to the board members for review and feedback. All necessary amendments were made, and the minutes were approved by the Chairman.

- **Decision No. (A/1/42):**
Approved the minutes of the 41st Board of Trustees meeting.

B. Follow-up on the Implementation of Decisions from the 41st Meeting:

Decision No. (B/1/42):

The Board was informed about the follow-up actions taken regarding the decisions from the 41st meeting.

Item 2. Review of the Latest Developments in the University's Buildings:

- **Decision No. (2/42):**
 - A. The Board reviewed the latest updates on the university's building projects in Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam, Shorouk City, and Borg El Arab City, and approved the details of these projects.
 - B. The Board authorized the University President at the headquarters to finalize all tenders and contracts related to the university's construction projects and to approve payments for invoices and claims exceeding the authority of the Central Financial Committee, in accordance with the recommendations of the Buildings Committee at the headquarters, with the Chairman's approval for disbursements.
 - C. A delegation of university students, along with key decision-makers in Jeddah, will be part of the negotiations for the university's building in Jeddah as part of their practical training to enhance their negotiation skills.

Item 3. Report on the Impact of New Buildings on Increasing Student Numbers:

- **Decision No. (3/42):**
The Board praised the report on the impact of new buildings on increasing student numbers and commended the university's efforts in this regard. The Buildings Committee was tasked with reviewing the construction costs of the university building in Dammam.

Item 4. Summary of the 2023/2024 Annual Report:

- **Decision No. (4/42):**

- A. The Board reviewed the summary of the 2023/2024 annual report and praised the university's achievements.
- B. The Board extended its deep appreciation to Mr. Qutaiba Al-Ghanem for his generous donation (one million USD) to establish a Center of Excellence in Information Technology.
- C. A proposal is to be prepared to establish the Center of Excellence in Information Technology as a leading Arab center in the field.

Item 5. Review of the University's Financial Performance for 2023/2024:

- **Decision No. (5/42):**

- A. The Board reviewed the financial performance report for the 2023/2024 year and approved the contents.
- B. Future financial reports will include details that allow the Board to compare the financial performance of universities in their respective countries.
- C. A list of topics for discussion by the Board members will be sent in advance to allow for proper preparation ahead of each Board meeting.

Item 6. A. Approval of the Audit Committee's Recommendations from its 38th Meeting:

B. Approval of the Audited Financial Statements for the 2023/2024 Financial Year:

- **Decision No. (6/42):**

- A. The Board approved the recommendations from the Audit Committee's 38th meeting.
- B. The Board approved the audited financial statements for the 2023/2024 financial year.
- C. A legal committee will be formed to review the university's case in Bahrain against Dr. Samir Fakhro, assess the lawyer's performance, and review all related details to provide a final recommendation to the Chairman of the Board.

Item 7. Progress Report on the Fifth Strategic Plan:

- **Decision No. (7/42):**

- The Board reviewed the progress report on the Fifth Strategic Plan of the university.

Item 8. Internal Sustainability Report for the University:

- **Decision No. (8/42):**
The Board reviewed the internal sustainability report of the university.

Item 9. Approval to Write off the Outstanding Balances of Student Accounts in Palestine:

- **Decision No. (9/42):**
The Board approved the write-off of outstanding student account balances in Palestine, totaling 31,344 USD as of August 31, 2024, and also approved the write-off of inter-company account balances between the headquarters and the university in Palestine as of August 31, 2024.

Item 10. Review of Events:

- **Decision No. (10/42):**
The Board was briefed on the International Conference on Smart Management and Innovation in Smart Cities for Sustainable Development held in Kuwait and the Founders' Day celebrations of the Arab Open University.

11. Renewal of Contracts for Some Leadership Staff at the University:

- **Decision No. (11/42):**
The Board approved the renewal of Prof. Dr. Mohammed Al-Badi's contract as the Head of the Arab Open University in Oman for a three-year term starting from January 1, 2025.

Item 12. Any Other Business:

The University President presented two additional items under "Any Other Business":

1. Granting the University President the authority to approve invoices and expenditures for the university's construction projects.
2. Approval of the university's academic plans in Saudi Arabia and the renewal of the university's director in Saudi Arabia.

- **Decision No. (12/42):**
 - A. The Board approved the new academic plans for the university in Saudi Arabia.
 - B. The Board approved the renewal of Dr. Ali Al-Shahrani's contract for one year as the Director of the Arab Open University in Saudi Arabia, and granted the Chairman the authority to terminate his services if necessary.

The meeting of the Board of Trustees concluded at 1:30 PM.

Abdulaziz bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

Chairman of the Board of Trustees