

**Minutes of the 43rd Board of Trustees Meeting of the Arab Open University**  
**Dated: June 19, 2025**

The Board of Trustees of the Arab Open University held its 43rd meeting at 10:00 AM on Thursday, June 19, 2025, in person in the French capital, Paris, chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University, and attended by the members according to the alphabetical order of their names:

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

The following members attended via video conference:

- Dr. Ali Fakhro, Member
- Prof. Mufid Shahab, Member
- Dr. Maytha Al-Shamsi, Member

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

- 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, Financial Director at the headquarters, attended part of the meeting by invitation from the University President.

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

**Agenda Items of the Meeting:**

- | No. | Item   |
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| 1   | A moment of remembrance and tribute to the late Board Member, Prof. Abdulmonem Othman. |
| 2   | A. Approval of the minutes of the 42nd Board of Trustees meeting.                      |

- | No. | Item   |
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|     | B. Follow-up on the implementation of decisions and recommendations from the 42nd Board of Trustees meeting.   |
| 3   | Review of the latest developments in the University's buildings.   |
| 4   | Review of the University's financial performance for 2024/2025.  |
| 5   | Approval of the proposed budget for the academic year 2025/2026.   |
| 6   | Approval of the recommendations of the Audit Committee in its 39th meeting.  |
| 7   | 1. Congratulations to Mr. Qutaiba Al-Ghanem for receiving an honorary doctorate.<br>2. Initiative of the Center of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence. |
| 8   | Latest updates on the Fifth Strategic Plan.  |
| 9   | Establishment of a Diploma in Cultural Studies.  |
| 10  | Any other business.  |

### Proceedings of the 43rd Board of Trustees Meeting

The meeting of the Board of Trustees was opened by the Chairman, His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, who welcomed the esteemed members of the board and the university family to the 43rd meeting of the Board of Trustees held in the French capital, Paris. He then announced the commencement of the session. Following this, Dr. Mohammed Al-Zakari, the University President, presented the agenda to the board for approval, mentioning the possibility of adding two items under "Any Other Business," namely "Membership of the Audit Committee" and "The University's Investment Strategy." No comments were raised by the members, and the Chairman proceeded with the agenda.

#### Item 1: Tribute and Remembrance for the Late Board Member Professor Dr. Abdulmonem Othman

- **Decision No. (1/43):**  
The Board of Trustees observed a moment of tribute and remembrance for the late Board Member, Professor Dr. Abdulmonem Othman, may God have mercy on him, and acknowledged his distinguished contributions to the Arab Open University.

#### Item 2: Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting (42nd Meeting)

- **Decision No. (A/2/43):**  
The Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the 42nd meeting of the Board of Trustees.
- **Decision No. (B/2/43):**  
The Board was informed about the follow-up actions taken regarding the implementation of decisions from the previous meeting (42nd).

### Item 3: Review of the Latest Developments in University Buildings

- **Decision No. (3/43):**
  1. The Board reviewed the Executive Committee's report on university buildings and approved all the projects and executive procedures related to the university's buildings.
  2. The Board also considered the possibility of expanding into African countries such as Mauritania and Tanzania through partnerships with existing universities in these countries.

### Item 4: Review of the University's Financial Performance for 2024/2025

### Item 5: Approval of the Proposed Budget for the Academic Year 2025/2026

- **Decision No. (4/43):**
  - A. The Board reviewed the financial performance of the university for the academic year 2024/2025.
  - B. The Board approved the formation of a separate Risk and Compliance Committee, which will report to the Board of Trustees. The committee will be temporarily merged with the Audit Committee, with a reevaluation of this arrangement to take place later.
  - C. The Board decided not to form a Human Resources Committee at this time, but to assign the Executive Committee to oversee the tasks typically handled by a Human Resources Committee.
- **Decision No. (5/43):**
  - A. The Board approved the proposed budget for the academic year 2025/2026.
  - B. The Board approved the separation of the construction projects budget from the operational budget, considering the stages of project implementation when estimating expenses to be incurred during the budget period.

### Item 6: Approval of the Audit Committee's Recommendations from its 39th Meeting

- **Decision No. (6/43):**
  - A. The Board approved the recommendations of the Audit Committee from its 39th meeting.
  - B. The Board approved the appointment of KPMG as the university's external auditor for the 2025–2026 financial year.
  - C. The Board approved the proposal to honor the late Dr. Abdulmonem Othman, a former committee member, with a comprehensive system for naming awards and halls after deceased members and contributors, to be prepared by the Executive Committee.
  - D. The Board supported the Audit Committee's decision not to proceed with filing a lawsuit against the lawyer in the Dr. Samir Fakhro case and approved the direction to

send a strongly worded letter to the legal office, recommending contacting the Malaysian university to take action on the case.

**Item 7:**

1. Congratulations to Mr. Qutaiba Al-Ghanem on receiving an honorary doctorate.
  2. Initiative of the Center of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence.
- **Decision No. (7/43):**
    - A. The Board congratulated Mr. Qutaiba Al-Ghanem, Board Member, on receiving an honorary doctorate.
    - B. The Board approved the establishment of the Center for Artificial Intelligence at the Arab Open University, expressing its gratitude to Mr. Qutaiba Al-Ghanem for his generous support in founding this center.
    - C. The Board approved the development of partnerships with global universities in the East and West, as well as collaboration with major global companies, including Chinese and American companies, in the fields of artificial intelligence and innovation.

**Item 8: Latest Developments in the Fifth Strategic Plan**

- **Decision No. (8/43):**

The Board was informed about the latest updates regarding the Fifth Strategic Plan of the university and commended the progress being made.

**Item 9: Establishment of a Diploma in Cultural Studies**

- **Decision No. (9/43):**

The Board approved the proposal for a cultural diploma and the initiation of planning for the implementation of the project.

**Any Other Business:**

- **Decision No. (10/43):**
  - A. The Board approved the appointment of Eng. Youssef Al-Bassam as a member of the Audit Committee.
  - B. The Board approved the reformation of the Investment Committee, which will assess investment opportunities and develop a comprehensive investment policy for the university. Eng. Youssef Al-Bassam will be appointed as the Chair of this committee, and he will consult with the Chairman to select its members from both inside and outside the Board.

The meeting of the Board of Trustees concluded at 1:50 PM.

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