

Opening Speech for the seminar on  
“Student Services in Higher Education”

Improving the Learning Environment

Debbieh, November 28, 2013

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and gentlemen

First, I would like to welcome you all to Beirut Arab University in Debbieh campus. In cooperation with the HERE Team, “Tempus-Higher Education Reform Experts”, we are pleased to host this seminar on Student Services in Higher Education, “Improving the Learning Environment”,

I would also like to thank the European Union for the efforts exerted to support tempus projects, as well as the Tempus-HERE activities.

As you know, Beirut Arab University (BAU) is one of the largest private higher education institutions and one of the oldest universities in Lebanon. The University celebrated its 50th anniversary three years ago. BAU offers 35 undergraduate programs and 131 postgraduate programs across a broad range of fields providing a rich and rewarding educational environment to around 10,000 undergraduate students and 1700 postgraduate students from Lebanon and other countries. The University also aims to ensure active interaction with the Lebanese society.

The University has two main campuses in Beirut and Debbieh, one branch in Tripoli as well as the Bekaa Campus which is under construction.

At BAU we have different centers such as the Academic Development & Quality Assurance Center, the Center of Consultation, the Media Center, the Language Center, the Human Rights Center, the Center for Entrepreneurship and the Center for Environmental Researches in Bekaa region.

Focusing on excellence in all we do, Beirut Arab University (BAU) has, since it was established, been committed to promote quality education. We continuously look to improve the academic and administrative services offered by consistently

upgrading these services to conform with international standards. In 2007, BAU prepared its first five-year strategic plan (2007-2012) and in the new strategy (2013-2018), we considered the progress and extent of success achieved in the previous strategy.

One of our main strategic goals is to improve academic and student services, and to provide a rich university life for all students.

The relevant objectives are to:

- Attract a strong, enthusiastic and diverse body of students.
- Maintain campus facilities and services.
- Provide outstanding services to library users.
- Enhance teaching and learning in an electronic environment.
- Effectively coordinate the management services.
- Enable students to enjoy a full university experience.
- Support the community building efforts of student leaders.
- Reinforce the impact of alumni and friends in career guidance.
- Facilitate international staff and student mobility.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With the attendance of experts and people from different backgrounds, more beneficial ideas and experiences can be shared in this seminar. I look forward to seeing a positive outcome from this event.

Thank you.