

WAAAUB President Khalil Makkawi
Remarks
WAAAUB Second Convention
Launching Ceremony
May 2, 2009 at 9:00 am (Issam Fares Hall)

It is wonderful to be with all of you on this important – and quite enjoyable – occasion. We are particularly pleased that President Dorman is able to be with us for some part of this meeting especially given all of the other events that are taking place at the moment. Although the focus of most of these activities is – as it should be – on the inauguration of President Dorman as AUB’s 15th president, I think WAAAUB has a lot to celebrate too.

As you all know, this is our second convention – a chance for us to reflect on what we have achieved and to recommit ourselves to our mission. I am very proud to be able to report to all of you that we have achieved a lot: our Outreach Committee is preparing the third issue of its electronic newsletter, Al Jame’a; we have organized three very successful regional meetings in Washington DC, Jordan, and Bahrain; we have launched the WAAAUB Alumni Award program; and we are looking forward to the second round of WAAAUB elections on May 15th.

In addition, there has been a good deal of more routine, ongoing activity like reaching out to alumni and reviewing our bylaws, policies, and procedures. By referring to this activity as “routine” and “ongoing” I do not mean to in any way diminish its importance. Quite the contrary. I consider it one of the great successes of WAAAUB that it has so quickly become part of the ordinary fabric of alumni life at AUB. It is a success that those of us

meeting today share with the literally thousands of AUB alumni around the world who have embraced WAAAUB.

In fact, I would argue that these meetings that attract alumni from around the world to Beirut where we can meet, get to know each other, share our stories, and – most of all – support our University is one of WAAAUB's greatest accomplishments. I look forward to continuing our work together to support our university: AUB.