



**AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BEIRUT**

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OFFICE OF THE VP FOR ADMINISTRATION

October 24, 2023

Dear members of the community,

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Simon Kachar as executive director of communications effective October 16, 2023. This follows a search which yielded several promising candidates, but ultimately the search committee decided that none was the right fit at this time. Accordingly, we approached Dr. Kachar to serve as executive director and he agreed.

Kachar brings to this position a wealth of experience in addition to his comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the AUB culture and community, invaluable qualities which are all the more necessary during this period. He has served for the past two years as interim director of the Office of Communications, in addition to fulfilling his duties as director of news and media relations, a post he has held at AUB since 2016.

As interim director, Simon has been pivotal in the administration's efforts to form a strong central Office of Communications with devolution of services across campus. He has led the office through several major communications initiatives, including the launch of new brand identities for the university, its medical center, as well as the newly established American University of Beirut – Mediterraneo in Cyprus. During his time at AUB, Simon has built robust relationships between the university and media outlets locally and regionally and also serves as the university spokesperson.

Before joining AUB, Kachar spent almost a decade working in the GCC in strategic communications and management consulting and later worked in the Office of Public Relations and Media at the Lebanese American University. He holds a BA and MA in

political science and public administration as well as a PhD in political science, with his doctoral dissertation recently awarded the Michel Eddé academic prize for the best PhD dissertation on good public governance from Saint Joseph University (USJ).

In addition to his administrative duties, Kachar is a lecturer in political science in the Department of Political Studies and Public Administration at AUB and a fellow of the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs. He authored the book *Fouad Chehab and the Political Change in a Pluralistic Society* and has published articles in peer-reviewed journals, analytical articles, and policy briefs on social issues, public policies, governmental policy development, public governance efficiency, and public administration reform.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Kachar and wishing him all the best in his new role.

Sincerely,

Mary Jaber Nachar
Vice President for Administration and Chief of Staff
