



**DEPARTMENT: ADM/DEAN OFFICE**

**TITLE: Academic Autonomy and Freedom  
at the Lebanese University**

<b>CODE: ADM/ DO – PP – 01</b>	
<b>IMPLEMENTATION DATE: 18/01/2021</b>	
<b>REVIEW DATE: 18/01/2024</b>	
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## **1. Policies**

### **1. Academic autonomy and freedom**

- 1.1 The freedom and independence of Lebanese higher education are protected under the Constitution. Tertiary education in Lebanon is divided into two categories; vocational tertiary education and general or non-vocational higher education.
- 1.2 The LU enjoys clear autonomy with its own system of governance [European Commission Tempus Projects. Higher Education in Lebanon.[http://www.tempus-lb.org/sites/default/files/lebanon\\_review\\_of\\_higher\\_education.pdf](http://www.tempus-lb.org/sites/default/files/lebanon_review_of_higher_education.pdf) ].
- 1.3 Academic freedom is prominent at the LU, as demonstrated by conducted research [Nauffal D. Higher Education in Lebanon: Management Cultures and their Impact On Performance Outcomes. <https://etheses.bham.ac.uk/id/eprint/93/1/IssaNauffal05PhD.pdf> ], and as demonstrated by practice: professors at the LU have a Professors' League, an autonomous body that defends the rights of Professors from the academic and financial points of view.

### **2. Academic freedom expression at the Lebanese University**

- 2.1 Faculty members are entitled to full freedom of research and the publication of the results.
- 2.2 Faculty members have freedom in research topics to have a role in the advancement of truth.
- 2.3 Faculty members have the freedom in selecting the approach of their research that is appropriate to the topic under investigation.
- 2.4 Faculty members have the freedom in selecting the teaching styles and methods to achieve the learning objectives of the courses.
- 2.5 Academic freedom applies to all disciplines and is fundamental to the protection of the rights of faculty and students.
- 2.6 There are no adverse consequences to employment status (hiring, promotion, and retention) as a result of expressions protected by academic freedom.



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## 1. Purpose

- To protect faculty members and students from reprisals for disagreeing with administrative policies or proposals.
- To guarantee that serious charges against a faculty member will be heard before a committee of his or her peers.

## 2. Supervision

- Faculty council

## 3. Scope of implementation

All the faculty members

## 4. Supporting equipment/materials

## 5. Related documents

<b>Policies and Procedures</b>	<b>Code</b>
<b>Templates</b>	<b>Code</b>
<b>Records/Logs</b>	<b>Code</b>


## 6. Procedures

## 7. Related Risks

- Loss of trust and credibility of University

## 8. Definitions

- **Academic autonomy:** refers to a university's ability to decide on various academic issues, such as student admissions, academic content, quality assurance, the introduction of degree programmes and the language of instruction
- **Academic freedom:** is the right of faculty members, acting both as individuals and as a collective, to determine without outside interference: (1) the faculty curriculum; (2) course content; (3) teaching; (4) student evaluation; and (5) the conduct of scholarly inquiry.

 <p>LEBANESE UNIVERSITY Faculty of Pharmacy</p>	<p><b>DEPARTMENT: ADM/DEAN OFFICE</b></p>	<p>CODE: ADM/ DO – PP – 01</p>
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## 9. Abbreviations

LU: Lebanese University

## 10. References

**History. See:** <https://www.ul.edu.lb/lu/history.aspx>

The creation of the Lebanese University(LU) was an idea first mentioned in the speech of the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hamid Frangieh during the closing ceremony of the Third UNESCO Conference in Beirut held on 11 December 1948, during which he said: "Lebanon hopes to see the creation of a Lebanese university having the spirit of UNESCO"

The establishment of the Lebanese University came as a result of a popular and student mobilization initiated on 23 January 1951 with a general strike that lasted for a long period during which, secondary and university students, mostly from Saint Joseph's University participated. The movement included demonstrations and clashes with security forces that lead the Council of Ministers to meet on 5 February of the same year. Since there is no real independence for a country without an official national university that preserves its cultural and scientific heritage, the year 1951 witnessed the creation of the first unit of the Lebanese University with the establishment of the Higher Normal School and the Institute of Statistics under the direction of Dr. Khalil Al-Jurr.

Soon after, Decree No. 25 was issued on 26 February 1953, stipulating the establishment of a Center for Financial and Administrative Studies that was affiliated to the University and later renamed the "Institute of Management and Finance". The Decree also stipulated the renaming of the "Higher Normal School" with the "Higher Teachers Institution".

The Lebanese University constituted this unit until 1959, when decree No. 2883 was issued on 16 December 1959 concerning the organization of the University. The first article stipulated the following: "The Lebanese University is an institution that performs the functions of public higher education in its different branches and degrees ...". However, the Statutes and Ordinances for the organization of the University, which established its **academic, administrative and financial autonomy**, were issued on 26 December 1967 under law No. 75/67. Following that, the work of the University Teaching Staff was regulated



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under Law No. 6/70 dated 23 February 1970, and the financial system was established on 14 April 1970 under Decree No. 14246.

The University is headed by a President and a University Council. The Faculty or Institute is headed by a Dean and a Faculty Council. The University Branch is headed by a Director and a Branch Council. The Teaching Staff carries out its syndicate activities through the Association of Full-time Professors.