

Report on the Election of the Board of Trustees (BoT)
Cairo, Egypt
17-18 December 2008

Fifty four social scientists from the Arab countries and abroad convened in Cairo on 17-18 December 2008 to launch the Arab Council for the Social Sciences and elect the Board of Trustees. This report describes the process through which the Board was elected.

Nominations

The ACSS steering committee which was elected in the Dubai meeting in ... nominated some Arab social scientists for the Board by sending them emails soliciting their agreement to the nomination and confirming their interest in running for the Board election. The nominees supplied the Steering Committee with their CVs and statements explaining why there were interested in the nomination and their envisioned role in the ACSS and these documents were distributed at the conference. In addition to these nominees, new nominations were invited from the floor to ensure an equal opportunity for all to be considered for election. The process generated considerable interest and all in all 15 candidates were nominated, seconded and listed for election. All attendees had the chance to nominate themselves or other persons and all nominees had the chance to introduce themselves to the Assembly .

Electoral system

According to the Charter that was discussed and ratified by the General Assembly, the Board of Trustees would be composed of 13 elected members. Only in this first Board, four of members of the Steering Committee who were elected in Dubai were continuing for two additional years for continuity, which meant that only nine members would be elected for the first Board. Eligible members of the General Assembly (Article 7 of the Charter) were instructed to vote for nine members or less. Qualifications and credentials were the main criteria for elections, yet the Assembly felt it was also important to give consideration to other aspects of representation such as gender, geographical region, discipline and other factors believed to be important for a diversified Board of Trustees. Four members of the General Assembly volunteered to conduct the elections. These were: Huda Zurayk, Tamim Al- Barghouti, Nahla Abdo, Amaney Jamal and Fares Braizat.

Voting

The election committee described the voting procedure to the General Assembly which included three ballot boxes with a member of the election committee supervising each and the fourth member to oversee the entire process. The whole alphabet was divided into three groups with each box assigned a group of letters by alphabetical order. Members were directed to the box with the alphabet corresponding to their first name. Once they voted, members of the election committee ticked the names of voters to ensure that each voter voted only once.

A ballot paper was prepared and distributed to all participants with written instructions on how to vote. The ballot paper contained the names of the candidates, their discipline and country. Voters were instructed to mark an "X" next to the name of the candidate they wished to elect. Up to nine names only were allowed.

Counting

The counting process started by making sure that all ballot papers contained nine or less elected candidates out of 15. One ballot paper had ten names elected and therefore was disregarded. New sheets of paper with names of the candidates were distributed to supervisors of ballot boxes and each counted the votes for the 15 candidates in his/ her box. Then a second count was carried out by another person to compare results and fix discrepancies. The election committee recounted the votes for each candidate and finalized the count.

Announcing the results

The results were announced to the General Assembly in a plenary session as follows:

Name and country	Area of research	Number of Votes
Rahma Bourqia	Anthropologist	41
Mustafa Hamarneh	Contemporary history	37
Abdulkarim Barghouti	Philosophy	36
Amr Hamzawy	Political Science	35
Raufa Hassan Alsharki	Sociology	34
Ahmad Beydoun	Sociology	32
Ragui Assaad	Economics and Urban Development	32
Abdel Nasser Djabi	Political Sociology	32
Ebtisam Mohd Al Kitbi	Political science	30