



PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

7 FEBRUARY 2016 – Issue 14



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last week was a hectic one for the University where we hosted a group of senior colleagues from LSBU to discuss opportunities for collaboration. We also hosted a lunch event for the Director of the British Council, Deputy Head of UKTI and a senior colleague from GPIC together with the delegation from LSBU. The British Ambassador to Bahrain HE Simon Martin, hosted Prof Waheeb and I and the delegation from LSBU for dinner on the 2 February at his residence. HR and Finance organized a training workshop on appraisals and performance. The library review was conducted by the librarian of Gulf University of Science and Technology Kuwait. The SERs for Arts and Sciences were submitted on time, many thanks for the great effort of our colleagues. The HEC progress report was submitted on 28 January and Prof Robert Newton concluded a 2 weeks visit to the University.



Finally, I am delighted to inform you that the first draft of the monthly students newsletter has been produced, many thanks to the great effort of our Students Council and the Deanship of Students Affairs and Evening Studies.

DR ASSEM AL-HAJJ GUEST ON BAHRAIN RADIO

Dr Assem Al-Hajj, Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs and Development was the guest of Utrouhat programme on Bahrain Radio live on Saturday 6 February. Dr Assem spoke on the subject of 'Lean Thinking in Construction' discussing the importance of these principles in removing waste from construction processes and achieving better efficiency and advocating continuous improvement.



The SEVEN WASTES that have been identified are as follows: Overproduction, unnecessary inventory, inefficient transportation, unnecessary motion, waiting times, rejects and defects, inappropriate processing.



ASU HELD TRAINING WORKSHOP TITLED “PERFORMANCE EVALUATION”

The Directorate of Administration and Finance conducted a training workshop titled “Performance Evaluation” to ASU administrative staff including Heads of Departments and Office Directors to increase the employee’s awareness of the standards of evaluation. The workshop was presented by Dr. Adel Alsamman, Faculty Member in the College of Administrative Sciences.



Mr. Mohammed Yousif, VP for Administration, Finance and community Engagement discussed the importance of performance evaluation in implementing goals of the

University and in enhancing employee’s productivity and improving communication between managers and staff members.



Performance evaluation reinforces good job. It also makes sure employees and managers understand each other’s expectations which allows employees and managers to create goals, as well as plans to achieve those goals.

INJAZ MEETING

On 3 February 2016, two officials from Injaz Bahrain, Hanan Al Shaiekh and Mariam Flamerz, visited ASU and met with Prof Ghassan Aouad, Dr Assem Al-Hajj, Dr Faiza Zaitouni and Prof Saad Darwish and discussed future cooperation and plans for the preparation of implementing the company’s programme and innovation camp. ASU seeks to promote entrepreneurship and preparing our students for professional success.



SME'S MEETING

On 4 February, representatives from Bahrain SME's Society visited ASU. The Chairman, Dr Abdulhasan AlDairi and his colleagues Mr Ali Lari, Abdul Raheem Fakhro, and Mr Raed Almubarak met with with the President, Prof Ghasaan Aouad & Prof Saad Darwish, President’s Advisor for Special Projects and discussed full cooperation in terms of providing guest speakers, joint seminars, conferences and any other activities related to entrepreneurship.





HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION FROM LONDON SOUTH BANK UNIVERSITY VISITED ASU

A group of Senior Academics from London South Bank University visited the University over the period 31 January to 3 February. The group was Prof Craig Barker, Dean of School of Law and Social Science, Dr Andrew Unger, Head of Law and Dr Gups Jagpal, Head of Research, Innovation and Enterprise, and was headed by Prof. Paul Ivey, Pro Vice Chancellor - Research and External Engagement. The ASU team was headed by Profs. Waheeb and Ghassan.



The 4-day visit concentrated on consolidating our existing partnership and opening opportunities for further collaboration between the two institutions.

During their 4-day visit, we hosted a lunch event for the Director of the British Council, Deputy Head of UKTI and a senior colleague from GPIC.

EXTERNAL REVIEW OF ASU LIBRARY

Over the period of 3-4 February, Ms. Shobhita Kohli, Library Director of the Gulf University for Science & Technology conducted an External Review of the library. Ms. Kohli is a senior and highly experienced librarian with over two decades working at all levels in the library and Information Systems sector.



The review focused on many aspects, including, but not limited to, structure and management, student-staff led philosophy, business process, pro-active information services with staff and students, operational targets, improving student/staff usage of library, services and library performance management system, library collections and electronic resources, library physical facilities and library staff (background and training).

There is no doubt that the review, once completed, will help the university to improve the library's effectiveness and efficiency which will be extremely beneficial in raising the equality of teaching, learning and research.





ADVISORY BOARD OF THE MASTER OF ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE MEET WITH BIBF OFFICIALS

The advisory board of the Master of Accounting and Finance has organized a visit to Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF), on Sunday 7 February, 2016, to discuss potential collaboration with the College of Administrative Sciences of ASU that is aimed at enhancing the curriculum of the Master of Accounting and Finance program.



The visit has taken place in BIBF premises with the presence of Dr Al-Shaikh, BIBF deputy director, Deen Jayah, head of the center of Banking, Accounting & Finance, Hussain Jubail, Programme manager of the Banking & Finance center, and the advisory board composed of Dr Mohamed Al Khinji (Chair), Dr Shaban Islam, Dr Ziad Zuriqat (Dean), Dr Ramzi Nekhili (Vice Dean), and Dr Bashar Matarneh (MAF program coordinator).

The meeting started with a brief video introduction on BIBF and a visit to the Dealing Room where simulation training is conducted. A brainstorming discussion was carried afterwards around topics that concern benchmarking with professional bodies like CPA, ACA, and others, using simulation as a mean to prepare future graduates to real-life practices, and the role of professional certification in employability.

BIBF has accepted to allow our master of accounting and finance students to have a demo day on simulation training and to work closely with the programme coordinator to benchmark the programme curriculum with professional bodies. BIBF agreed to pay us a visit to Applied Science University to introduce undergraduate students the existing professional certifications and their importance not only for Bahrain job market but also around the Gulf Cooperation Council.

AN ENTERTAINMENT CAMP FOR THE STUDENTS, ACADEMIC STAFF AND EMPLOYEES OF THE ASU

ASU held its second entertainment/social camp at Sakhir area for all ASU students and staff and their families. Its aim was to enhance social relations and build team spirit and unity.

The event was attended by Professor Waheeb Al-Khaja, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and the President of the University Professor Ghassan Aouad.



Professor Ghassan Aouad said “the camp represents an opportunity for the academic and administrative staff as well as senior management members of the university to meet in an informal atmosphere and to entertain themselves outside the work environment.”

Ms. Ruqaya Mohsen, Director of Marketing and Public Relations thanked the senior management for having such an event and strengthening relationships among staff.

The attendance enjoyed the sport activities, and the Bahraini delicious food.



REMINDER OF THE WEEK

THE INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION STANDARDS (HEC)

AREA 3: Teaching, Learning and Assessment (2 Standards)



Teachers must be appropriately qualified and effective in facilitating student learning (12 KIs)

1. Teachers must be appropriately qualified in terms of subject knowledge, pedagogic and communicative skills, and experienced for the courses to which they are allocated.
2. The programs and their constituent courses must be delivered and assessed in ways that enable students to succeed, by developing the knowledge and skills which will be required for final examinations or assessments.
3. Learning outcomes for all programs must be articulated and be publicly available.
4. Teachers must be effective in recognizing individual learning needs and preferred learning styles and adapting their delivery to meet these.
5. Teachers must ensure that course delivery encourages the interactive participation of all students in classroom activities.
6. Teachers must use a mixture of large and small group, and individual activities to encourage and support students' learning.
7. Teachers must provide students with access to any additional learning materials they deem necessary.
8. Teachers must produce schemes of work consistent with the syllabus and detailed lesson plans and deposit these with the administration.
9. Teachers must draw upon their own research and that of others in their teaching.
10. Students must be encouraged and enabled to develop independent learning skills and take responsibility for their own learning.
11. Students must have access to teaching staff outside classroom-based teaching and learning sessions.
12. The institution must provide students and teachers with access to appropriate resources and materials for study and encourage and support their use of these.

Assessment must be fair, well-organized and appropriate for the level and nature of the courses and students must receive timely and supportive feedback on their work (11 KIs)

1. Students must be provided with an assessment schedule in which required coursework and revision periods are detailed in advance with clear submission dates.
2. The principles, methods and practices of student assessment must be aligned with the curriculum of the courses and focused on measuring students' achievement of the intended learning outcomes.



3. The link between assessment and learning outcomes must be reviewed periodically to ensure its effectiveness.
4. Assessment tasks must be clearly written indicating what the student needs to do to achieve stipulated levels of achievement.
5. Students must receive detailed and supportive oral and written feedback on their assessments and overall performance and progress, which must be effectively monitored.
6. There must be secure and efficient procedures for the administration of examinations and other means of assessment including the safe-keeping of assessment documents and records.
7. The institution must take appropriate steps to identify and discourage cheating, including plagiarism and other misdemeanours, and to penalize offenders.
8. There must be clear policies and procedures for students to claim mitigating circumstances and to appeal against marks awarded including an appropriate timeframe.
9. If final year projects are part of the program assessment, there must be a clear policy and systems for their assessment which are fair, transparent and relevant.
10. There must be effective procedures for internal and external moderation at pre and post-assessment stages.
11. The institution must make student records and transcripts available to its students in a timely manner.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'Watch the little things; a small leak will sink a great ship'

Benjamin Franklin



Enjoy Reading
