



PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

13 MARCH 2016 – Issue 19



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Upcoming Event:

The Official Launch of three Research Related Publications

15 March 2015 4:00 – 6:00pm

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last week was yet another hectic one for the University. On Sunday, 6 March, the Chairman of the BOT, Professor Waheeb Alkhaja, and the President, Prof Ghassan Aouad received HE the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain, Sheikh Azzam Bin Mubarak AlSabah who toured the University and expressed his admiration for the quality of education we are delivering at ASU.



On 7 March, the President delivered a seminar to all staff on Masters Theses Supervision. The seminar was organised by Dr Ramzi Nekhili and attended by a good number of colleagues who received some hints on good supervision including methodological issues, research ethics and the process of supervising postgraduate students.

On the same day, we hosted a workshop on leadership organised by the British Council.

On 8 March, we celebrated international Women Day to recognise our female colleagues achievements and their contribution to the University.

On the 8 and 10 March, the President and VP Admin and Finance visited Cardiff Met and attended the Cardiff Met partners conference and the President gave a lecture on the Art and Science of Doing Research.

This week and precisely on 15 March at 4:00pm, we will be launching three research related publications under the patronage of the Secretary General of the HEC and with a welcome speech from the Chairman of the BOT, I sincerely hope that you will make every effort to attend this important launch.

What's New?





FOURTH RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES AT THE COLLEGE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES

The College of Administrative Sciences has organised its fourth research seminar series on 7 March 2016. A presentation was delivered by Professor Ghassan Aouad, President of Applied Science University and Bahrain Immediate Past President of the Chartered Institute of Building, and chaired by Dr Ramzi Nekhili, the Vice Dean of the College of Administrative Sciences, over a topic titled “Master Thesis Supervision”.



The seminar has benefited from the extensive experience of Professor Aouad in research and thesis supervision. It was a good opportunity to reflect on the existing practices and their improvements. Professor Aouad displayed many invaluable hints on how to produce a successful thesis. He also defined the research process and its milestones and went through a thorough explanation of the methodological issues and ethics related to research. The audience, including faculty members from various colleges, shared their 'best practices' and debated on the challenges faced by supervisors. Professor Aouad recommended that the vast majority of supervisors must strive to supervise effectively and to establish a good working relationship with the graduate students. He further discussed on what strategies a supervisor might use to encourage graduate students to plan, to monitor their progress, to write and to finally defend their theses.

AWARD CERMONY FOR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

On 28 February 2016, the deanship of students' Affairs and evening studies organised an award ceremony under the patronage of Prof Ghassan Aouad, the president of ASU, for the outstanding students for the first semester 2015-2016.



The ceremony was held in Abdullah Nass auditorium with the presence of academic staff who were proud of this achievement.

ASU rewarded the outstanding students with a discount up to 20% from the finance department, which motivates them and other students to work hard and reach to this level.

“AGAINST THE CLOCK” EVENT

ASU students among 16 teams from different companies participated in “Against The Clock” event on Friday 11 March 2016. The event was organised by Rotary Club Bahrain and the purpose of this event was to raise funds for children with cancer.





“LEADER’S INFLUENCING TOOLKIT” WORKSHOP

The British Council in collaboration with Prof Saad Darwish and ASU Community Engagement Office organised a workshop titled “Leader’s Influencing Toolkit”. The workshop focused on persuasive communications and public speaking designed by a layered manner to develop people’s abilities in term of content, structure and delivery.



The workshop was delivered by Change School and presented by Vien Hall, an adjunct professor of management who taught at different universities in the UK, and Neil Marshall who has 24 years in consulting and education. The event was very well received and appreciated by the attendees who came from all over Bahrain.

PROF SAAD DARWISH ELECTED FOR THE BRITISH ALUMNI CLUB

Prof Saad Darwish was elected for the "British Alumni Club ". This is a wonderful opportunity for ASU to extend its network in the academic community of Bahrain. It will also open avenues for more collaboration with the British Council and British Universities. We are sure Prof Saad will be a very good Ambassador for this endeavor. ASU wishes the board success and congratulations for the election.



FIELD VISIT FOR INTERNSHIP IN (BMIS) PROGRAMME

Dr Ghossoon AlSadoon, the Internship Supervisor for the Bachelor Degree in Management Information System (BMIS) programme, has visited one of the intern students in the training site at Ministry of Interior at the Customs Affairs and Information Technology Departments on 9 March 2016. This purpose of the visit was a follow up on the student’s progress on site and to make sure that the training is relevant to the field to MIS programme.



Dr AlSadoon met the Director of the Information Technology department as well as the Director of the Head of Purchasing, the field supervisors for the internship student, who mentioned that the student has been trained on new information system used in the departments.



REMINDER OF THE WEEK:

THE INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION STANDARDS (HEC)

AREA 8: The institution must have secure possession of and access to its premises (3 KIs)

The institution must have effective systems to review its own standards and assess its own performance (13 KIs)

1. The institution must have dedicated accreditation and quality assurance teams which comprises staff with relevant qualifications, knowledge and experience.
2. The accreditation and quality assurance team must continuously monitor its own performance, referring to external quality assurance systems and international benchmarks.
3. The institution must ensure that it takes into account the views of all its stakeholders, to include employers, students and the wider community, when collecting data for accreditation and quality assurance purposes.
4. The institution must undertake regular and systematic monitoring of its operations.
5. The institution must conduct periodic reviews of all aspects of its performance against clearly specified and appropriate performance indicators.
6. The nominated leader for each course must produce an end-of-session (semester or year) report which includes measures of student satisfaction, completion rates and achievement levels.
7. The nominated program leader, drawing upon reports from its constituent courses, must produce an annual program report which includes analysis of year on- year results on student satisfaction, achievement levels, completion rates and progression to further study or employment.
8. Reports, which present the results of the institution's reviews, evaluate its performance and incorporate action plans, must be compiled at least annually. These are considered by senior management and the board of trustees and, where appropriate, shared with all stakeholders including students.
9. All programs must be subject to annual review and to full revalidation every four years.
10. Annual review and revalidation of programs must involve external assessors.
11. The management of student assessment must be subject to independent external scrutiny, which provides evaluation and suggestions for improvement.
12. All quality management policies and procedures must be clearly documented and brought to the attention of staff and, where appropriate, students and other stakeholders.
13. Particular attention must be paid to the quality of the student learning experience and to ensuring there is fair treatment of all students.

The institution must regularly obtain and record and analyze feedback from students and other stakeholders and take appropriate action where necessary (6 KIs)

1. Views of all stakeholders, including teachers and students, partner institutions and employers, must be canvassed and recorded regularly through various means including face-to-face meetings, feedback questionnaires and, where appropriate, formal student representation.



2. There must be well-defined policies for obtaining feedback from students on academic staff performance.
3. The views of stakeholders including students must be considered objectively, evaluated thoroughly and, where necessary, appropriate action taken.
4. There must be effective means of responding to stakeholder opinion and keeping them informed of any actions taken, through formal feedback mechanisms.
5. Key performance indicators must include analysis of student outcomes in terms of the current year and year-on-year performance and any significant variations in student achievement between different program components. The institution must pro-actively engage with its alumni and encourage interaction with current students to provide support, mentoring and career advice.

The institution must have a strong commitment to, and procedures that facilitate, continuing enhancement of its provision (7 KIs)

1. All stakeholders including students must be invited and encouraged to make suggestions for enhancement.
2. In their annual appraisal all staff must be required to identify where they have facilitated enhancement and to identify further areas requiring enhancement.
3. End-of session course and annual program reports must include enhancements made and identify further areas requiring enhancement.
4. Action plans must be implemented and reviewed regularly within the institution's committee structure.
5. Staff professional development needs must be identified through appraisal and other means and measures taken to support staff to address these.
6. The institution must keep research resources and facilities under review so as to find ways of enhancing its research capabilities.
7. The institution must have formal mechanisms in place to monitor the information gathered internally and externally, to make any enhancements deemed necessary and measure their impact.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.

John C. Maxwell



Enjoy Reading
