



PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 28th edition of the President's News Digest. Last week, the University received excellent news from the Higher Education Council in Bahrain. In their Annual Report 2015, the HEC have ranked all private universities in Bahrain according to various performance criteria, including teaching and research, and ASU came in the top performing private universities in Bahrain (a full write up is included below).



From 8 – 12 May 2016, we hosted a review panel to look at our programmes in the College of Arts and Science. I am grateful to the college Dean, Dr Belal Zaqabeh and college colleagues for all their hard work. I sincerely hope that we will achieve full confidence as we deserve it.

Additionally, and in this very fast spreading social media mechanism, we have launched a snapchat account aimed in promoting the university and which involve both staff and students. For this, I am grateful to the Deanship of Students Affairs & Evening Studies and particularly to Mr. Mohammed Najjar.

Also last week, our Acting VP Mr. Mohammed Yousif, has successfully defended his PhD thesis with minor corrections, and we send him a big round of applause.

This week, the BOTs will hold its second meeting of this academic year. A thorough presentation on this year's achievements will be made to the Board.

Finally, the graduation ceremony will take place on the 23 May, and for this I remind you please keep the date in your diary.

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What's New?





ALUMNI CLUB ORGANIZED WORKSHOPS

The Alumni Club organized on Saturday, 7 May 2016, a workshop that aimed to improve the graduates' skills on report writing, and emailing practices. The inspiring workshop was delivered by Mr. Yasser Abuseneh, the Director of ASU's Training Center.

Another workshop on "Self-Management, and Motivation" was also delivered by Dr. Fatima Mohammed Al Malki, Assistant Professor at the University of Bahrain.

Both workshops were attended by a large audience, chaired by Professor Ghassan Aouad, the President of Applied Science University and supervised by Ms. Noora Musalam, the Director of Career Development & Alumni Affairs Office.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL (ACHIEVEMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT) 2015 – CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Assessment of the general situation of the Private Higher Educational Institutions during the year 2015

I am pleased to announce that HEC have ranked all private universities in Bahrain according to various performance criteria, including teaching and research, and ASU came in the top performing private universities in Bahrain. It is great to see ASU in the top performing private universities in the Kingdom, with the highest number of refereed publications and a significant investment in research.

I am full of joy for this recognition, as it comes with evidence from the HEC. I would like to congratulate all staff for their hard work and commitment for this achievement and Professor Waheeb Alkhaja in particular, for his great vision and continuous support. Let's all work together to make ASU one of the best universities in the region.

The General Secretariat of the Higher Educational Council reviewed the Private Higher Educational Institutions according to the listed criteria. The purpose is to shed light on some performance aspects in these institutions and exert all possible efforts to develop them and accordingly improve the standards of higher education in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The indicators that were used are as follows:

Governance

Qualifications of academic staff

Current Postgraduate Programmes

International partnership in the programs offered by the institutions

Job stability at the institutions

Recognition from international bodies

Financial conditions of the institutions

Ratio of academic staff to students

Quality of buildings and facilities and learning resources

Spending on scientific research

Spending on the development of academic and administrative staff



Assessment:

Four institutions:
Four institutions:
Three institutions:

Rating

Good
Average
Weak

Medical University of Bahrain:
Royal University for Women:
Applied Science University:
Bahrain institution of Banking and Finance:
AMA University:
Arab Open University:
Kingdom University:
Ahlia University:
University College of Bahrain:
Gulf University:
Talal Abu Ghazala College:

Good
Good
Good
Good
Average
Average
Average
Average
Weak
Weak
Weak

Average Spending on Scientific Research 2014 and 2015:

Higher Educational Institutions:	2014	2015
Arab Open University	0	4,618
Ahlia University	175,411	94,241
Medical University of Bahrain	205,000	184,000
Royal University for Women	74,386	77,316
Applied Science University	89,403	174,703
Kingdom University	61,070	53,967
University College of Bahrain	93,628	74,516
Gulf University	1,512	203,271
AMA University	141,164	153,967
Talal Abu Ghazala College	300	300
Total	841,874	817,628

Published Research in Refereed Journals of the private Educational Institutions:

Higher Educational Institution	2014	2015
Arab Open University	0	8
Ahlia University	63	41
Medical University of Bahrain	36	26
Royal University for Women	8	6
Applied Science University	37	42
Kingdom University	39	22
University College of Bahrain	11	14
Gulf University	12	8
AMA University	49	28
Talal Abu Ghazala College	2	1
Total	257	196



50 percent of the Private Higher Educational Institutions have increased their spending on scientific research for the year 2015 and there was a decrease in the publication of research (70%). Accordingly, the Higher Education Council urges all private institutions to increase their spending on scientific research and get more research published.

POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS USING GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

A new teaching method in the Political Science Department has embedded the use of information technology. Students taking the Political Geography course have carried a laboratory session, where they have used a programme called Geographic Information System (GIS). This system enables the students to apply the B6a political world map to more easily see, analyze, and understand patterns and relationships in a political context. The course is conducted by Dr Khaleel Al Samarai, an Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science.



GCC CREATIVITY CONFERENCE 2016

Three members of ASU academic staff, Prof Saad Darwish, Dr Watheq Shakir and Dr Rashed Ismaeel, attended GCC Creativity Conference 2016 which was held on 8 May 2016 under the patronage of the First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sport, President of Bahrain Athletics Association, and founder of the KHK Mixed Martial Arts team, His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.



Shaikh Khalid stressed on Bahrain's pioneering steps in hosting scientific and innovative conferences which aim at developing Bahraini youth skills. He also affirmed that the reform project of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has given a great importance to the scientific and technological field.

His highness honoured strategic partners and the cooperative parties as well as the keynote speakers for their cooperation to benefit the youth from a wide range of experiences. Then, he received a commemorative gift from President of Ibtikar Bahrain Society Osama Al Khaja on the occasion.

ASU RECEIVED VISITORS FROM USA

On 12 May 2016, ASU received two distinguished visitors from USA, Ms. Barabra Broomell, from Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), and Dr Matthew, University of Michigan Ross School of Business. Prof Ghassan chaired the meeting. Dr Assem Al-Hajj and Prof Saad Darwish also joined him. Discussions were about developing entrepreneurship and leadership at ASU.





COMMUNICATION THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

Three ways are available for the professor to communicate with his students through social networks:

1. The professor communicates with his students and the students communicate with each other and all exchange information and knowledge through the use of social networking tools such as “WhatsApp”. One of the examples is creating a group for specific course contains all the enrolled students and their lecturer.



2. The use of specialized education platforms that offer the potential of social networks facilities; such as instant dialog, online interaction and sharing content, etc. It is worth mentioning that most advanced e-learning platforms such as (Moodle) have these facilities.

3. Communicate via social media accounts for the different platforms directly between the professor and his/her students where platforms offer many means to facilitate this like creating specialized group between students and their professor in Facebook or the professor includes his/her student accounts in a special list in Twitter.

PLANNING AND SELF-DEVELOPMENT FOR THE YOUTH

On 14 May 2016, Dr Saeed Al Dulaimi from the College of Administrative Sciences in collaboration with Community Engagement Office gave a lecture on “Planning and Self-Development for the Youth”. The lecture was a voluntary activity with “Thukhar Society” in Isa Town."



EDUCATION CAREER EVENT



Dr Saeed Al Dulaimi participated in the educational career event, organized by Halima Saadia, Preparatory School for Girls on Thursday, 12 May 2016 in cooperation with PR and Community Engagement Office.

He volunteered to help in promoting ASU and explaining for visitors, students and parents about educational programmes offered by the University.

REMINDER OF THE WEEK

Accreditation Day - Thursday, 19 May 2016

Graduation Ceremony - Monday, 23 May 2016



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

THE SUCCESS INDICATOR

By MaryEllen Tribby

SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE	UNSUCCESSFUL PEOPLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a sense of gratitude Compliment Forgive others Give other people credit for their victories Accept responsibility for their failures Read everyday Keep a journal Talk about ideas Want others to succeed Share information and data Keep a "to-be" list Exude joy Set goals and develop life plans Embrace change Continuously learn Keep a "to-do/project" list Operate from a transformational perspective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a sense of entitlement Criticize Hold a grudge Take all the credit of their victories Blame others for their failures Watch TV everyday Say they keep a journal but really don't Fear change Think they know it all Fly by their seat of their pants Operate from a transactional perspective Talk about people Secretly hope others fail Hoard information and data Don't know what they want to be Exude anger Never set goals

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