

PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 23rd issue of the 2nd year of the President's News Digest.



I would like to start this edition by thanking colleagues, especially the VPs and all Deans who attended the very useful "Good Teaching Workshop" organised by Academic Affairs and Development. The workshop was initiated by the President in order to share some good practices and useful lessons in the area of teaching and learning.

The workshop started with a presentation by the President where he provided some context to the workshop and shared lessons from his own experience. The President emphasised the importance of using interactive and modern methods of teaching by embracing new technologies including social media that can facilitate learning and teaching. In addition, he highlighted the importance of engaging with our students as they are our sons and daughters and we should respect them and understand their needs. It is a fact that the days of the broadcasting model of teaching are over. We need now to embrace new methods like group projects, case studies, problem solving techniques and peer to peer teaching.

Following the President's presentation, Dr Yasser Altayeb from our QAAC Centre gave an excellent presentation about course portfolios and how we can prepare them. He covered topics related to course specifications, assessment methods, moderation, and evaluation and reflection.



Mr Rifat, Director of our ICT and KM, then presented some good hints about the use of Moodle and PowerPoint to support teaching delivery and engagement with students. His excellent presentation covered aspects related to the use of Moodle and gave a live demo of its functionality.

CONTINUE ▶

It is vital that all staff and students should use Moodle to enhance the learning experience of our students. His PowerPoint presentation covered the "Do and Do Not" when developing power point presentations emphasising the importance of clarity, acceptable use of animation, and how we can take full advantage of the use of PowerPoint in producing exciting presentations.



The fourth part of the workshop involved three outstanding presentations by three colleagues namely Dr Ramzi, Dr Waseem and

Dr Murad. All three presentations demonstrated what should be included on the introductory slide of any lecture which is "what the students should achieve in such a lecture". Their approaches to engage with the audience were exceptional and such approaches should be used in the classrooms in order to engage with our students making teaching and learning really exciting and full of fun. In their presentations, our colleagues demonstrated to us how lectures could be constructed and delivered in an engaging style using modern technologies and delivered with excellent content that it is easy to follow.



The last session of the workshop was delivered by the VP for Academic Affairs and Development who spoke about the importance of class

observations and student's evaluation. He emphasised the importance of learning from class observations in order to improve our delivery of teaching and not to see them as threats. He concluded by highlighting the importance of learning from each other in order to help our students and our University.

The three-hour workshop which was held on 6 April was attended by around 60 academic staff and Prof Robert Newton. I would like to thank Dr Assem, Dr Faiza, Dr Adel and our new star MC, Ms Diana, and Mr Hameed and Bahaa from Marketing and Public Affairs for video recording the proceedings.

This is one of the most useful staff development workshops that I attended in the University and all staff should have made efforts to attend. For those who were absent, they should look at the PowerPoint presentations and video. Ms Diana will circulate the presentations soon.

INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Dr Adel M. Al Samman

Position: Assistant Professor - College of Admin Science

1. Tell us about yourself: (Your childhood, academic background)

I was just like any other kid in Egypt, but a little bit naughty. I graduated from Alsun College, Ain Shams University. After graduation, I began my career in tourism, then management and consultancy. I was eager to know more about what I was doing so I decided to pursue further education and earned my master and doctorate degrees in Business Administration especially in Human Resources. I have practiced teaching, consultation, and training, beside other stuff.

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

Well, when I initially joined ASU, I was a little bit worried not to be up to the level I expect. I was intimidated by the more qualified colleagues around here and I thought with the first semester I taught that results would be disastrous. But, thanks God, thing got better and better. It has always been my teaching strategy to deal with my students that make them more receptive to what they are taught.

As for my appointment as the Head of the Academic Staff Development Unit, which was a surprise to me, it was a challenge.

As I mentioned many times before, it is our moral duty to deliver exciting teaching to our students which will enhance their learning and ultimately help our University achieve the fast looming accreditation.

On 3 March, the President and Dean of Student Affairs attended the signing ceremony of a global partnership between the HEA and the University of Bahrain in the presence of the President of the University of Bahrain, HE the British Ambassador to Bahrain, and the Chief Executive of the HEA.



This partnership will help our University as we are engaging with the University of Bahrain to train 7 or 8 of our staff to achieve HEA status. Following this

ceremony the Chief Executive of the HEA, Prof Stephanie Marshal and Ms Kathryn Harrison-Graves, Head of Global Partnerships at the HEA, visited the University and attended the graduation ceremony of our 21 fellows and senior fellows of the HEA and the signing of the new consultancy with the HEA to rain more staff. The ceremony was attended by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and many colleagues.

I would like to congratulate all our colleagues who have achieved HEA status and to thank Dr Faiza, Dr Adel, Ms Diana for organising a pleasant ceremony and to Ms Ruqaya for acting as MC. Our work with the HEA is strategic and it is our intention to help all our academic colleagues achieve HEA status in the next four years. This will help our reputation and demonstrate that all our colleagues have professional qualifications that help them enhance their teaching and learning experiences.



On the evening of 3 April, the University hosted a three-hour workshop delivered by the famous Prof Tariq Alha beeb, a consultant psychiatrist and President of the Federation of Arab Psychiatrists, on personality traits and analysis. The event was organised by the Bahrain Businesswomen Society and in the presence of its President, Ms Feryal Nass, the Chairman of the



BOT, the University President, many colleagues and students and an audience of over 200 guests including very important dignitaries.

A tough task that requires full time attention and multi task management, in addition to coordination with many parties around the University and external agencies as well. To make it short, it requires less sleeping time.

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

Firstly, I have noticed the remarkable continuous change in the university since I first joined ASU. I can sense the culture of learning spreading around all colleges, and I think things will be much better with time.

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

Teaching! I really enjoy teaching and having mutual dialogues with my students in lectures. I feel that I have really accomplished something especially when I see my students in other courses making use of something I taught.

5. Tell us about your hobbies

Sport, nothing more than sport

6. Tell us about your favourite food

I really do not have a specific type of food that I cherish most.

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

As I am doing right now a research about the higher education internship programs in Bahrain, my whole reading effort is aiming towards this topic.

8. Final words

I was really surprised when I was asked to do the interview, but I hope I was truthful enough in answering the questions.



On 6 April, the Deanship of Student Affairs organised a lively ceremony to recognise our "High Achieving Students" of the first semester of the academic year. The ceremony was attended by the President, VP for Academic Affairs, all Academic Deans, the Dean of Admissions and Registration, Vice Dean of Administrative Sciences, and many colleagues and students and their families. I would like to congratulate our students for their achievements and hard work and to thank Dr Faiza, Mr Mohamed

Al Najjar, and all colleagues in the Deanship for a fantastic ceremony. The MC of the event was Ms Badria, one of our students and a presenter on Bahrain TV.

I would like to conclude this edition by reminding colleagues to submit an abstract to our forthcoming sustainable futures conference and to contact Ms Tania for any information about this conference.



3RD NATIONAL COMPETITION AT THE ROYAL UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

On 27 March 2017, the President Prof Ghassan Aouad and the Director of Marketing and Public Affairs, Ms. Ruqaya Mohsin, attended the 2nd opening of the 3rd National Competition at the Royal University for Women. The opening was attended by Mrs. Latifa Albonodha the Under Secretary of the General and Vocational Education at MOE and other guests from the ministry.



CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 3RD NATIONAL COMPETITION

On 30 March 2017, the closing ceremony of the 3rd National Competition was held at MOE Hall under the patronage of HE Dr. Majid bin Ali Al-Nuaimi. The ceremony was attended by the President, Prof Ghassan Aouad, the Director of Marketing and Public Affairs Ms. Ruqaya Mohsin, Mr. Mustafa Mohammed and Mr. Baha Sami from the Directorate of Marketing and Public Affairs, Dr. Ahmed Hassan from the College of Arts and Science and our student Wadea Alnosek who participated in the Graphic Design Competition. The University was awarded by the Minister for hosting the first 2 days of the competition and winning the 3rd place in the Graphic Design Competition.



CELEBRATION OF THE 241ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF USA

On the night of 27 March 2017, the President, Prof Ghassan Aouad, and the Director of Marketing and Public Affairs, Ms. Ruqaya Mohsin, attended the reception of celebrating the 241st Anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America at Diplomat Radisson Blue Hotel.



SCHOOL VISITS

Mr. Mustafa Mohammed and Mr. Abdulhameed Baqi visited various Government Secondary schools last week introducing ASU's existing and new Programmes to students. Students showed their interest in joining the university especially in the new engineering programmes with LSBU.

INTERVIEW WITH GDN (GULF DAILY NEWS)

On Monday, 27 March the president of ASU, Prof Ghassan Aouad, and Edyta Przybyla, Office Manager of Marketing and Student Recruitment Office met Mr. George Williams, Editor-in-Chief of Gulf Daily News at GDN office. During the meeting they discussed the partnership with UK Universities (LSBU and Cardiff Met) and the launch of the new British Programmes in Engineering and Business fields. On Wednesday, 29 March, following the meeting with Mr. George Williams, Laala Al Kashef, a journalist from GDN conducted an interview with the President, Prof Ghassan Aouad with regard the British programmes stressing on the advantages, requirements and benefits of studying at ASU.



INTERNSHIP

Dr. Adeb Hamdoon, the Coordinator for the Internship Course at the bachelor degree of MIS programme, has visited intern students on site in different locations such as the Information Technology Section at the Interior Ministry, Passport's office, Central Informatics Organization, and Ministry of Labour and met with their supervisors who gave positive feedback and evaluation on the performance of the trainees.



"FRONT LINERS SERVICE SKILLS"



The Training & Continuing Education Centre in collaboration with the International Partnerships Office delivered an interactive and a challenging session for the front line members of staff titled with "Front Liners Service Skills". The session showcased excellence in providing services to students

and different strategies in dealing with them. The session also highlighted important information on the new Engineering programmes from London South Bank University and the business programmes from Cardiff Metropolitan University.

GUEST SPEAKER

Prof Saad Darwish invited Mrs Eman Bursheed, who is an ex-VP in the banking sector and currently an entrepreneur, as a Guest Speaker to ASU to share her experience and knowledge with our Master Human Resource Management students on how the future of any economy depends on the power of Entrepreneurship. She also discussed the role and the influence of entrepreneurs which depend on their leadership and emotional skills with the support of an efficient ecosystem. This is now happening in Bahrain and we will gain the results as we progress.



4TH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION AND ITS IMPACT ON OUR FUTURE

On 4 April 2017, Prof Saad Darwish gave a lecture about the 4th Industrial Revolution and its impact on our future at Kanoo Educational Centre. The third, digital revolution has paved the way for the fourth one, which will see smart technologies, and smart devices and products at work.



The next generation of smart technology and products will be artificial intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT). IoT will connect human and non-human entities to enable the smart management of products, to improve efficiency and, more importantly, create new business models and improve our quality of life. New social, economic and political challenges will emerge and we need to get ready for these new changes.

CE OFFICE HOSTED “METHODS OF SUCCESS COURSE”

On 1 April 2017, the Community Engagement Office in collaboration with an organization called “فرعة شباب” hosted a course titled “Methods for Success”. The course was delivered by Dr Ahmed Mamoon, an expert trainer in

human resource development. Different subjects related to keys to success were discussed including creativity and innovation, developing positive thinking and self-management.



University students and participants from the local community attended and received certificates at the end of the course.

DR TALAL ALALKAWI'S PARTICIPATION IN A CONFERENCE

Dr Talal Alalkawi, Assistant Professor in the College of Administrative Sciences, has participated in a paper entitled "Compatibility of International Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards with Human Capital Measurement - theoretical study" in the Human Capital Perspective Conference titled “Human Capital - Opportunities and Challenges”. The conference was held in Istanbul, Turkey, in the period 4-6 April 2017.



WORKSHOP ON “HOW TO WRITE A PROFESSIONAL RESUME AND PREPARE FOR AN INTERVIEW”

Under the Patronage of Mr. Jameel Bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan, the Minister of Labour and Social Development, the Career Development and Alumni Affairs office in the Deanship of Student Affairs is organising a workshop called "How to write a professional resume and prepare for an interview" in preparation for the Job Fair 2017 that will be held on Wednesday, 12 April 2017 from 9am to 5pm at ASU Campus.



MR RASHED ISMAEEL PUBLISHED A SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Mr Rashed Ismaeel, a Lecturer in College of Administrative Sciences has recently published a scientific research study, titled “Parliamentary diplomacy: the objectives, mechanisms and roles (Case study of the Bahraini Council of Representatives)” through cooperation with the Bahrain Institute for Political Development.



This study seeks to analyse the orientations of Bahraini parliamentary diplomacy and to highlight the roles and activities exercised by the Bahraini parliament in the diplomatic sphere.

REMINER OF THE WEEK

THE INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

AREA 1: Governance, Strategy and Financial Management (3 Standards)



1. The institution must be effectively and responsibly governed (8 KIs)

- 1.1. The organizational structure, including the role and extent of authority of any owners, directors or Board of Trustees, must be clearly defined, documented and understood by stakeholders including students.
- 1.2. The President, Vice-President, directors, board members and other relevant persons must be suitably qualified and experienced, understand their specific responsibilities and be effective in carrying them out.
- 1.3. Policies, procedures and systems linking governance and management must be well documented and effectively disseminated across the institution.
- 1.4. The institution must engage in appropriate risk management planning, which is administered and monitored by named individuals and conduct regular risk assessment exercises.
- 1.5. Any partnership or cross-border collaboration must contain a risk-management strategy to protect students should there be any dispute.
- 1.6. There must be a clear separation of ownership and responsibility for financial matters from academic decision-making.
- 1.7. All relationships with other educational institutions and organizations must be defined formally and be fully transparent, with institutions compliant with partner or parent institutions’ requirements, where applicable.
- 1.8. The institution must have a clear vision, mission and values which must underpin the institution’s strategy and be in line with national and global educational objectives.

2. The institution must have a clear and achievable strategy (5 KIs)

- 2.1. The institution must have a clear strategy for the development of its higher education provision which must be supported by appropriate financial management and be in line with the HEC National Strategy for Higher Education in the Kingdom and the 2030 vision of a knowledge economy.
- 2.2. There must be provision for stakeholder, including students and employers, input to inform the strategic direction of the institution.

2.3. The strategy must be well communicated to all stakeholders including students, within and outside the institution.

2.4. Accurate data must be collected and collated systematically in order to provide a reliable measure of success against key performance indicators.

2.5. The governing body and senior management must conduct regular and systematic reviews of their own and the institution's overall performance and measure this performance against strategic targets.

3. Financial management must be open, honest and effective (5 KIs)

3.1. The institution must conduct its financial matters transparently and with appropriate probity.

3.2. The institution's finances must be subject to regular independent external audit.

3.3. The institution must have robust and comprehensive budgetary procedures which ensure that its resources are sufficient and which demonstrate it is capable of utilizing its financial resources efficiently and responsibly.

3.4. The institution must have a clear line of responsibility and authority for budgeting and resource allocation that takes into account the specific needs of each department.

3.5. Academic program managers must be given sufficient autonomy to allocate resources appropriately to achieve the program objectives and to maintain high standards.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful".

Albert Schweitzer

Happy Reading

