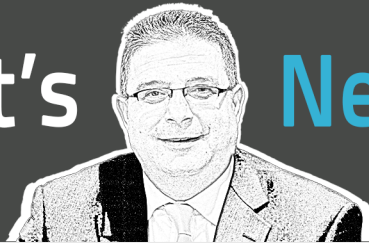


President's News Digest



Message From the Editor

Welcome to the 17th issue of the 6th volume of the President's News Digest.

In this issue Prof. Ghassan Aouad, the President of Applied Science University will address the subject of "Academic Program Reviews"

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Mrs. Hessa Al Meraisi
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Message from the President

Academic Program Reviews

An academic program review is usually performed in order to assess the quality of an academic program and to ensure that standards specified by the regulatory body are fully met. The review relies heavily on the self evaluation report, supporting evidence, and interviews with various stakeholders including the senior staff, program coordinators, staff, students, alumni and employers. An academic program review is in part art and in part science. The art is in producing a convincing argument and the science is to provide the evidence. Some hints for a good academic program review are included below:



Written By
Prof. Ghassan Aouad
The President of
Applied Science University

- A team should be set up to address the 4 standards specified by the BQA
- The program coordinator should be responsible for producing the SER report and supporting evidence with contribution from various colleagues
- The answers to the specified indicators should be clear with enough supporting evidence. A checklist should be produced to check all the standards and their indicators are fully met
- Any statistical figures should be included only if they can be justified
- The level of teaching and assessment is vital in order to ensure that the students are achieving the intended learning outcomes
- The SER report and evidence should be scrutinised by various bodies in the University before they come to the Quality and Accreditation Council and University Council
- Support from external consultants is vital as they provide some unbiased views
- Any grammatical or spelling errors in the SER report must be eliminated
- The course portfolio is usually the main source of supporting evidence investigated by the review panel and should be of the highest quality
- Study plans should be consistent in the report, web site and program handbook
- Lessons learnt from other reviews should be incorporated
- A mock review should be conducted before the actual visit
- The university, College and Program web site should be up to date
- All staff teaching on the program should be familiar with the SER report and supporting material

A model developed by Dickson's is included below as a general guide, but the template for academic program reviews in Bahrain is usually provided by the BQA and should be adhered to.

Figure 1.1: Dickeson's Program Prioritization Model – Key Criteria

Criterion	Associated Considerations
<i>History, Development, and Expectations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Historical enrollment patterns ❖ Alignment with institutional mission ❖ Relationship to labor market trends/demand ❖ State requirements ❖ Extent to which program is "core" to the educational experience
<i>External Demand</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Labor market projections ❖ Employer feedback ❖ National and state policy/economic projections ❖ Placement data
<i>Internal Demand</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Enrollment levels ❖ Whether program supports majors and minors and/or other programs ❖ Courses delivered ❖ Student credits generated
<i>Quality of Program Inputs and Processes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Student academic profile ❖ Program review data ❖ Quality of faculty
<i>Quality of Program Outcomes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Graduate satisfaction ❖ Graduation rates ❖ Job placement and success ❖ Employer satisfaction
<i>Size, Scope and Productivity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ratio of students to faculty ❖ Enrollments ❖ Section fill rates ❖ Graduation rates
<i>Revenue and Other Resources Generated</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Tuition ❖ Program-allocated resources ❖ Grant income ❖ Other revenue ❖ Special program fee income
<i>Costs and Other Expenses</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Fully allocated cost per full-time student ❖ Allocated institutional support (library, computing, tutoring) ❖ Marginal cost of program, including faculty salaries, capital expenses, and equipment
<i>Impact, Justification and Overall Essentiality</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Contribution to institutional reputation ❖ Contribution to state economy ❖ Degree to which program is "mission critical" ❖ Other measures of institutional value
<i>Opportunity Analysis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ New program opportunity ❖ Potential net revenues ❖ Alternative delivery mechanisms ❖ Potential for interdisciplinary programs ❖ Opportunity to realign or strengthen program

Source: Dickeson, R. *Prioritizing Academic Programs and Services: Reallocating Resources to Achieve Strategic Balance*

Questions, Provide Answers." Academicstrategypartners.com, 2010.
<http://www.academicstrategypartners.com/Program%20Prioritization%20Update.pdf>

Book Review by a Colleague

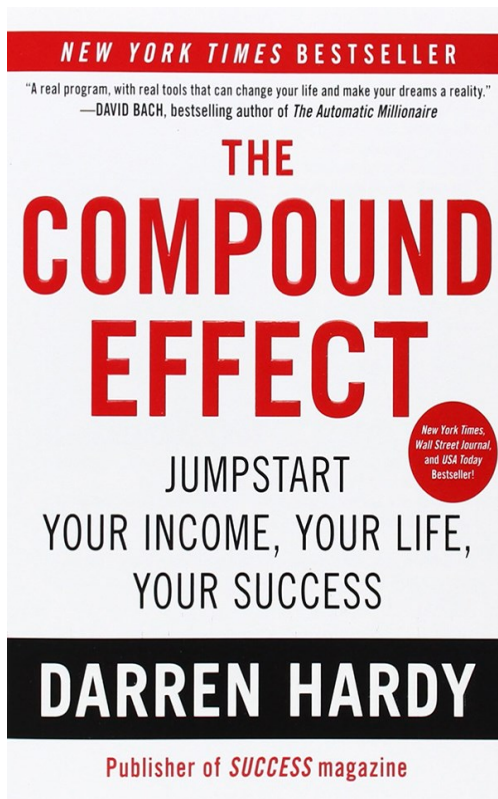
The Compound Effect (2010)

Originally published in June 2010 by Darren Hardy, the Compound Effect tells us that small actions, executed consistently on a daily basis, can lead to hugely successful results, both in business and in life. It is a metaphor taken from the world of investors and financiers. The author who joined SUCCESS Magazine in 2007 as Editor in Chief, learned through his career that the decisions we make on a daily basis have a direct impact on the direction and ultimate success (or lack thereof) that we experience in our lives.

The book is rich in practical tips and smart strategies that illustrates the proposed concepts in plain English and basically serves as an elaborate motivational speech to take ownership and responsibility for your life. Here are three key ideas extended in this book:



Written By
Mr. Hatem Dammak
Head of
Compliance and Audit
Unit



Big goals in life are achieved through tiny daily habits: whenever you set a new goal in life, no matter how big it is, try to immediately to turn it into small daily routines that you can maintain. Over time, you will reap the reward of your commitment in ways you couldn't even imagine.

Take ownership: your destiny is the result of your choices: the decisions you make on a daily basis make up who you are and define your destiny. Good or bad, your decisions will compound over time and lead you to where you should be. You can make the compound effect work for you if you consciously keep taking the right decisions every day, no matter how small they are.

Create A Gratitude Journal: Make a list of all the things you are grateful for, no matter how small or big they seem to be. This will help you appreciate what you already have and create a constant feeling of positivity, which will create a ripple effect on your psychology and people around you.

I found the author's take on personal development rather riveting. We feel drawn sometimes to make dramatic changes in our lives to see dramatic results, but those efforts often fail because they can't be sustained, which reminds me of the Arabic Saying:

” قليل دائم خير من كثير منقطع ”

ASU Governance and Strategic Planning Unit virtual meeting with the Alumni Board of Directors for its fifth cycle and Student Council for its 14th cycle on strategic planning for period of 2021- 2025

Mrs. Eman Alsadeq, head of Governance and Strategic Planning Unit met with the Alumni Board of Directors for its fifth cycle and the Student Council for its 14th cycle. The main goal of the meeting was to discuss the new strategic plan for upcoming years (2021-2025) including setting a strategic plan, analyzing the plan through SWOT analysis, ASU status in 2025, ASU vision and mission in 2025 and setting sub-plans to achieve ASU vision and mission in 2025.



Written By
Ms. Rawan Bucheeri
Administrator at the
Deanship of Student
Affairs

The members presented their visionary perspectives for the ASU in the coming five years to Ms. Eman who emphasized that their perspectives will be considered and reflected into ASU vision 2021-2025.

The presentation slide displays the 'The nine building blocks of the new strategic plan (2020/2025) identify the three core areas'. The slide includes:

- Vision:** A leading university promoting excellence in applied education & research in Bahrain and the region.
- Mission:** ASU is dedicated to offer students and staff the opportunity to contribute to the sustainable development of society & community. In addition, ASU strives to be recognized nationally and internationally for its reputation in applied teaching and learning research and community engagement.
- Performance:** ASU is committed to enhance graduates' employability through innovative approaches and entrepreneurial practices in order to help them compete in international markets.
- Strategic Objectives:**
 - 1. Learning & Teaching: Enhance the quality of learning and teaching by adopting the best practices in higher education.
 - 2. Research: Develop and enhance the professional research culture to attain a competitive edge in research activities.
 - 3. Community Engagement: To engage the university to the wider community, enhance its reputation, and contribute to solving the community's problems.
- Enablers:**
 - 4. Student Support & Enhancement: Continuous support and enhancement of the quality of the academic, extracurricular, and co-curricular activities and support their career experiences.
 - 5. Quality: Enhance the quality of the academic, extracurricular, and co-curricular activities and support their career experiences.
 - 6. Entrepreneurship & Innovation: Develop a strong and sustainable entrepreneurial and innovation culture.
 - 7. Internationalization & Partnerships: To be an active globally that supports strategic international activities and practices.
 - 8. Human Capital: Develop a strong and sustainable human capital that supports strategic international activities and practices.
 - 9. Sustainable Growth: Enhance the academic reputation, efficiency and visibility, to be an active globally that supports strategic international activities and practices.
- Values:** Integrity - Collaboration & Team Spirit - Loyalty - Social Responsibility & Community Engagement - Quality - Innovation & Creativity

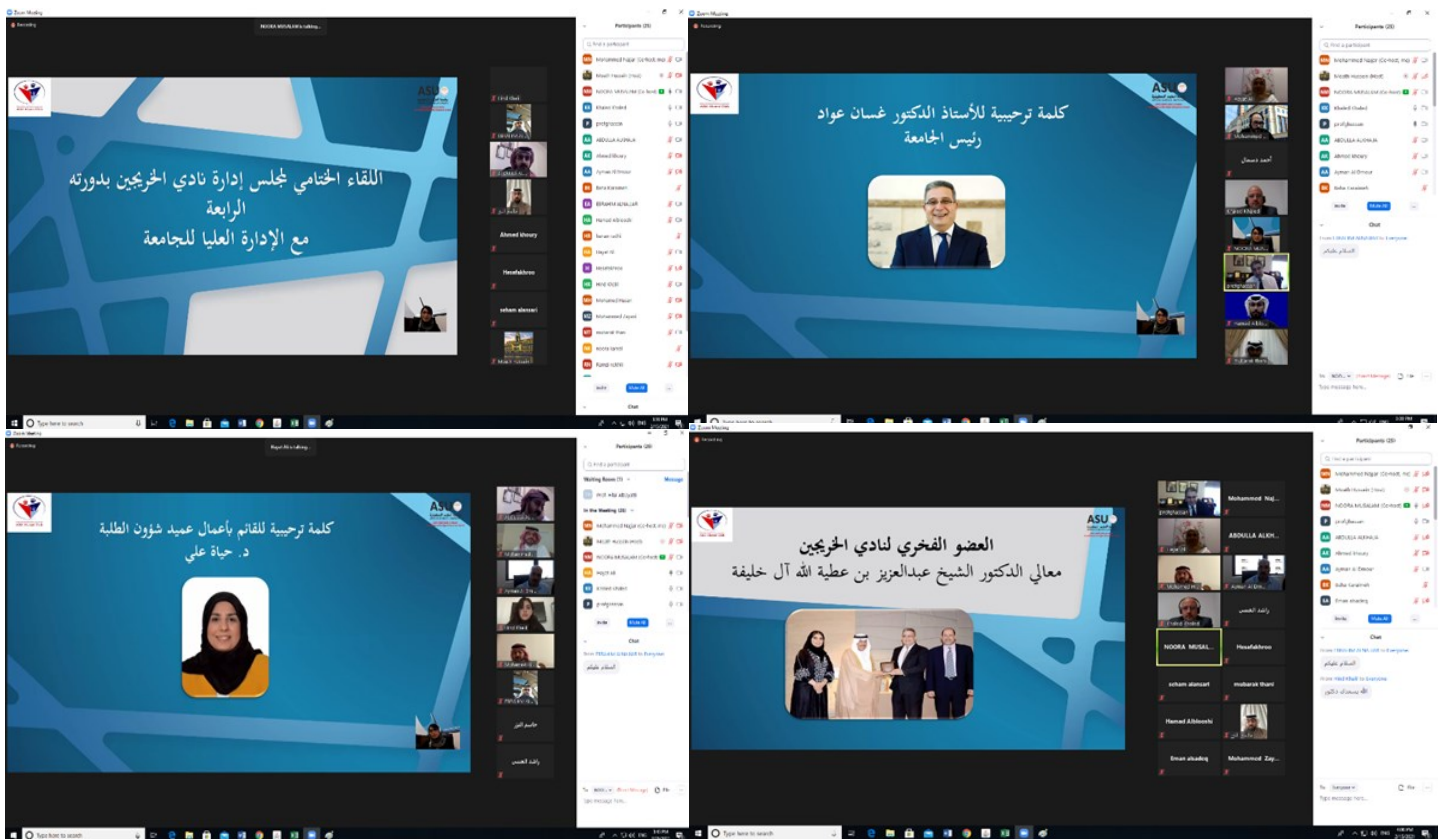
The nine building blocks of the new strategic plan (2020/2025) identify the three core areas

This screenshot shows the same presentation slide as above, but with a different set of participants in the video grid on the right. The slide content remains identical, detailing the vision, mission, performance goals, enablers, and values of the ASU strategic plan for 2020/2025.

Introduction of Alumni's Club Cycle 5 to the Senior Management

On 15th February 2021, the newly elected Alumni Board of Directors members for its 5th cycle had the first virtual introductory meeting with the senior management chaired by Professor Ghassan Aouad, the President of the university. The meeting started by officially thanking the Alumni Board of Directors members for its 4th cycle for all their hard work during this pandemic where the previous president Ebrahim Alnajjar and the members thanked the senior management for this endless support during their cycle.

Later in the meeting an introduction of the members of the Alumni's club to the senior management. Prof. Ghassan expressed his positivity towards the new elected Alumni's club and he praised them as ASU ambassadors in a mission to present ASU at its finest image among the competitors and to help set the new 5 years of strategic plan 2020-2025.



Written By
Ms. Rawan Bucheeri
Administrator at the
Deanship of Student
Affairs

A Memory to Remember من عقب الماضي

تم تخصيص هذه الصفحة لاسترجاع أخبار تم نشرها بأعداد سابقة في مجلة الرئيس ونود أن نشكر الدكتور علي الداود لمشاركتنا هذه الفكرة المميزة

This page is dedicated to re-visit old news from previous issues from the President's News Digest—Special Thanks goes to Dr. Ali Al Dada for his remarkable idea.

-Date 29th October 2017, Volume 2 / Issue 52 -

10TH GRADUATION CEREMONY, AN EVENING OF JOY AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The University of Applied Sciences celebrated its 10th graduation at a lavish ceremony at the Gulf Hotel on Wednesday, 25 October 2017, under the patronage of His Excellency Mr. Ahmed bin Ibrahim Rashid Al Mulla, Speaker of the House of Representatives. The ceremony was attended by the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Sameer bin Abdullah Nass, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Prof. Waheeb Ahmed Alkhaja and the President of the University, Prof. Ghassan Fouad Aouad, in addition to a number of dignitaries, Members of Council of Representative, Ambassadors, University Presidents, Academic and Administration Staff. More than (1000) invitees attended the ceremony, including (220) VIP.



HE Sameer bin Abdullah Nass, Chairman of the Board of Directors, expressed his happiness to the graduates who completed their studies and worked hard to achieve academic excellence. He thanked HE Ahmed bin Ibrahim Al Mulla, Speaker of the House of Representatives for his patronage, Prof. Waheeb Ahmed Alkhaja, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Prof. Ghassan Fouad Aouad, President of the University and to all members of the academic and administrative staff, for their unlimited dedication to ASU.

Prof. Waheeb Alkhaja, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, said in his speech that the University has worked hard to provide its students with the knowledge, support and focus on developing their leadership skills, pointing out that the Board of Trustees is keen to prepare a generation of skilled intellectuals who can build the future of their countries.



Quote of the Week

“ Hire character. Train skill “

- Peter Schutz

من روائع الشعر العربي

نُـمِسِكُ الخَيْلَ عَلَى مَكْرُوهِهَا
حِينَ لَا يُـمِسِكُ إِلَّا ذُو كَرَمٍ
نَذْرُ الأَبطَالِ صَرَعى بَيْنَهَا
تَعْكُفُ العِقْبَانُ فِيهَا وَالرَّخَمِ

- طرفة بن العبد