

PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

29 NOVEMBER 2015 – ISSUE 4



WELCOME

Welcome to the 4th ASU President News Digest. In this weekly digest which will keep you abreast about activities in the University, we will cover stories related to research development lecture, President keynote address at a conference, visit to Cardiff Met and LSBU, Prof Saad's activities, Student Affairs activities, NQF and workshops attended by ASU Staff. In the reminder of the week, we will be reminding you about ASU Strategic plans. Please keep Ms Tania Kashou and Ms Ayat Nass informed about activities or events that you would like to include in the news digest.

RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT LECTURE

On Thursday, 19 November, Prof. Siddeeq Ameen, Dean of Research and Graduate Studies delivered a lecture on "ASU Research Development". The lecture was attended by the University President, VP for Academic Affairs, VP Assistant and consultants, deans and members of staff.

In his lecture, Prof. Siddeeq aimed to outline the HEC National Research Strategy and its impact on ASU's own research strategy.

The HEC aims to strengthen university research capacity via creating an environment for faculty members to perform research and establish sources of research funding for universities. It also aims to strengthen the integration of Bahrain academic institutions with international research institutions.

Prof. Siddeeq focused on the importance of research and graduate studies at ASU and publishing research in quality journals. He also discussed collaborative research across disciplines. Finally, recommendations on research and graduate studies development were discussed by faculty and staff in the audience.





KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT A CONFERENCE IN LONDON

The President delivered on 23 November the opening keynote address at the international conference "Going North for Sustainability". The conference was organised by London SouthBank University (LSBU), our UK strategic partner, and the International Council for Building and Construction (CIB) and hosted by LSBU. The presentation covered aspects related to innovation and sustainability in the Arab Region and was well received by an audience of over 100 participants.



VISITS TO LSBU AND CARDIFF MET

The President and Professor Zedan Hussein visited LSBU and Cardiff Met on the 23 and 25 November to strengthen our collaboration with our UK partners. This followed a previous visit made by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Prof. Waheeb AlKhaja and the President to both institutions.

BODY LANGUAGE WORKSHOP

The Applied Science Institute for Training held a workshop titled "Body Language and Methods of Presentation". It was attended by members of ASU staff, and students. During the workshop, the participants discussed the importance of body language in teaching and techniques graduate students can use when presenting their graduation projects in front of the examination committee.



Dr. Bishr Lutfi, the Director of Institute for Training ran the workshop that started on 18 November 2015 and ended on Monday 23 November 2015.

LEBANESE EMBASSY CELEBRATION

On 22 November 2015, the Lebanese Embassy celebrated the 72nd anniversary of the declaration of independence of Lebanon.

The Acting VP for Academic Affairs and Development and the Acting Dean of Student Affairs and Evening Studies from ASU, joined the Lebanese Ambassador in celebrating the event.





DR. NYMPHA JOSEPH ATTENDS FORENSIC ACCOUNTING AND FRAUD EXAMINATION WORKSHOP

Dr. Nympha Joseph, the Programme Coordinator for Bachelor in Accounting and Finance, attended a Forensic Accounting and Fraud Examination Workshop “Fraud Risk Management and Litigation Support” hosted by the Royal University for Women.

In attendance were Dr. Gordon Gee, President of the West Virginia University, USA and H.E. William V. Roebuck, USA Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The workshop was presented by Prof. Richard Riley (PhD, CPA, CFE, CFF), who has authored many books in Forensic Accounting and Fraud Examination.

The event was held from the 16 November 2015 to 18 November 2015.



WORLD STATISTICS DAY (WSD)

Bahrain Statistical Society (BSS) celebrated the World Statistics Day (WSD) on 7 November 2015. The event was inspired by this year’s slogan “Better Data...Better Lives”. The celebration was in collaboration with Applied Science University (ASU) which hosted the event. Among the distinguished audience was: the President of ASU, the academic staff from ASU, Central Informatics Organization, Higher Education Council – Ministry of Education, Supreme Council for Women, Polytechnic Bahrain, King Abdulaziz University (from Saudi Arabia), members of BSS, and employees of private sector companies.



SPSS TRAINING COURSE

Bahrain Statistical Society (BSS) and ASU’s Community Engagement Office held a three-day SPSS training course for three consecutive days. The course ran from 19 – 21 November. The aim of this event was to further work on capacity building in statistics and to establish bridges with NGO. Prof Saad Darwish, President’s Advisor for Special Projects initiated this event as part of the university’s plans to engage with the wider community.





THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (NQF) FORUM

Dr Assem Al-Hajj, Dr Ahmed Azzam and Dr Nympha Joseph attended the Forum “NQF... Paving the Way for Education Development” held at Ramee Grand Hotel, Manama on 25 and 26 November. The forum was a golden opportunity to enhance our understanding and knowledge of the NQF as a coherent and integrated qualifications framework for all types of learning.



The Applied Science University’s NQF team responsible for the preparation of the Institutional Listing application will be ready to submit the documentations for the first process in NQF on the 6 December 2015. The aim of the IL process is to assure QQA that ASU has in place proper formal arrangements to maintain the standards of the national qualifications placed on NQF. The next step will be the Qualification Placement (CP) requirements for NQF and Credit levels.

Below are the ten levels identified for the NQF for Bahrain, each being identified by a unique set of Level Descriptors.



More information about NQF and its processes can be found on the QQA website, www.qqa.gov.bh.



WORKSHOP ON "PREPARING FOR YOUR FUTURE CAREER"

The Deanship of Student Affairs and Evening Studies, the Office of Career Development and Alumni Office held on the 24-25 November 2015 a workshop organised by Ms. Noora Musalam, entitled; "Preparing for Your Future Career" the workshop was attended by our ASU' students, next semester graduates from all the colleges.



HEC KNOWLEDGE SHARING SEMINARS

On 24 November 2015, Dr Assem Al-Hajj and Prof. Hilal Al-Bayati attended the monthly HEC Knowledge Sharing Seminar held at the Secretariat General of the HEC in Isa Town. This month's knowledge share was about Improving Teaching Standards and Quality in educational institutions. 11 educational institutions attended the seminar and presented their strategies for improving the standards of academic staff. Dr Assem presented the ASU's Teaching and Learning Strategic Objectives which are:

1. Management of programmes and curricula
2. Faculty development
3. Quality development and enhancement
4. Teaching and learning effectiveness

In the next seminar we will be reporting on ASU's internship programmes, the current delivery model, challenges, quality assurance, linking internships to learning outcomes and the process of monitoring our interns. It will take place on 14 December 2015.

CONFERENCE AT ARABIAN GULF UNIVERSITY

On 23 November 2015, the Acting VP for Academic Affairs and Development represented ASU at the opening ceremony of the 4th International Geoscience and Geomatics Conference held at the Arabian Gulf University in Bahrain.

11TH BUMUN

The Deanship of Student Affairs and Evening Studies participated in the 11th BUMUN (Bahrain Universities Model United Nations) opening ceremony on the 26 November 2015, under the Patronage of H.H. Shaikh Nasser Bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Our ASU's students were amongst 200 selected students from 20 Universities from the Kingdom of Bahrain, the State of Kuwait, the State of Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and other regions. ASU's participating students attended 10 training sessions for the preparation of the 11th BUMUN program that was supervised by Maryam Farooq.





FIRST AID TRAINING

The Deanship of Student Affairs and Evening Studies participated amongst other ASU's Staff into a two days first aid training course delivered by Leaders, Institute of Training and development. The course approved by the American Heart Association was designed to provide the basic first aid procedure and basic resuscitation techniques, safely, efficiently and effectively.

The new first aiders in the Deanship of Student Affairs and Evening Studies are as follows:

Mr Thaer Ramini; Dr Rawya Zmari; Miss Maryam Farooq; Mr Mohammed Najjar; Dr Faiza Zitouni.



FIRST ASU'S ALUMNI CLUB

The Deanship of Student Affairs and Evening Studies, the Office of Career Development and Alumni Office have selected the First ASU's Alumni Club that consists of 13 Alumni members. The first meeting was held on the 28 November 2015 to discuss roles and responsibilities.



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think.”

Albert Einstein

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Dr Khaled Qatanani on becoming a member in the European Centre for Research and Training and Development.



PROF ROBERT NEWTON'S VISIT

It was very good to visit ASU again from 19 - 26 November. It is always a pleasure to come out to the University and see how well and how quickly it is developing and I should start by giving my warm congratulations to the College of Law on the outcome of their Programme Review. We have now finalised dates for production of the College of Arts and Sciences Review documentation and a procedure to ensure that the Self Evaluation Reports for Graphics Design and Interior Design meet the same very high standard as the Computing SER. The College of Business Administration has also been very active in preparations to seek a new review for those courses which received limited confidence. They are clearly receiving enormous support by the Vice Dean and we will work together to make sure that the revised documentation can be fully ready by the end of Semester 2 and is to a standard which will achieve full confidence. In the meantime, as Professor Ghassan's highlighted in his key points for being a successful teacher the best thing you can do is work hard on making the Course Specifications as good as possible.



The NQF Listing was very much a priority and the Listing Document itself is looking in very good shape so again thanks to all staff who have been working hard on this. There is of course, as always, more to be done. In particular the University must now be able to demonstrate that key staff have a deep understanding of the principles and procedures involved in NQF.

NEW EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Senior Management team is pleased to announce the addition of a new team member, Dr Assem Al-Hajj, who joined Applied Science University as the Acting Vice President Academic Affairs and Development in September 2015. He is responsible for providing academic leadership to the university.

Dr Al-Hajj graduated as a Civil Engineer from Beirut Arab University in 1985. He then obtained his MSc in Construction Management (Production Management) from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1988. He also completed his PhD in Construction Management and Economics from the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Dundee, Scotland, UK in 1992.



Dr Al-Hajj has more than 25 years experience in teaching and learning in higher education with two British universities working internationally in Africa and the Middle East, developing and leading postgraduate programmes for the energy, construction and facilities management industries.

Dr Al-Hajj has been selected by The FM Middle East magazine as one of the 50 most influential professionals in the Facilities Management Industry in the Middle East in 2012, 2013 and 2014. He is the winner of the MBM Research and Teaching Award at the Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors' 2013 Infinite Value Awards, Sidney, Australia.



REMINDER OF THE WEEK

ASU Strategic Plan	
Priority Areas	
Core Areas	1. Teaching and Learning
	2. Research
	3. Community Engagement
Supporting Areas	4. Student Experience
	5. Internationalization and Partnerships
	6. Sustainable Growth
	7. Quality Assurance

ASU has carefully analysed the framework in which it operates and the key strategies which are required for it to fully achieve the goals which it must pursue to achieve its mission and vision.

It has identified its strategic priorities as constituting three core areas as reflected in its mission statement **i.e. Teaching and Learning, Research and Community Engagement.**

It has further identified three supporting areas of activity which together provide a comprehensive understanding of the university's role and operations (**Student experience, Internationalisation & Partnerships, and Quality Assurance**)

Additionally, linked closely to achieving its vision the University has recognised the importance of enabling strategies to ensure **Sustainable Growth.**

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR THE WEEK

Support for Jerusalem (Nusrat Al Quds) Sunday, 29 November 2015

National Day Celebration Thursday, 1 December 2015

Enjoy Reading

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